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THE CITIZEN

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MASSIVE HUNT AFTER ROCKET ATTACK

TREFWOORDE

- 1. Vortrekke
- 2. Hoogte
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Publikasie nr. 0 3 5 3

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THE biggest combined SA Defence Force and police blockade and manhunt in Pretoria's history yesterday morning followed the audacious terrorist rocket attack on the Voortrekkerhoogte military base — the Defence Forces "front garden".

The manhunt was extended in the early hours of the morning to main and even secondary roads throughout the province as police and soldiers sought two blue overalled Black men believed to have been responsible for the attack.

Four rockets were fired from the Pretoria Indian township of Laudium some 4,5 km into Voortrekkerhoogte.

Cordons were thrown around the points where the four rockets landed. Newsmen were shown only damage done to the servants' quarters of the home of a senior officer.

The officer's maid, Mrs Elsie Sekanka (36), was injured in the attack.

She is probably the luckiest woman alive as one of the rockets had scored a direct hit on her room.

The roof and interior of

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Police hunt for rocket attackers

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the room was burnt and all but demolished while Mrs Sekanka lay on her bed. She cut her hand on a broken pane of glass when she fled out of her room.

A SADF spokesman said, as far as could be established, this was the first rocket attack on a Defence Force installation outside the operational area.

In another incident in Laudium itself, which police said might be linked with the rocket attack, an Indian youth, Mr Zahid Patel, (17), was wounded when two men in a speeding bakkie opened fire on him.

The rocket launcher was found soon afterwards near the scene of the Patel shooting — it had been partly dismantled and its three main components were lying at the roadside on the outskirts of Laudium.

Yesterday Mr Patel's condition was reported to be satisfactory after he had undergone surgery for wounds in his right arm and right side.

The "thumps" of the 122 mm calibre rockets were heard throughout Pretoria's southern and eastern suburbs — and resulted in telephone calls to the police and firebrigade from worried Pretoria residents.

Police said indications were that the Launcher had been ditched from a moving vehicle, possibly when the people in the bakkie carrying it panicked.

Police are also looking for three armed blacks who escaped last night after opening fire at Laudium on pursuing policemen. The policemen returned the fire but the men disappeared into the night.

Mr Sayed Achmed Patel, uncle of the wounded youth, was reported to have given chase after the shooting incident.

He said he had found his cousin wounded behind the wheel of his father's car.

Two men, dressed in blue uniforms, ran towards open veld and started firing at Mr Patel. He said afterwards he thought the men had fled in the direction of the Atteridgeville township near Pretoria. — Sapa.

● In Dar Es Salaam the outlawed African National Congress guerrilla organisation claimed responsibility for the rocket attack on the South African Defence Forces' headquarters.

A statement by the ANC said the attack was carried out by the organisation's military wing.

REFWOORDE

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