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# Magoo bombers seeking amnesty

Ex-MK Commander Abu Baker Ismail named as man who ordered blast

By ROBERT BRAND

Senior ANC members are preparing amnesty applications for their part in the Magoo's Bar bombing and other "special operations" following evidence given to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by former Umkhonto weSizwe cadre Robert McBride.

The applications are among several being prepared by ANC members who were involved in "special operations" by the organisation's military wing.

Among those who want amnesty for the Magoo's Bar bombing is the former MK commander known as "Rashid", whose real name is Abu Baker Ismail. He is currently chief of policy and planning in the Defence Secretariat.

TRC KwaZulu Natal spokesman Mdu Lembede said yesterday the commission was not preparing to subpoena anyone on the basis of McBride's testimony because the information it needed would be contained in amnesty applications.

"A number of amnesty applications are coming in from senior ANC members, including some that have to do with the Magoo's Bar bombing.

"It would be pointless to subpoena those people at this stage," Lembede said.

McBride and his accomplice Greta Appelgren were convicted of placing the bomb which killed three people at Magoo's Bar on the Durban beachfront in 1985.

McBride, sentenced to death for the bombing, was later

released on parole and is now a deputy director in the Department of Foreign Affairs.

In interviews during his time on death row, McBride said he had acted under the command of "Rashid", then head of the MK "machinery" in Natal.

Rashid's second-in-command during the first half of the 1980s was Ronnie Kasrils, now Deputy Defence Minister. Kasrils, however, is not applying for amnesty for the Magoo's Bar bombing.

McBride provided TRC investigators with oral answers to their questions, as well as documentation including an affidavit, his lawyer Brian Currin told The Star.

Currin would not confirm that the affidavit was from Ismail, alias Rashid. It was reported yesterday that Ismail's affidavit confirmed McBride was acting under orders when he placed the bomb, but that McBride, as field commander, had made "certain tactical decisions" on his own.

TREFWOORDE

- 1 Brand Robert
- 2 ANC
- 3 Aansoek
- 4 Amnestie
- 5 Kommissie vir Waarheid
- 6 Getuigers
- 7 McBride R
- 8 Bannuoplossings
- 9 Offisiere
- 10 Umkhonto we Sizwe