

INSTITUUT VIR EIETYDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat



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Datum 28 10 2000

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THE CITIZEN

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SECURITY FORCES TO HAMMER ANC

SENIOR government sources said last night that the government is posed to "hammer ANC terrorists" wherever they are found.

According to the sources, statements by General Magnus Malan, the Minister of Defence, and the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, following Monday's devastating explosion at Witbank, which killed two men and injured 42 people, action by the police and security forces against the ANC is imminent.

By Tony Stirling and Louise Burgers

"The ANC has been conducting a heightened campaign of terror aimed against today's municipal elections, and there are indications that the government will take action," said the source.

They also pointed to the police action announced yesterday by the Commissioner of Police, General Hennie De Witt, which is believed to be the single biggest police operation in the history of the force.

Yesterday's terrorist bomb blast in Potchefstroom was probably caused by a doubledecker SPM limpet mine blast or a Russian made demolition charge.

Gen De Witt said yesterday that polling booths had been sealed off and would be guarded around the clock.

"I wish to assure all law-abiding South Africans that the SAP is geared to cope with any

eventuality which may arise during today's municipal elections.

"Every available policeman will be on duty and every polling booth has already been screened and thoroughly checked.

"The booths have been sealed off and are guarded round the clock. A high profile police presence will remain at the various booths throughout the day and voters can cast their votes without fear".

Gen De Witt said the SAP would not tolerate any form of intimidation or violence and he warned those who might try to disrupt the elections, that the police would "deal with them".

Gen De Witt appealed

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Police ready

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to voters for understanding and assistance if the police were required to take action.

"I sincerely trust that it will not be necessary for the police to act in any manner which may lead to the inconvenience of voters, but should it happen, I appeal for understanding and assistance," Gen De Witt said.

Voting begins at 7 am today and polling booths close at 9 pm. Results should start coming out by 10,30 pm.

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