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Tutu slams Witbank car bomb horror

JOHANNESBURG. — A powerful car-bomb exploded outside a shopping centre in a Witbank yesterday, killing two men and injuring more than 40 other people in an attack the government blamed on the ANC.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu strongly condemned the bombing as "abhorrent in moral terms and counter-productive in practical terms" as a way to end apartheid.

But Archbishop Tutu warned, in a statement issued in Cape Town, that violence "will inevitably continue" until the government agreed to negotiate "real power-sharing" with the voteless majority.

The explosion occurred around 8.14am, shattering facades of nearby buildings and office windows up to two blocks away. Rescue officials appealed for blood donations for the victims.

SABC-TV said the bomb, planted in a white Ford Cortina, may have been detonated by remote control.

Law and Order spokesman Brigadier Leon Mellet said he was informed that from the damage caused, the car had been packed with about 30kg of explosives.

A Police Directorate spokesman said the two people killed by the blast were Mr Jacob Samuel Matsuku, 47, an Eskom employee, and Mr Elias Masina, a Highveld Security employee.

He added that forensic specialists were still determining the quantity and type of explosives used.

The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, yesterday gave assurances that those

responsible for the blast would be apprehended.

He gave an assurance that the police would do everything in its powers to apprehend the murderers, no matter how long it took. The docks would never be closed, he said.

A witness to the blast, the manager of Waltens Stationery Co, Mr Chris van Veijeren, said he was busy behind the counter when he heard a "terrific bang".

"I looked round and saw a huge ball of flame before some nuts and bolts from the car came smashing through my shop window. People were running all over the place," he said.

Dr Peter Clark said he arrived outside his consulting rooms yesterday to find the Cortina parked in his bay.

"I parked a foot behind it, got out and peered into it. The car was empty and, instead of going to my consulting rooms, I went round the corner. I must have been there for about five minutes when I heard this hell of a noise. As I ran out I saw people streaming out the offices."

Dr Clark said he had been told by police that the Cortina had not been in his bay at 7.30 yesterday morning. — Own Correspondent, Sapa-Reuter and UPI

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