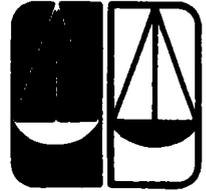


SOUTH AFRICA:

THE COUNTDOWN TO ELECTIONS



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CRISIS ERUPTS IN BOPHUTHATSWANA

The recent explosion of civilian uprisings in the nominally "independent" homeland Bophuthatswana, ("Bop") and President Lucas Mangope's repressive response to them, have now placed Bop residents' hopes of participating in South Africa's first democratic election in jeopardy.

What began as a strike by members of the civil service has now mushroomed into widespread demonstrations against President Mangope. Mangope has reportedly responded with repressive security force actions directed at demonstrators, journalists, political parties and human rights activists. The initial strikes by civil servants centered around demands for wage increases, pension payouts prior to reincorporation of the homeland into the Republic of South Africa and free political and trade union activity.

The following is a sampling of press reports of government repression during the week of March 7th:

- A 3-man television crew was assaulted by police while covering the unrest in Mafikeng. One of the three was reportedly knocked unconscious before being taken to the police station. (*Reuters*)
- 42 people were injured when police fired birdshot and rubber bullets on a crowd of demonstrators. (*Reuters*)
- Riot police stormed a government-owned broadcasting center in Bop's capitol, Mmabatho to put down anti-government civil servant protestors that had occupied the building. (*Reuters*)

- The ANC offices in Mafikeng were fire bombed on March 7th. Sources in the ANC blamed the attack on "forces aligned with the homeland system." However, the Bop police have denied that claim. (*The Star*)

- Police fired tear-gas into the Mafikeng offices of Lawyers for Human Rights, one of the organizations that has led investigations into human rights abuses by the Bop government and has repeatedly called for South African security force intervention in Bop and the prosecution of Mr. Mangope. The tear-gas was reportedly aimed at flushing out a BBC cameraman filming from inside the office. (*The Star*)

According to a report of the Johannesburg-based Human Rights Commission, their monitors in Bop report that "at the moment, action by the security forces [there] is so abundant and continuous that not all incidents and casualties are being recorded."

Public services have reportedly come to a stand-still as a result of the civil service strikes.

Impact of Government Actions on Potential Voters

According to Lawyers for Human Rights ("LHR"), Mangope's continued opposition to the April election has led to widespread repression by security forces of attempts to provide voter education to the estimated two-million potential voters in Bop. In a report released in January, LHR listed the following

examples of government intimidation of potential voters and those who have been endeavoring to assist them:

- In Taba Nchu near Bloemfontein, representatives of Lawyers for Human Rights were denied the right to hold a voter education workshop for the employees of Moroka Hospital. They were told that permission from the government was necessary.
- Godfrey Sojane and 45 others were arrested in Rustenburg for holding a voter education workshop. One of the participants was severely assaulted by police.
- 66 members of the ANC were charged in Mthibistate for holding an "illegal gathering," defined by Bop's Internal Security Act 32, as "two or more people." The Act is increasingly enforced as a means of stifling political activity.
- International Human Rights Day celebrations (which were to include voter education) planned by LHR were banned.
- An advertising campaign aimed at encouraging people to participate in the April election was withdrawn from Bop TV under the instruction of President Mangope.
- Posters advertising an ANC People's Forum were removed hours after being posted.
- Students working for LHR and various church organizations had materials confiscated in order to prevent them from conducting voter education workshops.
- A government official informed LHR that he was not prepared to grant permission for voter education workshops as the government had not given such permission.

Signs of Capitulation

In a meeting held between Mangope and a delegation of the Independent Electoral Commission ("IEC"), there were reported indications that his government could agree to contest the election when the Bophuthatswana Parliament convenes to decide on

that issue on Tuesday, March 15th. Although by that time, the deadline to submit party lists will have passed, there are indications that a deal may be worked out wherein representatives of Mangope's party could be added to a party that has already registered.

In addition, most analysts agree that Mangope's days are numbered and that the combination of internal and external pressure will soon bring down his government.

On March 8th, the Transitional Executive Council ("TEC") adopted a resolution which calls on Mangope to immediately commence cooperation with the IEC in preparing for voting in Bop, and to lift all legal and other obstacles to free participation in the electoral process. It further calls on him "to forthwith commence co-operating with the TEC and South African Governmental structures in planning and preparing for the implementation of the Constitution, the reintegration of civil services, security forces, police agencies and civil society structure. If the Bop administration "[has] not changed [its] attitude from resistance to co-operation", the TEC proposes measures including: the termination of special financial arrangements with Bop, the withdrawal of seconded personnel, and measures "to secure the IEC in the execution of its function to conduct the elections in the territory. . ." (*Election Monitor*)

ANC representative Popo Molefe has also recommended that tourists should be discouraged from travelling to the area which includes Sun City, South Africa's most famous gambling and entertainment center.

LIST DEADLINE EXTENDED AGAIN

On Thursday, March 10th, Chief Government negotiator Roelf Meyer proclaimed Friday, March 11th as the new absolute deadline for submission of party lists for the April election. He said that if the groups still boycotting the election have not submitted their lists by the new deadline, the printing of the ballots would go forward and the election would go on without them. At the time of Meyer's announcement, a British printing company was standing by to begin printing the ballots on the Saturday following the new deadline.

VIOLENCE MONITOR



According to the Human Rights Commission, the death toll in the East Rand area near Johannesburg is showing encouraging signs of abatement. Previously, the monthly death toll in that region had reached a high of 310 in August 1993, whereas for the month of February 1994, the death toll for the entire Pretoria-Witwatersand-Vaal ("PWV") region, which includes the East Rand, was 69.

Flashpoints

In contrast, the situation in the Natal Province has become more troubling. On March 6th, 11 people were killed in Bhambayi, a crowded squatter settlement near Durban. That event marked the third "massacre" (defined by the Human Rights Commission as the killing of 10 or more persons in a single attack) in Natal in a month. The victims in all three attacks were ANC supporters. According to an HRC report, 3 women were among those killed in the attack. The attack also left several injured and members of at least 20 households homeless after their homes in ANC-sympathetic settlements were allegedly torched by sympathizers of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

It is reported that the attack was allowed to continue for five hours without intervention by the police. According to the HRC, there are further reports that members of the Internal Stability Unit of the South African Police actually played an obstructionist role, preventing efforts to halt the attack.

UNREST IN PRISONS THREATENED OVER DENIAL OF RIGHT TO VOTE

As reported in Issue #1 of *Countdown*, currently, under the Electoral Law, prisoners "serving a sentence of imprisonment without option of a fine," will not be eligible to vote in the April election. In a recent report by the Johannesburg-based *Weekly Mail*, the South African Prisoners Organization for Human Rights ("SAPOHR") claimed that it is prepared to engage in acts of civil disobedience, including hunger strikes and work refusals as a means of protesting the denial of prisoners' right to vote.

SAPOHR spokesman Golden Miles Bhudu announced that prisoners were "disappointed" in the Transitional Executive Council's decision not to amend the Electoral Law to extend the right to vote to that segment of the incarcerated population that is currently denied the right.

A spokesman for Lawyers for Human Rights which has lead the fight to secure the right to vote for all South African prisoners, says that LHR is prepared to take legal action against the TEC in order to get the decision on this issue overturned. However, such a suit is not likely to be brought before the election, since it involves a constitutional matter to be heard by the constitutional court which will only begin sitting the day before the election.

In a new development, on March 4th, the IEC held a meeting with SAPOHR after which the IEC issued a statement resolving to support an amendment to the Electoral Act "in such a way as to extend the franchise to all prisoners for the purposes of the forthcoming elections." It further resolved to consult with the State President and the TEC on this issue. If the TEC were to take a similar resolution, an amendment would be possible before the election. (*Election Monitor*)

LABOR UNREST OVER ELECTIONS POSSIBLE

According to a report in the South African-based *Business Day*, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) has threatened that if employers continue to prevent shop stewards and workers from taking part in the election process and participating in voter education workshops, widespread work stoppages and other protests could result.

As a means of forcing the issue, COSATU designated Thursday, March 10th as "National Voter Education Day" during which voter education activities such as mock elections were to be held.

According to the report, the South African Agricultural Union, an association of farm owners, has resisted pleas to support voter education initiatives on members' farms and has also failed to commit to transporting farm workers to voter education or polling sites.

NATIONAL PARTY LIST OF CANDIDATES

Below is the list of National Party candidates, drawn from the PWV region for the National Assembly. The choice of whether to draw candidates from national lists versus regional lists for the National Assembly was left up to each party. The ANC, whose list was printed in an earlier issue of *Countdown*, was the only one of the major parties to draw as many as 200 candidates from a national list. In contrast, all of the National Party's candidates are drawn from regional lists. Because of space limitations, we have chosen to print only the NP's PWV list. Complete lists of the ANC, NP, DP and PAC can be obtained by contacting Eve Thompson at the Lawyers' Committee.

NATIONAL PARTY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIST -- PWV REGION

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. F.W. de Klerk | 28. Kevin de Villiers | 57. Mohammed Abdool |
| 2. R.F. (Pik) Botha | 29. Dr. Dries Ooshuizen | 58. Vronda Banda |
| 3. Roelf Meyer | 30. Clement Abrahams | 59. Koos Steyn |
| 4. Sam de Beer | 31. Gustaff du Toit | 60. Pieter Smith |
| 5. Leon Wessels | 32. Mrs Eva Ngcobondwane | 61. Mogale Mosebi |
| 6. Derek Keys | 33. Ram Pillay Saklingum | 62. Mohamed Ally |
| 7. David Chueyane | 34. Aboo Kahn | 63. Ronnie Ontong |
| 8. Jac Rabie | 35. Mrs. Maggie Ratsoma | 64. Sattar Akoob |
| 9. Dr. Piet Welgemoed | 36. Papa Mogale | 65. Joe Moabi |
| 10. Dr. Theo Alant | 37. Joshua Nxumalo | 66. Mrs. Joan Hunter |
| 11. Fanus Schoeman | 38. Wally Labuschagne | 67. Pat Magashoa |
| 12. Ike Bikitsha | 39. Mrs. Lois Geldenhuys | 68. Ernie Fabel |
| 13. Mrs. Sheila Camerer | 40. Gerard Hattingh | 69. Marius Marais |
| 14. Dr. Boy Geldenhuys | 41. Albin Moathlodi | 70. Philemon Sekoatle |
| 15. Marthinus van Schalkwyk | 42. Sydnea Kock | 71. Oliver Powell |
| 16. Ms. Nana Masangu | 43. Adv Mahomed Jajbhay | 72. Kobus du Plessis |
| 17. Desmond Padiachey | 44. Mrs. Hanlie van Nierkerk | 73. Vasco da Gama |
| 18. Roelie Groenewald | 45. Frans Sekwale | 74. Hennie Taljaart |
| 19. Dr. Tersia King | 46. Mrs. Magda van Biljon | 75. Piet Grobler |
| 20. Dirk Bakker | 47. Mrs. Mariana du toit | 76. Bongani Nomezulu |
| 21. Gert Oosthuizen | 48. Mrs. Petrina Theunis | 77. Mrs. Pule Matjele |
| 22. Piet Coetzer | 49. Dr. Johan Vilonel | 78. Charles Fisher |
| 23. Dr. Theuns Appelgryn | 50. Corrie Oberholzer | 79. Ms. Constance Phahlane |
| 24. Ds. MacFarlane Phenetti | 51. J.J. Hlahasoane | 80. Mrs. Mariaan Heyman |
| 25. Tony Reeves | 52. Daryl Swanepoel | 81. Mrs. Agnie Zikalala |
| 26. Dr. Kobus Gous | 53. A.J. Nel | 82. Dr. Jacques Kriel |
| 27. Naas Botha | 54. Taart Kruger | 83. Gerrie Wolmarans |
| | 55. Faan Nolte | 84. Harry Ackeer |
| | 56. Hennie van der Walt | 85. Merrick Levitas |
| | | 86. Xolane Gumede |

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