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Mayors call on Govt to release Mandela

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South Africa's black mayors yesterday called on the Government to release Nelson Mandela, hold a national convention and repeal all discriminatory legislation.

A meeting of more than 40 mayors from the country's black municipalities passed 11 resolutions which it hoped the Government would view in a serious light.

Among the resolutions was a call for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and other long-term political prisoners so they could enter into dialogue with the Government to resolve the political impasse in the country.

The meeting of mayors which was arranged by the Urban Councils Association of South Africa (Ucasa) also called for a "statement of intent" from the Government which should include the extension of citizenship to blacks, a national convention in which political groups could devise a constitution acceptable to all and the immediate repeal of all discriminatory laws.

One education system for all the country's race groups under one department and greater financial assistance for black mu-



Mr Steve Kgame ... some people are misusing black youths to attain their own political ideals.

nicipalities were also proposed at the meeting

The president of Ucasa, Mr Steve Kgame, was requested to seek an urgent meeting with the State President within the next three days to discuss the resolutions adopted at the meeting.

Other resolutions passed called on the Government to make more land available to black municipalities for housing and for more professional people in the running of black local authorities.

Finally the meeting said it

condemned in the "strongest possible terms" any strategy aimed at dividing black people by isolating councillors and policemen and boycotting their businesses because it was counter productive to the liberation struggle.

The meeting was held behind closed doors and the resolutions released to the Press later.

Mr Kgame said after the meeting that the people who wanted mayors and councillors to resign were not those who elected them but those "on the sidelines".

"Leaders should be removed by democratic processes and not by stone throwing or burning down their houses."

Mr Kgame said there were people who were misusing black youths to attain their own political ideals.

He said some of these people were from outside the black community.

"People of other racial groups are taking their children to school everyday but are advocating civil disorder. It is our children who are suffering by being deprived of education. Our children must go back to school and leave politics to their elders," he said. — Sapa.

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