

Star

New system planned for violence in Parys

20 JUL 1984

The week of violence and tension in the Parys township of Tumahole is a direct result of the new black local authority system and action should be taken against those who served on the new councils, says United Democratic Front publicist secretary Mr Terror Lekota.

"We will not burn councillors' houses and we will not burn their cars. We will boycott their businesses," he told people who gathered at Khotso House, Johannesburg yesterday to show solidarity with Tumahole residents.

People should stay out of the shops and premises of councillors because

they had "made common cause with apartheid" and should use only taxis of men who had nothing to do with the local authorities, he said. Mr Lekota said it had been predicted at the national launch of the UDF a year ago that black residents would find it impossible to afford the new

municipalities. These areas simply did not have the business income of white areas and would have to rely on pushing up rents.

"There is no way that the masses of people can meet these expenses."

Mr Lekota called for the immediate resignation of councillors, stress-

ing that "the time is now".

Dr David Webster, of the Detainees' Parents Support Committee, said that events in Parys were not "an isolated incident". He said that, in Atteridgeville and Cradock, education and community issues had been inflamed unnecessarily by

police intervention after which negotiation became almost impossible.

He pointed out that the Cradock residents' action had culminated in the detention of four leaders under section 28 of the Internal Security Act which allowed for incarceration for up to a year.

"These men have com-

mitted no crime other than that of representing their community," Dr Webster observed.

He expressed concern at the fact that official figures for detainees exceeded the DPSC's tally by 40. "This means 40 people have disappeared off our streets without trace."

Dr Webster said the DPSC concerned itself with any death in custody - including that of Tumahole's Mr Johannes Ngalo - because Security Police had increasingly begun to hold people under the Criminal Procedure Act and it had become difficult to distinguish detention from arrest in the first 48 hours of incarceration.

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