

Cosas adds its voice to call for end to unrest

By **DIETHELM SAIBERS**

The Congress of South African students (Cosas) yesterday added its voice to the growing call for an end to the unrest and violence in the Eastern Cape.

The Eastern Cape regional full-time organiser, Mr Temba Mangqase, released a statement dissociating Cosas from the violence in the townships and deploring the burning of the Methodist Church in Grahamstown, saying it could not have been set alight "by any reasonable man or student".

In the light of violence in the townships, the detention of Cosas leaders and the alleged harassment of Cosas members, Mr Mangqase said the Eastern Cape regional executive committee called upon the Department of Education and Training, the Minister of Law and Order and the Minister of Defence to

rethink the stand they have adopted".

He said Cosas believed that peace would be brought to the townships if the police and army withdrew, as their presence was a "provocation".

Meanwhile, Rhodes University students report that Security Police raided four student houses at the weekend, apparently looking for leaders of Cosas.

There have also been reports that a warrant has been issued to search Rhodes campus for Cosas members.

A police spokesman in Pretoria yesterday said he could not comment on police investigations if they were already in progress.

● An SA Police spokesman said from Pretoria last night that no incidents of unrest had been reported in the Eastern Cape yesterday.

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