

Hostels are prime targets

W/M 25/1/90
THE giant Sebokeng hostel complex — with 12 000 beds, 2 300 of which are leased by local metal firms — has been the prime target of recent attacks.

Also in the firing line has been Iscor's kwaMasiza hostel, where the National Union of Metalworkers has 6 000 members.

According to Numsa, the pattern of anti-worker violence in the Vaal includes:

- July 22 last year: Sebokeng hostel attacked after Inkatha rally. Twenty-one killed, including two Numsa members.
- August 5: Workers attacked at Kwaggastroom railway station.
- August 6: Sebokeng hostel attacked. One worker killed.
- August 7: Bomb explodes outside the Sebokeng hostel gate.
- August 8: Shots fired at workers at Houtkop railway station.
- August 11: Nine workers killed

when shots are fired through the windows of the Sebokeng hostel.

- September 3/4: Twenty-three Numsa members killed in an attack on the Sebokeng hostel. Inkatha's Transvaal youth leader Themba Khoza arrested, with 136 others, including Sibusiso Chonco.
- November 8: Bus serving workers at the KwaMasiza hostel fired on. Driver killed.
- November 10: Second attack on bus at KwaMasiza. Three workers killed.
- November 30: House of Numsa shop-steward firebombed in Evaton.
- December 2: Five workers killed in attack on Sebokeng hostel.
- December 9: Fifteen heavily armed, suspected Inkatha members arrested outside Sebokeng hostel. Chonco is among them.
- January 12 this year: Sebokeng vigil massacre.

Cops stand by to protect mourners at mass funeral

By CHARLES MOGALE and SANDILE MEMELA

City Press 27/1/96
UNKNOWN intimidators have threatened to disrupt the mass funeral service in Sebokeng of 41 people shot in cold blood during a night vigil two weeks ago.

And in a surprise move apparently linked to the threats, Mpikeleli Christoffel Nangalembe, whose vigil was the scene of the carnage, was secretly buried early on Thursday. His uncle David was buried in similar fashion on Friday.

According to another uncle, Vusi Mncube, both funerals were "so secret many members of the family were not aware of them".

Nangalembe's aunt, Rachel Mncube, said the family was disappointed he had no hero's burial.

Police spokesman Col Frans Malherbe said the police were concerned about the threats, but would be prepared for any incidents and "would take appropriate steps".

Organisers of the mass funeral said yesterday they feared some families would withdraw their deceased because of intimidation.

Sebokeng Hospital superintendant Dr Anne van der Spuy denied there were telephone threats telling the hospital to prepare for more admissions.

Thousands of people are expected to gather at Sebokeng's Zone 7 stadium today to pay their last respects to 41 of the victims.

The mass funeral is scheduled to begin at 10am before the procession to the Evaton cemetery. Nangalembe's cousin, Gift Ndlovu, will be among those who will be buried. Queries on funeral arrangements can be directed to (016) 933-614.

Sebokeng vigil victims buried

Sow
28/11/91

WHITES should come forward and ask for forgiveness, an emotional Dr Beyers Naude told mourners at the mass burial of 36 Sebokeng 'vigil of terror' victims yesterday.

After reading from the Bible at the Sebokeng stadium, Naude told the more than 20 000 mourners:

"As a white person...and a member of the white minority of South Africa, I want to take it upon myself to come forward and say I am guilty, I am sorry.

Forgive

"I urge all whites of South Africa also to come forward and say 'please forgive'."

Visibly shaken, Naude said: "What kind of God is this to allow this suffering?"

He said no struggle was in vain and the day was near "when all this suffering will end".

Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, The Most Rev Desmond Tutu led mourners to chant: "We want peace, we want education. And in true Martin

By THEMBA MOLEFE

Luther King Jr style to say: 'We shall be free'. All of us, black and white together."

In a wide ranging speech, Tutu specifically called for discipline and united action to destroy what he said would eventually be eradicated.

He said he supported ANC speakers who called

for the establishment of street committees and defence units.

But, he said, street committees should look into campaigns like cleaning up the townships which were infested with rubbish.

UDF president Mrs Albertina Sisulu pleaded for peace and called on the Sebokeng community not to kill the perpetrators of the violence, but to apprehend them and hand

them to the law.

ANC treasurer-general, Mr Thomas Nkobi and ANC Youth League general secretary Rapu Molekane stressed the formation of the defence units.

The names of 42 people killed when gunmen opened fire on mourners at the vigil of slain activist Christoffel Nangalembe on January 12 were read at the funeral.

5D 311191
Sebokeng killings

TWELVE people — 11 men and one woman — would appear in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrates' Court today on murder charges in connection with the slaying of 39 people in Sebokeng on January 12, police said yesterday. The 12 were not expected to be asked to plead.

~~Southern~~
**12 in court
over killings**

TWELVE people - 11 men and a woman - will appear in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrates' Court at 9am today on murder charges, in connection with the brutal slaying of 39 people in Sebokeng on January 12, police confirmed last night.

It is expected the accused will not be asked to plead and that the case will be postponed, police liaison officer Captain Pieter van Deventer said.- Sapa.

Sebokeng massacre: 11 on trial

Vereeniging Bureau *star*

1/2/91
All charges were yesterday withdrawn against Bhekumuzi Ngema (41), one of the 12 people arrested in connection with the recent Sebokeng massacre.

The other 11, who include a woman and a 17-year-old youth, all face charges of murder and attempted murder over the shooting at an ANC funeral vigil in Zone 7 almost three weeks ago.

No charges were put

to the group yesterday, and the hearing, in the Vanderbijlpark magistrate's court, was postponed to Monday when evidence in an application for bail will be heard by the magistrate, Mr G J Reynders.

The accused, all of Sebokeng and Evaton are: Zebuse Khuzwayo (32), Aubrey Myeni (23), Aaron Mtshali (21), D Mabote (21), Silwane Kubheka (37), Thomas Lokhzi (27), Joseph Ndlovu (53), Harry Mamatu

(19), Darkhi Chonco (23) and Janette Kheswa (19). The 17-year-old youth may not be identified.

According to police, 38 men, women and children died during the massacre.

The youngest victim was a 13-year-old boy.

Police took possession of 10 AK-47 rifles after the attack, but only two have been ballistically linked to the shootings.

J van Staden appeared for the State and Barry Roux will appear for the defence.

12 in court over Sebokeng killings

Citizen Reporter

ELEVEN Black men and a Black woman appeared in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the massacre of 42 people in Sebokeng recently.

Charges against one of the men were dropped, while the rest remain in

custody. 1/2/91.
A bail application for the remaining suspects was submitted to the court by counsel for the defence.

The case was postponed until Monday when the bail application will be continued.

Inkatha seeks bail for vigil killings ^{sow 1/2/91} accused

INKATHA Freedom Party members yesterday supported a bail application by 10 men and a woman held in connection with the murders of 37 people at a night vigil in Sebokeng two weeks ago.

The accused, all residents of Sebokeng and neighbouring areas, appeared before Mr G Reynders in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court.

No charges were put to them and their defence counsel Mr Barry Roux filed an application for bail.

Charges against one of the accused, Mr Bhekumuzi Ngema, were withdrawn.

Inkatha member and office-bearer of the United Workers Union of South Africa Mrs Beullah Kubheka asked the magistrate to release all the accused into the care of dwellers at KwaMadala Hostel in Vanderbijlpark.

She was supported by another Inkatha member, Mr Vanana Zulu.

* Inkatha Youth League leader Mr Themba Khoza appeared in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court with 20 others in connection with various charges arising from the killings at Sebokeng Hostel on September 24.

The case was postponed to March 22.

1/3/91 C.B./A
Charge withdrawn

MURDER charges were withdrawn against one of the 12 accused who appeared in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with 38 murders at a Sebokeng funeral. A bail application for the other 11 will be heard on Monday.

Massacre: Inkatha bail plea

By SOPHIE TEMA *City Press 12/4*
INKATHA Freedom Party members this week testified in support of a bail application by eleven people charged with the mass murder of 37 men, women and children at the Sebokeng funeral vigil last month.

Originally 12 people - 11 men and one woman - were arrested after mourners were gunned down at a Sebokeng vigil for the murdered ANC activist, Christopher Nangalembe, on January 12.

The 12 appeared before magistrate G Reynders in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court, where charges against one of the accused, Bhekumuzi Ngema, were withdrawn.

Beullah Kubheka told the court she was a member of the Inkatha

Freedom Party and office-bearer of the United Workers Union of South Africa (Uwusa) and requested the court to release the 11 accused into the care of the Kwa-Madala Hostel in Vanderbijlpark.

Kubheka, wearing a Uwusa T-shirt, said her home and those of the accused were burnt down by people who accused them of being Zulus and Inkatha supporters.

Her house was burnt down before the January 12 incident, while those of the accused were destroyed after it.

Kubheka said five of the accused were her relatives and there was silence in the courtroom when she said Thomas Lushozi - one of the accused - was her cousin's son.

She said Lushozi's mother was killed and set alight after allega-

tions that Inkatha people were responsible for the vigil massacre.

Kubheka said the homes of the accused were set alight by angry mobs in revenge for the deaths of the people who had died at Nangalembe's vigil.

She assured the court that if the accused were released on bail and confined to KwaMadala, there need not be any fear of their lives being endangered because of the tight security in the area.

Vanana Zulu, a supervisor at Iscor, told the court he was chairman of the hostel committee and a member of Inkatha, and was giving evidence in support of the request by Kubheka on behalf of the accused.

The application proceeds tomorrow.

Magistrate to rule on bail bid by Vaal 11

A DECISION is expected today on a bail application by the 11 people arrested in connection with the recent Sebokeng massacre.

The group appeared before Mr GJ Reynders in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The 11 accused, who are all facing charges of murder and attempted murder, are: Zebuse Khuzwayo (33), Aubrey Myeni (23), Aaron Mtshali (21), Daniel Mokhethimabote (22), Silwane Kubheka (37), Thomas Lokhozi (27), Joseph Ndlovu (53), Harry Mamatu (19), Darkhi

Sow 5/2/91
Chonco (24) and Jeannet Kheswa (19).
The 11th accused is a 17-year-old youth who may not be named.

Charges against a 12th suspect, Bhekumuzi Ngema (41), were withdrawn last week.

Opposed

The application for bail by the group, which has not yet been asked to plead to the charges against them, is being opposed by the State.

The case was postponed to today. Jan van Staden is prosecuting while Barry Roux is appearing for the defence.

Citizen 6/2/91

Sebokeng accused apply for bail

NINE of the eleven accused were jobless, their lives were in danger and most of their homes had already been burnt down.

This was evidence given by Warrant-Officer Marius de Jager during the bail application in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court by the eleven people accused of being involved in the mass-

acre of 42 people in Sebokeng early in January.

Warrant-officer de Jager said the police were still searching for three AK-47 assault rifles which they believe were used during the massacre.

The police recovered 10 AK-47's after the massacre, two of which were ballistically connected to the killings.

The housing manager of Iskor, Mr STW Basson, gave evidence yesterday that it was a known fact that only people who work at Iscor were allowed to live in the KwaMadla hostels, and that regular raids were held to ensure that only employees were living there.

It was thus not possible for the eleven people to

live there he said.

Mrs Beula Oubbeka a family member of five of the accused, suggested to the court that the accused take up residence in the Inkatha offices in Vereeniging. The court however, found this impractical.

The verdict on the bail application will be given by magistrate Mr Gerald Reynders today.

Vyf AK's gebruik in slagting by lykwaak

Van Bruce Taylor,
Vaaldriehoekse Kantoor

VANDEBIJLPARK. – Altesame vyf AK 47-aanvalsgewere is vermoedelik gebruik om sowat 80 roubeklaers by 'n lykwa op Sebokeng sowat drie weke gelede af te maai. Minstens 38 van die gewondes is later dood.

Kapt. Piet van Deventer, skakeloffisier van die Polisie in die Vaaldriehoek, het bevestig dat vyf AK-gewere vermoedelik in die bloedbad gebruik is.

In 'n borgeaansoek van elf Zoeloes, nege van hulle werkloos, wat in Vanderbijlpark se landdroshof verskyn op 37 aanklagte van moord, is gister getuig dat drie AK's nog gesoek word. Twee AK's is reeds ballisties verbind met die slagting.

Adjt.-off. Marius de Jager het getuig die elf Zoeloes verkeer in lewensgevaar. Vyf van hulle se huise is reeds afgebrand. Een se ma is reeds volgens die halssnoermetode vermoor en nege uit die elf is werkloos.

Net twee – mnre. S. Kubheka (37), 'n staatsamptenaar van Bophuthatswana en Z. Khuzwayo (32), 'n werknemer by Vereeniging se slagpale, het vaste betrekings.

Mnr. S.J.W. Basson, 'n behuisingbestuurder van Yskor, het getuig die elf sal nie gehuisves kan word in Yskor se Kwa Madala-Hostel nie.

Dié hostel is bekend as 'n veiligheids-oord vir Inkatha-gesinde Zoeloes, Xhosas en Sotho's wat deur brandstigting uit swart buurte van die Vaaldriehoek verdryf is, volgens vroeëre getuienis.

Mnr. Basson het gesê dit is nie net Yskor se beleid nie, maar ook praktyk, dat net Yskor-werkers daar mag woon. Klopjagte word ook van tyd tot tyd onderneem om onwettige inwoners daar uit te haal.

Mev. Beulah Kubheka, 'n familielid van vyf van die beskuldigdes, het vroeër getuig dat die Inkatha-veiligheids-oord na die elftal sal omsien solank hulle verhoorafwagtend is.

Toe sy gister as getuie herroep is, het sy gesê daar bestaan ook 'n moontlikheid dat die elftal by Inkatha se kantoor op Vereeniging gehuisves kan word.

In kruisverhoor van mnr. Jan van Staden, senior aanklaer van die dorp, het dit geblyk só 'n reëling sal nie prakties haalbaar wees nie.

In sy betoog dat borgtog geweier word, het mnr. Van Staden gesê die Zoeloe-elftal het geen heenkome nie, omdat hulle meestal werkloos is. Hulle is ook nie geregtig op verblyf in Yskor se hostel nie en toestemming daartoe sal nie verleen word nie.

Landdros Gerald Reynders het sy uitspraak voorbehou tot vandag. Mnr. Barry Roux verskyn vir die elf.

BEELD 6/2/77

Bail ruling today

Saueran 6/2/9

A DECISION on the bail application of 11 people arrested in connection with last month's gruesome Sebokeng night vigil slayings is expected today.

Charges against the 12th suspect, Mr Bhekumuzi Ngema (41), have been withdrawn.

The bail application hearing has been going on since last Thursday.

By DON SEOKANE

The 11 accused, including a woman, appeared before Mr G Reynders in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court.

They have all not been asked to plead.

Mr Willem Basson, an employee of Iscor who is also in charge of a hostel where most of the accused were allegedly stay-

ing, told the court that the hostel was solely for people working for the company.

The State argued that most of the accused had no fixed addresses and were unemployed.

It argued that the possibility existed that they might skip bail or become victims of revenge attacks since some of them had already had their homes burnt.

Warrant Officer Marius de

Jager, who was called to support the State's opposition to the bail application, said three of the AK-47 rifles allegedly used in the killings were still missing.

De Jager said if the accused were granted bail they might interfere with the investigation of the case.

The defence, led by Mr Barry Roux, requested bail to be fixed at R1 000 each.



Mrs Rachel Mncube (foreground) - the sister of the first victim of the Sebokeng shootings which claimed the lives of 38 people - leaves the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court yesterday. All 11 of the accused were refused bail and the case was postponed to February 6.

Pic: LEN KUMALO

The Star 6/2/91
Massacre accused in danger, court told

Vereeniging Bureau

VANDERBIJLPARK — The fact that the homes of most of the 11 accused in the recent Sebokeng massacre had been burnt down was a clear indication their lives were in danger.

This evidence was led in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court yesterday by Detective Warrant Officer Marius de Jager for the State, which is opposing a bail application by the accused.

According to W/O de Jager, investigating officer in the case,

the mother of one of the accused was necklaced after the alleged murders.

The 11 accused, who are all facing 38 charges of murder and several counts of attempted murder, are: Zebuse Khuzwayo (33), Aubrey Myeni (23), Aaron Mtshali (21), Daniel Mokhethimabote (22), Sllwane Kubheka (37), Thomas Lokhozi (27), Joseph Ndlovu (53), Harry Mamatu (19), Darkhi Chonco (24), Jeannet Kheswa (19) and a 17-year-old youth.

Charges against a 12th sus-

pect, Bhekumuzi Ngema (41), were withdrawn in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court last week.

In his testimony yesterday, W/O de Jager also informed the court that according to ballistic experts, another three AK-47 rifles believed to be linked with the alleged attack were still being sought — implying that by releasing the suspects on bail, the police investigation could be hampered.

Magistrate G J Reynders will give his ruling on the application for bail today.



Ms Beula Khubeka of the Inkatha Freedom Party with Mr HG Stopforth, who appeared on behalf of the 11 people arrested in connection with the Sebokeng night vigil slayings. Khubeka had supported the bail application by the accused.

Pic: LEN KUMALO

Sawetun 7/2/91

No bail for 11 suspects in Vaal vigil terror killing

A VANDERBIJLPARK magistrate yesterday refused to grant bail to 11 people arrested in connection with the Sebokeng night vigil killings.

Passing judgment on the bail application, Mr G Reynders said the court had taken into account the number of charges the accused were facing and the fact that further charges of attempted murder were pending.

Warrant-Officer Marius de Jager testified that in addition to 38 charges of murder, the accused may face 12 further charges.

Reynders said there was no guarantee the accused would not skip bail since nine of them had no fixed addresses and were unemployed.

Many of the accused had said they would stay at the KwaMadala hostel, run by steel company Is-

DON SEOKANE

cor, where they were previously living.

The magistrate said he had no guarantee that Iscor would allow them to return given the charges against them.

Earlier, Mrs Beula Khubeka, a parent of one of the accused and relative of three others, had said she believed the defendants would stay at the hostel.

Khubeka said she was herself staying at the hostel following the burning of her house.

An Iscor representative, Mr Wilhem Basson, who oversees the running of the hostel, told the court that accommodation was strictly for male workers of his company.

The accused are to remain in custody until February 22 when the trial begins.

Star 7/2/91

Sebokeng 11 refused bail

By Melody McDougall
Vereeniging Bureau

The 11 people arrested in connection with a shooting incident at an ANC funeral vigil in Sebokeng last month are to remain in custody.

Magistrate Gerald Reynders yesterday turned down a bail application by the accused in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court.

The 11 are all facing 38 charges of murder, 12 of attempted murder and 10 counts of unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition.

The accused, who have not yet been asked to plead, are a 17-year-old youth, Zebuse Khuzwayo (33), Aubrey Myeni (23), Aaron Mtshali (21), Daniel Mokhehthimabote (22), Silwane Kubheka (37), Thomas Lokhozi (27), Joseph Ndlovu (53), Harry Mamatu (19), Darkhi Chonco (24)

and Jeannet Kheswa (19).

After hearing evidence for and against the bail application earlier this week, Mr Reynders yesterday ruled that the accused would remain in custody.

He said he had come to the conclusion that the accused were not entitled to bail due to the possibility they would not turn up for the trial.

Mr Reynders added there was also a possibility the suspects could be "eliminated" if released, or might involve themselves in further crimes.

The court also took into consideration that the magisterial district of Vanderbijlpark has been declared an unrest area.

The majority of the accused had no fixed abode because their houses had been burnt down.

The case was postponed to February 22 for further investigation.

Citizen 7/21/91

Bail for Sebokeng 11 refused

Citizen Reporter

THE bail application of the 11 people being held after the Sebokeng massacre in January was turned down in the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Magistrate Gerald Reynders in his verdict referred to the seriousness of the charges against them.

He said the accused had no fixed abode, they did not possess any fixed property, most of them

did not have family in the Vaal Triangle and nine of the 11 jobless.

Magistrate Reynders added that accused No 6 did not appear previously in the Vereeniging Regional Court on charges of motor theft.

"It was the court's judgment that the 11 accused would not appear in court again should bail be granted to them."

He said there was also the probability that the accused might commit

further crimes and there was a very real threat to their lives.

Consequently considering these factors the court could not grant bail to the accused.

Mr Reynders was investigating twelve charges of attempted murder against the accused.

This investigation was not yet completed as statements had not been obtained from the injured people who are still in hospital.

Charges of illegal possession of firearms and ammunition were also being investigated against them.

Magistrate Reynders postponed the case to February 22.

Thirty-eight charges of murder, 12 charges of attempted murder and illegal possession of firearms and ammunition were being investigated against the 11.

The prosecutor was Mr Jan van Staden.

Vigil massacre: 8 to face 38 murder charges

28/3/91 C

Citizen Reporter

ONE BLACK woman and 10 Black men appeared in a Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court yesterday on 38 charges of murder and 13 charges of attempted murder after the Sebokeng massacre during a funeral vigil in January.

Thirty-eight people who kept a vigil at the body of an African Nat-

ional Congress (ANC) member were shot and killed with AK-47 rifles while about 50 were treated at the Sebokeng Hospital for gun shot wounds.

Charges against the woman and two men were dropped by the State, while the remaining eight were remanded.

They will appear again on April 25.

Death threats fly at vigil trial

THE brother of slain ANC activist Christopher Mphikeleli Nangalembe was this week threatened by a murder accused and several members of Inkatha at the Vanderbijlpark Magistrate's Court.

Nangalembe's elder brother Mandla, and several relatives of people killed in the horror ambush of a Sebokeng night vigil in which 38 people were killed on January 12, had to be escorted out of the court by a detective after threats were hurled at them.

Counsel for the Nangalembe family, Anton Steenkamp, confirmed the incident and said: "I was present in court when it happened.

"I immediately brought the matter to the attention of the investigating officer and the accused's lawyer, JFK Joubert. I have now written a letter to Joubert expressing our concern at the behaviour of his client."

Alleged Sebokeng killers freed

SEVEN members of the Inkatha Freedom Party have been acquitted of 38 counts of murder arising from the Sebokeng vigil massacre of January 12.

Mr Justice W Schultz

Sowetan 22/6/92
acquitted the men, who also faced eight attempted murder charges and three of illegal possession of firearms, ammunition and a handgrenade. They had pleaded not guilty in the

Vereeniging Circuit Court.

Handing down his judgment on Friday, Justice Schultz pointed out that State Prosecutor Mr FC Roberets had failed to prove the accused had been

involved in the massacre. He further noted the accused made their confession under duress.

The men are Mr Zebuse Khuzwayo (38), Mr Aubrey Mfanafuthi Myeni

(23), Mr Aaron Nkosinathi Mtshali (21), Mr Daniel Mokgethi Mabote (22), Mr Silwane Kubheka (27), Mr Thomas Siphon Lukhozi (28) and Mr Hunter Ndhlovu (18).

According to court records, a grenade was hurled at the tent in which more than 200 mourners held a night vigil for slain ANC organiser Mr Christopher Nangalembe in Zone 7 Sebokeng.



Stav. Monday
22/6/82

Massacre suspects acquitted

By Carina le Grange
and Melody McDougall

The seven men charged with the murder of 38 people at an ANC funeral vigil massacre in Sebokeng in January last year were acquitted on Friday, drawing strong criticism last night from human rights bodies.

The men, who had pleaded not guilty and were all allegedly members or supporters of Inkatha, were also acquitted in Vereeniging Circuit Court on eight charges of attempted murder and on charges relating to the unlaw-

ful possession of firearms and ammunition.

They are Zebuse Khuzwayo (32), Aubrey Myeni (23), Aaron Mtshali (21), Daniel Mabote (22), Silwane Kubheka (37), Thomas Lokhozi (28), and Hunter Ndlovu (18).

Handing down judgment, Mr Justice Schutz said the answer to possible questions on why nobody could be convicted in connection with the massacre was short: the State had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that any of the seven accused were the attackers on the night in question.

He said the police should have tried harder to find incriminating evidence. But he

added that, according to the police, they were prevented by the ANC from speaking to certain witnesses.

Referring to the trial-within-a-trial regarding statements and confessions made by some of the accused after their arrest, Mr Justice Schutz said the court had ruled they were inadmissible as there was evidence the accused had been intimidated by police into making the statements.

The two main witnesses for the State in this regard, Detectives Sergeant Gerhard Peens and a Sergeant Marais, were criticised by the judge for their testimony.

Reacting to the outcome of the trial, the lawyer for the

family at whose house the massacre took place, and who had also followed the case for the Independent Board of Inquiry into Informal Repression, pointed out the accused's addresses at the time of their bail application had been given as KwaMadala hostel.

Anton Steenkamp said the telling part of the judgment was that the judge had said the police should have tried harder in its investigation.

"This seems to be a recurring theme where accused linked to Inkatha are implicated and the victims are either unaligned victims or apparently innocent," he said.

He added it was true that many witnesses were scared

to come forward. This was because there was deep mistrust of the police — especially in the Vaal Triangle — but also because witnesses had been intimidated by Inkatha supporters from the very first court appearance.

ANC spokesman Saki Mazonza said the outcome of the case was once again an example of neglect on the part of the State. It was also a failure of the witness protection programme provided for in the Peace Accord.

The Human Rights Commission's Max Coleman said KwaMadala hostel has been recognised as a base for launching attacks on nearby townships since 1990.

CP Reporter

PUBLIC outrage greeted the acquittal of seven members of the Inkatha Freedom Party charged with multiple murder in Sebokeng.

The seven were acquitted on 38 charges of murder at the Vereeniging Circuit Court this week.

There were cries of "Sies!" outside the court after Judge W Schutz acquitted the seven for their involvement in the Sebokeng night vigil massacre of January 12.

A massive 200 people attending the night vigil of ANC organiser Christopher Nangelimbe were shot with AK-47s.

According to court documents, a grenade was also hurled into a tent packed with mourners.

The seven were cock-a-hoop after the judge had acquitted them on eight charges of attempted murder and three of illegal possession of AK-47s, ammunition and a grenade.

The accused are Zebuse Khuzwayo, 38, Aubrey Mfanafuthi Myeni, 23, Aaron Nkosinathi Mtshali, 21, Daniel Mokgethi Mabote, 22, Silwane Kubheka, 27, Thomas Siphon Lukhozi, 28 and Hunter Ndlovu, 18.

In his summary, the judge said the ANC did not want the police to obtain statements from some witnesses for the trial.

ANC member Barbara Hogan said it was very

Fury over acquittal of Sebokeng 7

City Press 22/6/92

disturbing that the perpetrators of massacres were never brought to book.

"The police never seem able to catch up with the real culprits," added Hogan.

There were long faces outside the Vereeniging courts afterwards.

Some people were too angry to answer City Press questions, but a relative of one of those fatally shot at the night vigil said shaking his head: "Justice has gone to the dogs in this country."

A close member of Christopher Nangelimbe's family smiled bit-

terly and said: "What could one expect."

Judge Schutz in his summary ruled that the evidence of the three policemen witnesses was unreliable and was therefore inadmissible.

It was the court's view that the accused made the confessions concerning the massacre under duress and not voluntarily.

The judge also took into account the evidence of Const Musawenkosi Kubheka who earlier told the court that some of the weapons were found by police in an empty room belonging to a woman called Lindiwe.

She was away visiting her baby in Natal when the accused were arrested and the weapons found in January.

The judge further pointed out that State Prosecutor FC Roberts had failed to prove that the accused were guilty, therefore the court was not satisfied that the accused had been involved in the massacre.

He said it was not for the court to say why there was a public massacre and people were killed without reason.

ANC slams acquittal of hostel seven

WILSON ZWANE

THE ANC has hit out at the acquittal of seven Kwa-Madala Hostel inmates by a Vereeniging Circuit Court saying it further diminished township residents' faith in the police and judicial system.

The seven, who were acquitted on Friday, had been charged with murdering 38 people at an ANC funeral vigil in the Vaal Triangle township of Sebokeng in January last year.

Judge Schutz was reported to have acquitted the seven because the State had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that any of them had been involved in the attack.

ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma said the matter was of such magnitude that Law and Order Minister Hennis Kriel should make a public statement on it.

The judge's acquittal of people implicated in murders because of a lack of evidence further diminished township residents' faith in the police and the judicial system, Macozoma said.

A former official of the Independent Board of Inquiry into Informal Repression Anton Steenkamp said failure by police to find incriminating evidence where the accused had Inkatha links "seems to be a recurring theme".

The board, in a special report earlier this month, said hostels were a key element in the violence which had gripped the Reef since July 1990 in which 1 207 people died.

ANC president Nelson Mandela said this week that had government "transformed" hostels into family units, as it had promised, people would not have been killed in Boipatong last week.

Sebokeng: Seven found not guilty

Citizen Reporter

SEVEN alleged Inkatha Freedom Party members were found not guilty on 38 charges of murder and eight charges of attempted murder in the Circuit Court in Vereeniging.

The seven men, Mr A Myeni (22), Mr Z Khuzwayoz (32), Mr A Mtshali (20), Mr S Kubheka (37), Mr D Mabote (21), Mr T Lokhozi (28), and Mr H Ndlovu (18), were also found not guilty on several charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

Eight men initially appeared following the massacre of 28 people in Sebokeng in January last year during a funeral vigil. More than 50 people were injured during the massacre. One of the accused was however killed during a robbery shortly before the case came to trial.

Mr Justice Schutz said that the State could not prove beyond reasonable doubt that any of the seven accused had participated in the massacre.

Collection Number: AK2672

Goldstone Commission BOIPATONG ENQUIRY Records 1990-1999

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: - Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: - Johannesburg

©2012

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of the collection records and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a private collection deposited with Historical Papers at The University of the Witwatersrand.