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The Argus

10/8/84

A roaring trade with some  
legal hitches!

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ELECTION

# A roaring trade with some legal hitches

THE AKGUS  
10/8/84

Thur '6

And valiant attempts are made from an unexpected quarter to keep Afrikaans

alive in the campaign

THE hunt for special votes is on and to some people this might become a convenient way of voting without being seen at the polls on election day.

But, of course, nobody is going to admit this.

The voters and the parties standing for elections cannot admit it because they would be admitting breaking the Electoral Act. For only voters who genuinely cannot reach the polls on election day may cast a special vote in advance.

Groups urging an election boycott cannot admit it. They would be admitting that voters fear some form of intimidation. And intimidation is, of course, illegal.

Meanwhile parties do a roaring trade in special votes. The other day a candidate — let him remain nameless — was boasting of a great sacrifice he had made.

He had spent an afternoon at a meeting held to arrange milk deliveries in part of his area, making it easier for local families to buy milk.

What made this public-spirited act a great sacrifice for him, he believed, was that he could have spent the afternoon collecting at least 20 special votes. That's selflessness for you.

## A strange ring

The Federasie van Afrikaanse Kultuurverenigings (FAK) and other defenders of the Afrikaans language should have been present at the Athlone rally. They would have been delighted at the exertions of UDF publicity secretary, Mr Patrick "Terror" Lekota, in defence of the Taal.

Mr Lekota began his speech in Afrikaans. But unfortunately the interpreter doing a simultaneous translation into Xhosa could not understand Afrikaans. So Mr Lekota had to switch to English.

Later in the evening a trade union speaker had the same problem. He began his speech in Afrikaans, which the interpreter failed to understand.

Ever anxious to spring to the defence of Afrikaans, Mr Lekota

## ANATOMY OF AN ELECTION

David Breier, Staff Writer



Lekota took over as interpreter, enabling the trade unionist to complete his speech in Afrikaans.

Even the FAK should approve. But informed sources believe that at this stage there is no truth in the rumour that the FAK will join the UDF or that Mr Lekota will be appointed to the President's Council.

The same sources also deny any links between the Herstigte Nasionale Party and some of the more outspoken members of in the boycott movement.

One speaker in Athlone recorded off a speech in ringing tones with Afrikaans slogans which can be translated as "the struggle continues", "forward with the struggle" and "one land, one nation".

To someone from the Transvaal, this sounded strangely familiar. One has heard these slogans many times at political meetings and seen them emblazoned on political banners.

At leftwing meetings? No. Actually at HNP, Conservative Party and Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging meetings. And in the old days, at National Party meetings.

## Victory ball

Labour Party organisers in Swartkops, the seat contested by their leader, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, are already organising a post-election victory ball.

There is little doubt that the ball will be held. But what is less certain is whether Mr Hendrickse will dance at it. His leg, which he injured at an election meeting, is still in plaster, and the MP for Swartkops might be forced to be a wallflower at his own party.

(By D Breier, 122 St George's Street, Cape Town.)



THE ARGUS - 10 AUGUST 1984

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