



GRAHAMSTOWN Jan 5 Sapa

## THREE OF DE KOCK'S CO-ACCUSED TO CHALLENGE TRC DECISION

Three former security branch policemen plan to challenge the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's decision to refuse them and seven of their former colleagues, including Eugene de Kock, amnesty for the 1989 murder of four policemen.

De Kock, Daniel Snyman, Nicholaas Janse Van Rensburg, Gerhardus Lotz, Jacobus Kok, Wybrand Du Toit, Nicolaas Vermeulen, Marthinus Ras and Gideon Nieuwoudt admitted responsibility for the massive car bomb which claimed the lives of Warrant Officer Mbalala Mgoduka, Sergeant Amos Faku, Sergeant Desmond Mpipa and an Askari named Xolile Shepherd Sekati.

The four men died when a bomb hidden in the police car they were travelling in was detonated in a deserted area in Motherwell, Port Elizabeth, late at night in December 1989.

Lawyer for Nieuwoudt, Lotz and Van Rensburg, Francois van der Merwe said he would shortly give notice to the TRC of their intention to take on review the decision to refuse the nine men amnesty.

He said the judgment would be taken on review in its entirety, and if it was overturned by the court, the TRC would once again have to apply its mind to the matter in respect of all nine applicants.

The applicants had been "unfairly treated", he said and the judges had failed to properly apply their mind to the matter.

The amnesty decision was split, with Acting Judge Denzil Potgieter and Judge Bernard Ngoepe finding in the majority decision that the nine men did not qualify for amnesty as the act was not associated with a political objective and was not directed against members of the ANC or other liberation movements.

It was also found that the applicants, with the exception of De Kock, had failed to make a full disclosure regarding the reasons for the killings.

However, Advocate Chris de Jager found in a minority judgment that requirements of the act had been met and the men did qualify for amnesty.

According to the amnesty applicants the four men were involved in a fraudulent scheme, which entailed intercepting and cashing for personal gain, cheques mailed to various trade unions and political organisations.

Police were under pressure to charge them but the deceased had allegedly threatened to expose the unlawful activities of the security police, including the gruesome murders of the Cradock Four in 1985.

Nieuwoudt claimed in the TRC hearing that the fraud issue had played a minor role in the decision to eliminate the four men and claimed they had been killed because he had information that they had been recruited by the ANC.

In their decision, Ngoepe and Potgieter found this "patently

ridiculous".

They also found the act to be "wholly disproportionate" to the objectives.

Three of the applicants, Nieuwoudt, Du Toit and Ras were convicted of the murders in the Port Elizabeth High Court in 1996 and sentenced to 20, 15 and 10 years imprisonment respectively.

Lotz and Kok, who were also charged, were acquitted and cannot be charged again.

De Kock and Snyman were granted indemnity against prosecution for volunteering as State witnesses.

Nieuwoudt, Du Toit and Ras took their conviction and sentence to the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein in late 1996, but the matter was postponed indefinitely until a decision was made regarding their amnesty applications.

Van Der Merwe said that if they failed in their attempt to have the decision overturned, a date would be set down for the appeal to be heard.

It is the first time that a situation like this has arisen.

The three men will be in the uncomfortable position of having denied their guilt in the High Court, admitted their crimes before the TRC, and may now have to go before the highest court of appeal where, once again, they will be denying they committed the act.

The Appeal Court can only take into consideration the record of the proceedings before the High Court and cannot pay heed to their admissions to the TRC.

Eastern Cape Director of Public Prosecutions Les Roberts said the matter had to be re-enrolled and a date set by the registrar of the Supreme Court of Appeal.

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FREETOWN Jan 14 Sapa-AFP

BRITAIN TO FUND SOUTH AFRICA-STYLE TRUTH COMMISSION IN SIERRA LEONE

Britain is to fund a South African-style Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone, state radio reported Friday, quoting visiting British Foreign Office minister Peter Hain.

"We want to make the commission a successful and meaningful enterprise," he said in an address Thursday to a meeting of representatives of civil society and parliamentarians in Freetown at the end of his two-day visit here, announcing a 250,000 pound (375,000 dollar) funding package.

South Africa's truth commission probed atrocities committed under apartheid.

The government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) signed a peace accord in July to end one of Africa's most brutal civil wars, in which RUF fighters committed atrocities against civilians.

Hain also said his government "will be presenting some office equipment to assist in the setting up of the Strategic Mineral Resources Commission which is headed by former rebel leader Foday Sankoh.

"Unless all parties are committed to peace, the international community (including Britain) will be reluctant to offer further assistance to Sierra Leone," he said.

The British minister said Britain would "help strengthen all political parties including that of the RUF, but this depends on full commitment to exclusively democratic principles."

Hain said Sankoh "has always stressed his commitment to peace" but "his words would only be judged by the actions of the RUF on the ground."

He urged the RUF "to stop all violence now and commit themselves to democracy."

The minister also declared his "determination to stamp out the theft of Sierra Leone's diamonds and the way they have been used to fund conflict instead of peace and stability. Diamonds must be used to rebuild Sierra Leone's schools and hospitals, not to destroy them."

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PRETORIA Jan 17 Sapa

## 1993 MURDER OF ANC CHAIRMAN WAS NOT RELATED TO TAXI FEUD: TRC HEARS

The November 1993 murder of Michael Mcetshwa, African National Congress chairman in Phongolo, Mpumalanga, was not related to taxi violence, the Truth and Reconciliation heard in Pretoria on Monday.

Muzi Mncango, a friend of the deceased, told the commission Mcetshwa had been a taxi owner but held no office in any taxi organisation and was also not involved in a feud at that time between rival Phongolo taxi bodies.

Mcetshwa's murder was previously said to have been linked to taxi conflict.

Mncango was testifying at the amnesty hearing of Mcetshwa's self-confessed killer Nkosinathi Mavuso, who is serving a 25-year jail term at Barberton prison for the murder.

Mavuso shot Mcetshwa outside a Phongolo shop.

In his amnesty application, Mavuso, an Inkatha Freedom Party member, claimed his actions were politically motivated. He has implicated 11 other IFP members, including Mncango, in the murder.

Mavuso has claimed that both he and Mncango were present at a meeting at a Wimpy bar in Phongolo in November 1993 where Mcetshwa's murder was planned.

Mncango on Monday denied any involvement, saying he was not an IFP member at the time of the murder, and in fact supported the Pan Africanist Congress.

He told the amnesty committee he only joined the IFP in May or June 1994.

"I never, ever went to that Wimpy. The applicant wants to see himself out of jail and this is something he is making up," Mncango said.

Mncango said he first had dealings with Mavuso in 1995, when Mavuso requested a R20000 loan from the IFP in Phongolo to finance his court case.

Mncango was IFP secretary-general in Phongolo at that stage.

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DURBAN Jan 17 Sapa  
PLAN TO ARREST ANC ACTIVISTS WENT WRONG: TRC TOLD

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Amnesty Committee on Monday heard how a police plan to arrest four African National Congress activists in Durban in September 1986 went wrong.

Policemen, Mathys Botha, Laurence Wasserman and Johannes Steyn appeared before the TRC's amnesty committee to apply for amnesty for their role in the deaths of Blessing Mabaso, Percival Mgobozi, Thabani Mamele and Mbongeni Zondi on Durban's Quarry Road in an alleged attempt to arrest them.

The officers' applications were made last year but argument was postponed until Monday.

The policemen told the committee that Lieutenant Tony Breytenbach, commander of the Reaction Unit, requested them to assist in the arrest of the ANC activists.

The deceased were suspected of being responsible for the murder of a wife of an Inkatha Freedom Party member Winnington Sabelo. Botha said an informer told him that Mamele's group was responsible for the attack.

He claimed he was later contacted by a Captain Van Sittert, who told him that the men were at a house in KwaMashu, north of Durban, where they had hidden arms, and were allegedly planning to attack another house later that evening.

"The plan was to wait for the men to leave the house before arresting them in order to protect the identity of an informer," the policemen said.

Shortly after the activists left the house, a chase ensued, during which the policemen claimed the suspects tried to force them off the road.

"We were confused and thought we were being fired on and we returned fire on the activists' car," the policemen said.

All four men were killed instantly

It was later established that none of the men was armed and weapons were fetched from the KwaMashu house and planted in the car. An inquest found the deaths were justifiable homicides.

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PRETORIA Jan 17 Sapa

## CHURCH LEADER DENIES HAND IN ANC CHAIRMAN'S MURDER

A Pongola church leader on Monday denied any involvement in the 1993 killing of a local African National Congress chairman, Michael Mcetshwa.

"I am a man of God ... and I am not involved in politics," Philemon Mtungwa told a Truth and Reconciliation Commission amnesty hearing in Pretoria.

He was responding to allegations by Nkosinathi Mavuso -- who is seeking amnesty for Mcetshwa's murder on November 22, 1993.

Mavuso, at the time a member of the Inkatha Freedom Party, was in 1995 convicted for the killing, and sentenced 25 years' imprisonment.

In a written application, Mavuso claimed that Mtungwa was part of an IFP conspiracy to murder the ANC leader.

On Monday, Mtungwa denied any links with the IFP, saying he only knew Mavuso because they worked for the same company.

Pongola businessman Muzi Mncango, also implicated by Mavuso, denied any involvement in the murder.

"In 1993 I was part of the Pan Africanist Congress. I did not know Mr Mavuso," Mncango said.

He said he only joined the IFP after the April 1994 general election.

Mavuso claimed that Mtungwa and Mncwango attended a meeting at a Pongola Wimpy bar in November 1993, where Mcetswha's murder was allegedly plotted. Several other IFP members also attended.

It was agreed, at that meeting, that Mcetshwa should be killed because "he was causing trouble for the IFP", Mavuso said.

Disputing this, Mtungwa said: "Mavuso is telling lies -- I did not go with him to the Wimpy to plan murder."

Mncwngo said he first met Mavuso in 1995, when he requested a R20000 loan from the IFP for his legal costs.

"I never, ever went to that Wimpy. The applicant wants to see himself out of jail and this is something he is making up," he said.

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CAPE TOWN Jan 25 Sapa  
FORMER COP DENIED AMNESTY FOR SHOOTING YOUTH

Former security policeman Michael Phillip Luff has been denied amnesty for the fatal shooting of a 17-year-old youth near Worcester in 1985.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's amnesty committee found on Tuesday that Luff had not been pursuing any political objective when he fired the fatal shots at William Dyasi outside a shack in the Zwelenthemba township on the night of November 3 1985.

During his amnesty application in October last year, Luff told the committee he had gone to the township shack to arrest a youth suspected of being involved in the stoning of the local community hall earlier that day. He said he had seen a youth trying to flee and fired a shot from his shotgun to prevent him escaping.

The committee, chaired by Judge Denzil Potgieter, found on Luff's own testimony, he had not known the identity or political affiliation of Dyasi when he fired the shot.

Luff claimed he had fired at the youth in an attempt to stop him from fleeing because he suspected he had committed an offence earlier in the day.

In its finding, the amnesty committee said because Luff had been unable to identify Dyasi, he would not have been able to link him to any organisation. He therefore could not have been acting with a political objective and could not be granted amnesty.

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CAPE TOWN Jan 25 Sapa  
FORMER SDU MEMBER DENIED AMNESTY FOR KILLING ANC LEADER

A former African National Congress self defence unit member was on Tuesday denied amnesty for killing one of his organisation's own high-profile leaders in the Western Cape in 1991.

Mziwonke "Pro" Jack who had been a popular leader of the ANC in the province, was shot and killed while driving in his car in Lansdowne on the night of June 19.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Amnesty Committee said in its finding that there were many people who believed at the time he had been assassinated.

However the committee found there was no conclusive evidence to support the claim that Jack's killing had been linked to politics or any other cause.

During his testimony to the committee, Mziwonke said he had fired at Jack's vehicle in the belief that its occupants were policemen, but later realised he had made a mistake. However the committee chaired by Judge Denzil Potgieter found that Mziwonke had no reasonable grounds for believing Jack's vehicle belonged to the police. The committee found that Mziwonke claimed to have been waiting for a police vehicle but had fired at an ordinary sedan in which Jack had been travelling.

"We are therefore not satisfied the applicant's conduct constitutes an act associated with a political objective," the committee said in its finding.

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CAPE TOWN Jan 25 Sapa  
SHARPEVILLE ATTACK, AMNESTY FOR ANC CADRE

An African National Congress operative involved in an Umkhonto weSizwe (MK) attack on the Sharpeville police station in 1989 was granted amnesty on Tuesday.

Neo Ignatius Phalane was part of the MK unit that attacked the police station on October 1, 1989, disarming policemen and taking their weapons.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's amnesty committee found that Phalane's acts were, as the TRC Act required, committed during the conflict of the past as part of a political objective and that there had been full disclosure of all relevant facts.

The victims, all policemen, were referred to the Reparation and Rehabilitation Committee for consideration.

The committee also granted amnesty on Tuesday to Simon Bahlezi Mnyakeni for killing Absolom Mnyakeni and Patric Khumalo on March 21, 1992 at the Mandela Squatter Camp near Daveyton.

Mnyakeni and community members attacked the two men because they were suspected of collaborating with police.

A member of the Western Cape riot unit police, Michael Phillip Luff, was refused amnesty for killing William Dyasi on November 4, 1985, at Zwelethemba township in Worcester.

Luff and his team fired shots at a group of people who were throwing stones at Zwelethemba's community hall.

The application was opposed by the Dyasi family.

The committee was not satisfied that Luff's killing of Dyasi was an act associated with a political motive, as required by the act.

An ANC member, Xola Thembinkosi Yekwana, was also refused amnesty for killing ANC activist Mziwonke 'Pro' Jack.

Yekwana killed Jack on the night of June 19, 1991 in Nyanga East in Cape Town.

Yekwana's application for amnesty was opposed by the family of the deceased.

He indicated the attack on Jack was a mistake, saying he fired the shots believing he was shooting at the police.

The committee found that Yekwana had no reasonable grounds for believing Jack's car was a police vehicle, nor was Yekwana pursuing a political objective at the time he fired them.

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JOHANNESBURG Jan 27 Sapa

## TRC GRANTS AMNESTY TO FOUR ANC MEMBERS, REFUSES ONE

Amnesty was on Thursday granted to four African National Congress cadres by the Truth and Reconciliation's amnesty committee, but one ANC members' amnesty application was rejected.

The amnesty followed applications heard in KwaZulu-Natal last year. Former Umkhonto we Sizwe member Linda Geoffrey Xaba was granted amnesty for the murder of Mr S Baxter on November 3, 1993, allegedly because he misinformed people on voting procedures for the 1994 elections.

Originally from KwaZulu-Natal, Xaba, who was trained in Angola, Cuba and Tanzania, settled at Mt Alyff in the Eastern Cape after returning to South Africa in 1992.

Tasked by the ANC in the region to teach rural people about voting, Xaba discovered that Baxter had misinformed people into believing that they should put a cross next to a person by did not want -- in other words --then National Party leader FW de Klerk.

Subsequent attempts to rectify the problem were futile and the ANC believed Baxter was a spy for the former government.

As a result the applicant, in his capacity as an MK cadre, decided to kill Baxter. He shot him five times next to a road where he was selling milk.

The amnesty committee accepted that Xaba acted to safeguard people's right to vote. No innocent bystanders were killed or injured.

Amnesty was also granted to Thandinkosi Petros Sosibo following an incident at Umlazi, south of Durban on August 7, 1986, when two people were killed and one seriously injured.

Sosibo was with a group of youths who attacked and killed liquor seller Themba Cele and seriously injured his partner Nkosinyani Lubanyana.

The youths believed that Cele and Lubanyana were working with police against the United Democratic Front.

They also accused the two of causing the death of UDF supporter Nkosinathi Cele by pointing him out to the police.

The amnesty committee found that Sosibo "honestly believed" that the deceased had been police informers.

Bhekisisa Nkwenyana and Khetha Khuzwayo were granted amnesty for the murder of Eliakim Makhosi Mthembu and the attempted murder of Amon Sibiyi on May 3, 1994 at a kraal in the Mankwanyane Reserve at Empangeni, KwaZulu-Natal.

Political violence between the supporters of the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party was rampant in the reserve at the time.

Khuzwayo, who returned from exile in 1992, was the ANC commander in the Esikhaweni area.

He was given a hit list of people who were destabilising the ANC election campaign by his commander and ANC chairman in the region,

Shadrack Mdlatshe.

Sibiya and Mthembu's names were on the list.

Amnesty was refused to Vivian Bhaniya Ngcobo for the murders of Bhekithemba Shandu and Mbuyiselwa Mbokazi in the Ngonyameni area in KwaZulu-Natal on March 22, 1994.

The killings took place during a meeting to resolve taxi conflict in the area.

The committee found that the attack was unjustified.

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PRETORIA Jan 31 Sapa

## ACCOMPLICE IN 1988 WITBANK BOMBING BEFORE AMNESTY COMMITTEE

An accomplice in the October 1988 Witbank bombing which killed four people and injured 58 told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's amnesty committee in Pretoria on Monday that if he were to reconsider these actions, he would still proceed with them. Applying for amnesty, Phillip Nyalunga said he had been aware of the planned bombing four months before its execution.

"We were involved in an urban guerrilla war and were aware that innocent people would be killed," he said.

He said the NBS building was targeted because it housed the security police on the first floor.

"Our people were being tortured in those buildings," he said.

The former Umkhonto we Sizwe cadre said he acted on instructions from his commander, Xolile Sam, when he surveyed the target about three times before the event.

Nyalunga said Sam assembled the bomb in a Ford Cortina on the morning of the explosion. He and detonation expert John Dube took turns keeping watch and assisting Sam.

He said Dube installed a remote control device which could trigger the device from within a 25km radius.

After the bomb was assembled, Nyalunga followed Sam to Witbank and waited for him while he parked the Cortina outside the NBS building. Sam then walked to the get-away vehicle parked at a nearby taxi rank and sped off with Dube and Nyalunga.

"As soon as we drove off I heard the bomb go off," Dube said.

Although the explosion was intended to kill policeman, none were among the four dead.

Mandlenkosi Vilakazi and Steven Maboja were later convicted for the bombing and both served prison terms.

Dube and Nyalunga claimed they had never met Vilakazi or Maboja, neither of whom applied for amnesty.

They said they assumed the men had dealt with Sam.

The TRC heard that Sam was killed by the police in 1988.

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UMTATA Feb 2 Sapa  
IDUTYWA BUSINESSMAN UNDER FIRE IN TRC HEARING

An Idutywa businessman, Mazizi Ntisana, who is applying for amnesty before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for his role in the failed 1990 Transkei coup, came under heavy criticism on Wednesday, accused by the victims' lawyer of not disclosing the whole truth about the incident.

Khwezi Nodada, appearing for the victims, said all five applicants except for Ntisana appeared to have made full disclosures relating to the planning and execution of the attempted coup.

The TRC's legal counsel, Zuko Mapoma agreed and said, "He was not candid enough before this committee about the finer details before, on and after the failed coup."

Nodada said Ntisana appeared to have played a leading role in planning the abortive coup, but he did not give the committee all the details pertaining to his meetings with alleged coup leader, Vulindlela Mbotoli.

"All he tells the committee, among other things -- was his collecting of three soldiers from Lesotho in Queenstown and somewhere there his knowledge of the sequence of events fizzle out. He also did not tell this commission what was contained on the tapes he was supposed to have played for chiefs.

"His testimony left much to be desired, he did not tell us what role was going to be played by the Lesotho soldiers," he said Ntisana's lawyer, Nambitha Dambuza, said her client regretted the incident, which culminated to the loss of life, and urged the committee to take into account that the coup never succeeded. Commissioner Justice T Sibanyoni interjected: "...what about the fact that unarmed sleeping people were attacked and others subsequently died?"

Dambuza replied that Ntisana was not aware of that particular incident because he was not involved in that phase of the operation.

"Ntisana said he was under the impression that the coup would be bloodless, as was the case when Stella Sigcau was toppled 86 days after her rule."

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KING WILLIAM'S TOWN Feb 3 Sapa  
CISKEI OFFICER REGRETS BISHO MASSACRE

The officer in charge of the Ciskei soldiers during the 1992 Bisho massacre told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's amnesty committee that he ordered troops to fire on protesters in self defence, but he wholeheartedly regretted the deaths.

Colonel Vakele Archiebald Mkosana said this while testifying in support of his amnesty application

The hearing is being held at the Good News Christian Centre, which is on the route the ANC march took on September 7, 1992 to the Bisho stadium.

The march was held to call for then Ciskei military ruler Brigadier Oupa Gqozo's resignation and for free political activity in the former homeland.

The marchers had permission to enter the Bisho stadium.

A breakaway group headed by now Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry Ronnie Kasrils ran out of the stadium sparking off shooting by the troops. Twenty-eight protesters and one soldier were killed.

"The order to shoot was only in order for self defence," said Mkosana. His duty on the day was to prevent the marchers from entering Bisho.

Mkosana said he radioed his superiors to tell them the marchers were

running towards his troops and firing on them. He was told he could open fire if his troops were being fired on.

Expressing his remorse to the incident, he said: "I regret my actions because it was not my intention to kill people in that incident. I regret it with my whole heart."

The hearing continues on Friday.

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## KING WILLIAM'S TOWN Feb 4 Sapa SOLDIERS APPLY FOR AMNESTY IN BISHO MASSACRE

Ciskei soldiers could not believe that they had been ordered to fire on their "brothers and sisters" during the 1992 Bisho massacre, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission heard in King William's Town, in the Eastern Cape, on Friday.

Rifleman Mzamele Thomas Gonya told the commission he fired two grenades from a grenade launcher when soldiers opened fire on African National Congress marchers at the Bisho stadium on September 7, 1992.

The marchers were calling for former Ciskei military ruler Brigadier Oupa Gqozo's resignation and for free political activity in the former homeland.

A breakaway group of marchers, among them present Minister of Water Affairs Ronnie Kasrils, ran out of the Bisho stadium in contravention of the march regulations, and the troops started shooting at them.

Twenty eight protesters and one soldier died.

Gonya said the soldiers had to be ordered to fire three times and threatened and shouted at before they adhered to the command. He also challenged the official military version that the order to open fire on the marchers was only given after field commander Colonel Vakele Archiebald Mkosana told his commanders the crowd had fired on his troops.

Mkosana has also applied for amnesty and testified on Thursday.

Gonya claimed no one had fired at the troops.

Both applications were opposed by lawyers for the African National Congress and victims of the massacre who claimed the men did not make full disclosure.

There were also several discrepancies between the applicants' versions and evidence from other inquiries.

Mkosana told the commission that he told the Ciskei Defence Force (CDF) inquiry into the incident that Gonya had fired a grenade launcher without his authorisation.

However, according to the CDF inquiry records, he told them his men only fired R4 rifles.

Earlier, Mkosana said the soldiers were fired on by the marchers and after consulting superiors he gave the order to open fire with minimum force.

But Gonya disputed this saying he heard the radio communication between Mkosana and his superiors and he was authorised to open fire when the crowd reached a particular tree.

Chairman Judge Denzil Potgieter argued that the 36 soldiers who Mkosana ordered to fire, shot 185 rounds with R4 assault rifles and this could not be described as minimum force.

Gonya contended that Mkosana had specifically told him to fire two grenades. During cross-examination however, he told the commission

that he opened fire together with the other soldiers when the general order to fire was given.

He said he believed that if he had not opened fire he would have been in trouble with his superiors and would have been killed by the marchers.

Mkosana said he was not prepared to take responsibility for soldiers who opened fire without orders.

Lawyer Mike Smith, for the victims, said the CDF covered up what had really happened. He said both applicants had not made full disclosure and were therefore not entitled to amnesty.

Lawyer Brian Koopedi, for the ANC, said it was unbelievable that armed soldiers fired at civilians in a peaceful march.

He said allegations by the CDF that they believed Umkhonto weSizwe (the ANC's former military wing) was to launch an attack from the crowd was "too ridiculous" to believe.

TRC leader of evidence Zuko Mapoma said the men, especially Mkosana, did not own up to their actions.

Mkosana claimed self defence — which was not a crime and therefore not a matter for amnesty — but also wanted the TRC to absolve him of any liability.

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JOHANNESBURG Feb 17 Sapa  
TARC APPROVES FIVE AMNESTY IN RECENT HEARINGS

Five people were granted amnesty in recent hearings by Truth and Reconciliation Commission's amnesty committee.

TRC spokeswoman Nosisi Tyantsi said on Thursday Anthony Sbonelo Ndlovu was granted amnesty for the 1989 kidnapping and murder of Velaphi Victor Mthethwa in KwaZulu-Natal.

The murder was related to political violence between the African National Congress (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

Also granted amnesty in hearings last week, were ANC members AM Mhlambo, XB Tsotetsi and MJ Mangula for the murder of Thembisile Victoria Mthembu in Greytown in September 1991, after he was suspected of having dual membership with both parties.

Frank Bigboy Khanyile received amnesty for an attack on the Nhlalahkle Police station near Greytown in October 1991, during which two policemen were injured.

The committee refused amnesty to Xhawulani Thulasizwe Ngcobo for the murders of Cebo Majola, Simiso Bhengu, Shoti Ndulini, Bhekizani Nzuzi, Mandlethu Ngcobo, Ngoma Shelembe, Sihle Mkhize and Siyanda Nqubane.

The killings took place near Kwa-Nyavu in KwaZulu-Natal in 1991 and 1992.

Ngcobo's other application for the murders of Ncamisile Zimu and Sqwilli Zimu in 1996 could not be considered by the committee as they fell outside the final cut-off date of May 10, 1994.

He was jailed for 25 years for the murders.

Mzamo Thabani Mlaba was granted amnesty for the March 1994 murder of Secrete Nkonsenhle Mkize, but his application for forgiveness for the killing of Sbusiso Brian Mlaba -- committed on the same day, was rejected.

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PRETORIA Feb 22 Sapa

## DE KOCK HAD GOOD REASON TO CONCEAL MURDER, TRC HEARS

Former Vlakplaas security police base commander Eugene De Kock had compelling reasons for concealing the 1992 death of a senior Inkatha Freedom Party member, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission heard in Pretoria on Tuesday.

Hugo Schalk, for De Kock, said if the killing had been revealed at the time, it would have had serious consequences for the apartheid government.

IFP member Samson Khanyile was killed by security branch policemen Dragan Andrejovic and Willie Odendaal during an interrogation in Springs on the East Rand in 1992.

"If Andrejovic was prosecuted, there was a likelihood that he would have spilt the beans (about Vlakplaas activities)," Hugo said.

De Kock is seeking amnesty for failing to inform the police about the death of Khanyile, who was arrested for the illegal possession of weapons.

De Kock said Khanyile died as a result of an assault by Odendaal and Andrejovic.

"Andrejovic came to me and asked me to help dispose the body -- I refused."

De Kock said he later gave Andrejovic a limpet mine which was used to blow up Khanyile's body."

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PRETORIA Feb 22 Sapa

## DE KOCK SAYS A BUDGET WAS ALLOCATED FOR SPECIAL BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Former Vlakplaas security police base commander Eugene de Kock on Tuesday said the previous government was aware of a special force acting against freedom fighters as a budget had been allocated for its activities.

Testifying before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Pretoria, De Kock said: "Special branch activities were not done in isolation --executions were carried out clinically and professionally."

De Kock said former president FW de Klerk "knew what was happening".

"We have three of the best intelligence services in the country yet we cannot find the person who gave the command from Pretoria."

De Kock was applying for amnesty for illegal possession of explosives and failing to inform the police on the death of Samson Khanyile, who allegedly died at the hands of security branch policemen Willie Odendaal and Dragan Andrejovic in 1992.

Khanyile, an Inkatha Freedom Party member, was arrested in Springs on the East Rand for the illegal possession of weapons.

De Kock said Khanyile died as a result of an assault by Odendaal and Andrejovic.

"Andrejovic came to me and asked me to help dispose the body -- I refused."

However, under cross-examination De Kock admitted he had given Andrejovic a limpet mine which was used to blow up Khanyile's body."

Andrejovic has apparently left South Africa.

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CAPE TOWN Feb 22 Sapa

#### AMNESTY GIVEN TO MK CADRES WHO KILLED STUDENT

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's amnesty committee has granted amnesty to four Umkhonto we Sizwe cadres for their involvement in the killing of a student activist Sicelo Dlomo in January 1988.

John Dube, Siphon Tshabalala, Clive Makhubu and Precious Zungu claimed during their amnesty hearings in February last year that they killed Dlomo because they suspected he was a police informer.

The TRC said in a statement that the four had maintained that the decision to kill Dlomo was necessary to protect underground activists and its structures.

Dube -- who was the commander of the MI unit -- admitted shooting the deceased, but said he had acted on his own initiative.

The committee found that there was no evidence that Dlomo was an informer or that he had worked for the security police. They also found that there was no evidence that the applicants had acted for personal gain or out of malice.

It found that the applicants had honestly believed Dlomo was an informer and had therefore committed an act associated with a political objective. The applicants had also made a full disclosure of the relevant facts.

The applicants were therefore granted amnesty, the TRC statement said.

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CAPE TOWN Feb 27 Sapa  
MANUEL ADMITS CONCERN OVER PENSION INCREASES

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel on Sunday admitted that one of the areas in his budget which concerned him deeply was a lack of funds to increase pensions and grants, but it was all the country could afford.

Speaking on SABC's newspaper programme, Manuel said this was because welfare expenditure was financed by the provinces. "There are some particular provinces with such a huge take-up, particularly in the child support grant, that they can't immediately afford a larger increase."

In his budget speech on Wednesday, Manuel announced an increase of R20 a month in the maximum value of old-age pensions, and disability, war veterans and child care dependency grants.

Asked why the increase in social pensions -- which went up from R520 to R540 a month -- was so low, he said: "Because that's all we can afford."

"Social services now take up 55 percent of our non-interest spending; the growth we have seen in the past few years -- and it has been very, very significant growth -- is not a growth this country can afford.

"Whatever we want to spend, we have to raise as taxes, and I think you also need to ask taxpayers whether they are prepared to contribute more to higher levels of spending, and I think there is likely to be a very resounding no," he said.

Manuel said it was important to note that South Africa had set aside more than most countries for social expenditure. "We've got to focus on the tomorrow because part of the tomorrow is to ensure that we have a reasonable defensive capability.

"This (capability) is a moderate one, but above that we are able to strike exceeding good relations with the suppliers, and direct investment flows are part of the agreement."

These would contribute to jobs and growth in the economy.

**Reacting to criticism by Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) chairman Desmond Tutu last week on the lack of provision in the budget for the victims of apartheid and the reparations process itself, Manuel said there were issues which still needed to be resolved. "We can only fund what has been agreed to by departments.**

**"Between the TRC and the departments of justice and constitutional development there needs to be a clearing process on who should qualify. "There's a big legal hassle about whether you could only provide relief to people who appear before the TRC, whether they are the only victims of human rights abuses, or whether you would be creating a precedent in law that you may not be able to sustain in fact," he said.**

Asked if concerns that inflation targeting -- set in the budget at between 3 and 6 percent, to be achieved between three years -- might strangle economic growth, Manuel said these were without any foundation.

"All indications are...that it's entirely within reach and won't strangle it. Certainly, if we try and reach it between 12 and 18 months it would be difficult...but the period is 3 years and this is reasonable within the circumstances."

Referring to capital gains tax, Manuel said without it there would be a very important "missing link" in the country's system of taxation. He denied that it would cost more to administer the tax than it would contribute to revenue, saying he did not know where this "logic" came from.

"It's very important that we have a tax system and tax law that is holistic, and I think that right now we are in a stronger position on tax administration.

"That rationale...probably comes from the grouping of people whose approach is in a sectoral way; who wouldn't like to see us gain capital tax laws because the membership of such a grouping are people who are able to route some of their income out of incomes tax system."

Such groupings lobbied in all kinds of ways in what was clearly a very fair tax, he said.

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**JOHANNESBURG Feb 28 Sapa**  
**WOMAN KILLED FOR SPRINKLING WATER ON ROAD: TRC**

A Skilpadfontein, Northern Province, woman, Violet Masemola -- suspected of being a witch -- was killed in 1990 because she was seen sprinkling water on the road to prevent African National Congress members from attending a party meeting, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) heard on Monday.

Henrick Rakgotho told the TRC's amnesty committee hearings in Johannesburg that Masemola was killed after admitting that she was a witch.

Rakgotho was in 1995 sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for the murder and is applying for amnesty for this killing.

In his testimony on Monday, he said after seeing Masemola sprinkling water in the street, an urgent ANC meeting was called, and the angry crowd resolved to confront her. Masemola was suspected of having baboons and a tokoloshi in her house. She was called to the meeting, during which she "agreed again that she was a witch and she had a tokoloshi and baboons in her house."

Rakgotho said the meeting, chaired by Koos Mphela, resolved that a group of members go to her house to see the tokoloshi and baboons, and upon arrival there, they could not find anything. Realising that nothing was happening, the angry crowd outside the house, set it alight. Rakgotho said Masemola "came out running to us, but the mob threw stones at her. She fell next to the house and caught fire". "I had no intentions to kill her.....Mphela ordered us to frighten her," he said. Advocate Wynand Malan asked Rakgotho why he was contradicting an earlier statement to the police that Mphela had ordered them to kill Masemola.

The statement reads: "We were a group of ANC members, Mphela ordered us to kill Masemola. We as a group of youth we agreed with out chairman but it was not my intention to kill." Rakgotho said he wrote the statement a long time ago and could not remember all its details. Malan asked why he poured petrol over her and pushed her to the burning house if he had no intention to kill. Rakgotho replied he was trying to protect her, hoping she would show them the baboons and tokoloshi.

Commissioner Selwyn Miller asked Rakgotho why he did not mention in his police statement that they saw Masemola sprinkling water on the road -- a move which made them to confront her. In response, Rakgotho said he told the policeman who took the statement "everything", including the fact that he had no intention to kill Masemola, and that they were only ordered to frighten her. Rakgotho's lawyer Anthony Richard asked the committee to grant his client amnesty, saying his action was politically motivated.

Witchcraft killings have become more prevalent in the Northern Province, and Richard said the fact that Masemola's family were not opposing Rakgotho's application, indicated they accepted his evidence. The committee reserved its decision.

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**PRETORIA Feb 29 Sapa**  
**BOTHA WARNED LESOTHO ON ANC: TRC**

A diplomatic note to Lesotho in 1985 from South African foreign affairs minister Pik Botha warned that the South African government would intervene unless action was taken against African National Congress activists in Lesotho, the TRC heard on Tuesday.

At a Truth and Reconciliation Commission amnesty committee hearing in Pretoria, former police commissioner Johan van der Merwe said: "Minister Botha informed Lesotho that ANC members had been planning acts of sabotage on South Africa from Lesotho during the festive season."

At the time government policy was that "terrorists should be fought wherever they are found".

Van der Merwe said: "Shortly before the attack, defence minister Magnus Malan said South Africa would not hesitate to take action, (to) search and take out terrorists."

He added: "Actions were supposed to be covert and not traceable. The government would not want the rest of the world to know South Africa was a police state."

Eight men from the Vlakplaas special police base undertook a midnight raid on an ANC house in Maseru in December 1985.

On Monday Van der Merwe admitted that he had ordered the raid into Lesotho that left eight ANC members and three Lesotho nationals dead.

ANC members Nomkhosi Mini, Vivienne Mathee, Themba Mthembu, Joseph Mayoli, Lulamile Damtile, Morris Seabelo, Leon Meyer and his wife Jackie Quinn were killed in the raid.

The Lesotho nationals killed were Makaelane Mohatle, Boemo Tau and Amelia Lesemyeho.

The hearings continue.

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**JOHANNESBURG March 1 Sapa**  
**FAMILIES ASK TRC NOT TO GRANT AMNESTY TO SEBOKENG KILLER**

The families of Sebokeng residents killed in Sebokeng in the Vaal Triangle in 1993 opposed the amnesty application of Victor Mthandeni Mthembu on Wednesday saying he failed to prove that his actions were politically motivated.

Brian Kopedi, the victims' lawyer told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that Mthembu's evidence indicates that he killed for personal gain.

Mthembu is applying for amnesty with Andrias Matanzima Nosenga for the deaths of 14 people in Sebokeng in 1993.

Earlier Mthembu told the TRC that the former Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader in Sebokeng, Prince Zulu, ordered the IFP Youth League (IFPYL) to kill African National Congress (ANC) residents of Sebokeng in 1993.

This was because of the death of IFP member Victor Kheswa, who was known as the "Vaal Monster". Kheswa was one of four suspects arrested in connection with a drive-by shooting on July 10, 1993. He died in police custody shortly after his arrest and Zulu told them that ANC members had to be killed because they were celebrating Kheswa's death.

He said he and three other IFPYL members -- the late Themba Mabote, Siphiso Lukhozi and Clement Cindi -- went to Sebokeng on July 12, 1993 by taxi.

Mthembu said when they arrived in Sebokeng they got off the taxi and hijacked a Toyota Cressida.

"We went into the house and ordered the owner to hand the keys to us. I then proceeded into the bedroom where I stole a 9mm pistol."

They drove around in the car and they got out when shooting people.

"We shot them at close range. We stopped at the bus stops, streets and taxi ranks but I do not know how many people died."

Fourteen people were reported dead after the shooting and 16 were injured -- two seriously.

Mthembu said after the shooting they burnt the Cressida. They stopped a woman in Zone 14 and hijacked her Honda Ballade. They then drove out of Sebokeng.

Mthembu said when they arrived at the hostel they reported to Zulu that they had completed the job and they gave him the firearms and pistols but not the one stolen from a house.

The attack was also in revenge for the removal of IFP members from a hostel in Sebokeng to the KwaMadala hostel near Boipatong, Mthembu said.

He said they had to take orders from their leaders so they killed the ANC members.

Mthembu was in 1995 sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment on four counts of murder, robbery and attempted murder.

Kopedi said Mthembu had failed to show how the ANC members or Sebokeng residents had rejoiced after the death of Kheswa and said

it was clear that Kheswa died in police custody and was not killed by innocent people.

Mthembu had killed and the victims strongly feel that he did not deserve to be granted amnesty.

Advocate Wynand Malan asked Mthembu why he testified that they burnt the Cressida and walked to another part of the township before hijacking the Honda, while the owner and a witness had testified that they stopped the Cressida at the woman's gate then stole her vehicle.

Malan asked him whether they burnt the Cressida first.

Mthembu said after completing their mission they burnt the Cressida and walked back before hijacking the Honda.

Judge Selwyn Miller asked why they torched the car before leaving Sebokeng and Mthembu said they did it out of fear because they thought there were people who had spotted them and might attack them.

They were still armed and if they met anyone they were going to shoot them.

Miller said he had been charged with robbery, stealing of shoes, cash and ammunition at the house they hijacked the Cressida from but why was he denying that he knew nothing about the stolen items.

He said he stole the firearm and did not see if his friends stole other items.

Kopedi argued that Mthembu had not told the truth about what happened on the day of the killings.

He said Mthembu also did not hand the firearm and items that they stole to Zulu because he kept them for personal gain.

Chris van der Heyde, Zulu's defence lawyer denied that his client ordered Mthembu or anybody to kill.

He said Mthembu killed in his personal capacity and does not deserve to be forgiven.

Nosenga will testify on Thursday.

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**PRETORIA March 3 Sapa**  
**PIK BOTHA'S STATEMENT IS UNTRUE, TRC TOLD**

Former foreign affairs minister Pik Botha on Friday said he was considering legal action against advocate Danny Berger who claimed his sworn statement to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was untrue.

"A witness is not guilty. He is only called to testify on what he knows," Botha told journalists at a TRC amnesty hearing in Pretoria.

Botha was subpoenaed to testify on a midnight raid in Lesotho in 1985 by a special unit of the apartheid police.

Six African National Congress activists and three Lesotho nationals were killed in the raid by the police unit. Berger is acting on behalf of the victims' families.

"How can advocate Berger criticise my affidavit when he does not have an iota of evidence to prove otherwise," Botha said.

Responding, Berger said he welcomed any action Botha might take.

During his cross-examination Botha denied any knowledge or involvement in the pre-Christmas attack in Lesotho.

Judge Ronnie Pillay asked Botha who he thought was responsible for killing enemies of the apartheid regime.

Botha replied: "One did not know what to believe but cabinet should have done more to find out what was happening."

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CAPE TOWN March 13 Sapa

**PERSONAL RECONCILIATION WITH PERPETRATORS UNLIKELY -- OMAR**

The policemen who conspired to murder him in 1989 should not be denied amnesty provided they complied with the necessary requirements, Transport Minister Dullah Omar said on Monday.

However, any form of personal reconciliation between himself and the perpetrators was unlikely. In a statement read to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Amnesty Committee in Cape Town by his daughter Fazlin, Omar said he was totally committed to the TRC's processes which he considered to be important to promote reconciliation. But, he said that in reading the documentation in respect of the applications for amnesty, the applicants had not displayed even the slightest feeling of remorse and regret.

Omar said it was his impression that their sole object in applying for amnesty was to avoid prosecution. "They are not sorry about what they did. "In the absence of any expression of remorse or regret, let alone an apology, any form of personal reconciliation between myself as a victim and the said perpetrators is totally out of the question," Omar said.

The minister also expressed his regret that the venue for the hearing was changed from the Athlone Early Learning Centre, on the Cape Flats, to the TRC's head office in Cape Town. This followed an urgent court application by one of the applicants Abram (Slang) van Zyl on the grounds that he was concerned about his safety at the Athlone venue.

Van Zyl is one of eight former members of the Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) seeking amnesty for the 1989 bombing of a creche at the Early Learning Centre in Athlone and for attempts to assassinate then anti-apartheid leader Omar and journalist Gavin Evans. Omar said the moving of the venue was a gross insult to the people of the Cape Flats who were generally committed to the process of reconciliation.

The applicants are Ferdinand Barnard, Wouter Basson, Van Zyl, Carl Botha, Daniel du Toit Burger, Johan Verster, Edward Webb and Leon Maree. The hearing continues.

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CAPE TOWN Mar 14 Sapa

## **CCB HEAD HAD A WARPED MIND: TRC HEARS**

The former head of the Civil Cooperation Bureau, Pieter Johan (Joe) Verster, had a warped mind when it came to the selection of targets for elimination in the apartheid era, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission heard in Cape Town on Tuesday.

Verster is one of eight former members of the CCB seeking amnesty for conspiring to kill current Transport Minister Dullah Omar in 1989.

Under cross examination by George Bizos SC, who is appearing for Omar, Verster said his decision to target Omar had been justified because he had later been appointed justice minister in former President Nelson Mandela's cabinet in 1994.

Verster explained that Omar must have been a high ranking member of the African National Congress which had been the enemy of the apartheid government.

"You have a warped mind when it comes to drawing inferences about the innocence or guilt of a potential victim," Bizos told Verster.

Bizos pointed out to Verster that by his logic, businessmen Derek Keys and Chris Liebenberg, could also have been seen as targets before serving in Mandela's cabinet as finance ministers.

Verster replied that these appointments had been exceptions because they had been made by virtue of their expertise in finance.

Referring to another incident in which Verster and the CCB members have applied for amnesty, Bizos said he found it objectionable that a gangster had been paid R18000 to plant a bomb in the Athlone Early Learning Centre in 1989.

Verster replied that the ANC had also made use of gangsters to carry out their attacks.

"We are not dealing with the conscience of the ANC. We are dealing with the morals and ethics of your organisation," Bizos said.

Verster replied that this was general practice at the time to avoid the action being linked to state structures.

In a series of acrimonious exchanges, Bizos asked Verster if he had approached the owner of the Early Learning Centre to warn him that the authorities suspected his property was being used for subversive purposes before resorting to bombing it.

Verster replied that the ANC had never bothered to approach the owners of property before placing bombs. He used the 1988 bomb blast in Amanzimtoti as an example.

"The person responsible for that bomb was convicted, sentenced to death and executed. What should happen to you? ... I should be careful about drawing parallels," Bizos said to Verster.

Verster said the security forces were at war with the ANC at the time and it was his duty to act like a soldier and not to contact the owners of buildings before carrying out attacks.

Those applying for amnesty for the Athlone bomb blast, as well as conspiring to kill Omar by lacing his medication with poison are: Ferdinand Barnard; Wouter Basson; Abram (Slang) van Zyl; Carl Botha; Daniel du Toit Burger; Edward Webb and Leon Maree.

The hearing continues on Wednesday.

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CAPE TOWN March 20 Sapa

R12,5-MILLION CLAIM AGAINST TRC TO BE HEARD ON MAY 8

A multi-million rand civil action lodged against the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by a former head of its Eastern Cape investigative unit will be heard in Bisho on May 8. Former investigations director Loyiso Mpumlwana's R12,5-million defamation claim was lodged after the TRC took legal action to recover R154000 paid to him during his employment with the commission. TRC head legal adviser Paddy Prior told Sapa on Monday that Mpumlwana had made a counterclaim against the TRC following his resignation in July 1997. Mpumlwana resigned after he was found to be employed by the office of the premier of the Eastern Cape at the same time he was employed by the TRC. Prior said the TRC had lodged a civil action against Mpumlwana to recover monies of R154000 paid to him during his employment with the commission. Mpumlwana subsequently issued a counterclaim -- for defamation, against the TRC, its chief executive officer and the minister of justice -- for R12,5-million. According to an auditor-general report for the 1998 financial year, the counterclaim was lodged because of media coverage of the incident and possible damage it may have caused to Mpumlwana's reputation.

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JOHANNESBURG March 20 Sapa

**NON-PAYMENT OF REPARATIONS CASTS DOUBT ON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENT:**

DP The government's commitment to human rights would ring hollow as long as those classified as victims by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had still not received reparation payments, the Democratic Party said on Monday. "South Africa owes a debt of honour to the victims of the gross human rights violations of the past, which must be settled before we can tackle present problems in any good faith," DP MP Dene Smuts said in a statement. "It is outright betrayal when innocent people whose bodies and lives have been ruined, are invited to testify to a public forum like the TRC to give a moral gloss to the indemnification of human rights violations, are promised reparation to compensate for the loss of their right to sue successful amnesty applicants, and are then forgotten and ignored," she said.

The TRC sent its reparation proposals to the government in 1998, recommending payouts amounting to in the region of R22000 for each victim, to be paid over a period of six years. Smuts said an inter-ministerial committee to look into the matter was set up in September 1999, only after the DP had raised the reparations issue in Parliament. However, the matter had not yet been resolved. She said the government continued to fob off their moral responsibility by saying that people "didn't fight in the struggle for financial reward and compensation".

"Does the ANC honestly think SA will tolerate the self-enrichment of the old struggle elite, which sought blanket amnesty for itself and avoided the issue altogether, while it evades its responsibility for the victims who provided the moral basis for the indemnification of the foot-soldiers?"

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CAPE TOWN March 20 Sapa

**TRC STAFF OWE R71113 FOR EXCEEDING PHONE LIMITS**

Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) employees owed the commission R71113 for exceeding cellular phone bill limits, according to the auditor-general's report on the TRC for the year to March 1999.

It said some staff had not refunded the TRC for private cellular phone calls and for exceeding account limits.

The report said the limitations adopted in July 1996 were not adhered to, and the system for recovering the amounts was not working efficiently.

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CAPE TOWN March 21 Sapa

**STRUGGLE DEATH MEMORIALS UNVEILED**

Simple stone memorials to the young victims of two apartheid-era police shootings were unveiled in Cape Town by the city's mayor and Cabinet ministers on Tuesday. The Human Rights Day ceremonies commemorated the deaths of the Guguletu Seven, a group of activists ambushed by police in 1986, and the notorious Trojan Horse incident the year before, where police concealed in crates on a railway lorry killed three youths they claimed were part of a group throwing stones.

Speaking at the Trojan Horse memorial, on a patch of open land off Thornton Road in Athlone, where the shooting took place, Transport Minister Dullah Omar said the killings were an act of murder by what had been a terrorist state. South Africa was still plagued by violence, he said. "I do not think it's good for us to leave this memorial saying we had a wonderful day.... We must leave having decided we are going to do our bit to eliminate that violence," he said. "We have a huge challenge on our hands."

At a similar ceremony at a site alongside Guguletu's NY1 road, Education Minister Kader Asmal told several hundred invited guests and local people that the Seven and others who contributed to the freedom struggle were the people who had made it possible for South Africa to celebrate Human Rights Day.

The Seven were set up by Vlakplaas operatives to ambush a police bus on the morning of March 3 1986, but were instead ambushed themselves. It later emerged that all were shot in the head, one at point-blank range, and one while trying to give himself up. Irene Mxinwa, mother of one of the victims, Mandla Mxinwa, gave a sombrely poetic account of the day of the killings, when, she said, blood was flowing "like a river" and mothers wept.

She said afterwards that she was pleased with the memorial, but that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had yet to live up to its promises of cash reparations to the youths' families. A city council spokeswoman said the memorials, designed by artists from the community, were the first of a series of community-based monuments to victims of the fight against apartheid planned for the city. The programme would culminate in a major youth march from the memorial sites to the city's Grand Parade on June 16.

Earlier on Tuesday the mayor, Nomaindia Mfeketo, told a service at St George's Cathedral that racism remained a problem in all spheres of life in South Africa and the challenge was to launch a collective effort to eradicate it. "Today we commit ourselves to work together for the creation of a society free of racial prejudice," she said. "Everyday interaction with one another will make us rise above racism and build a better life for all." The church had sheltered thousands of activists who sought refuge during the apartheid era, and she was grateful for the gesture.

Also on Tuesday, supporters of the Pan Africanist Congress gathered at Langa cemetery to tend the graves of the two people who died in police shootings in the township on the day of the Sharpeville massacre 40 years ago.

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CAPE TOWN March 21 Sapa

**MEMORIAL TO GUGULETU SEVEN UNVEILED ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

A memorial to the Guguletu Seven, a group of youths slain by police in an ambush in March 1986, was unveiled in Cape Town on Tuesday morning. The unveiling, on the ambush site next to Guguletu's NY1 road was performed by Cape Town mayor Nomaindia Mfeketo and Education Minister Kader Asmal. Police claimed at the time that the seven had been killed during a legitimate anti-terrorist operation, but investigations by journalists, a forensic probe and truth commission hearings showed that the victims were shot at very close range, all while they were trying to give themselves up.

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DURBAN March 25 Sapa

**TRC FAILED TO ADDRESS BLACK-ON-BLACK VIOLENCE: BUTHELEZI**

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has completely failed to address or find the root causes for black-on-black violence which has claimed more than 30000 lives in this country, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said on Saturday.

Speaking at the African Renaissance Festival in Durban on the conflict challenge facing Africa, Buthelezi said the TRC had achieved some success in investigating and portraying white-on-black violence and black-on-white violence. Only time would tell if they had been successful in reconciling these two groups.

"However, in respect of black-on-black violence neither truth nor reconciliation has been achieved. "The TRC has not even begun to scratch the surface of black-on-black violence," Buthelezi said. "If anything the TRC has produced major setbacks in the research and understanding of the root causes and dynamics of black-on-black violence..... the major conflict of the recent past...." Buthelezi said.

Some 30000 people were killed in black-on-black violence and hundreds of thousands were displaced. In contrast only 600 whites were killed during the anti-apartheid struggle. "It is clear that we are far from exposing the picture of what really happened in our country," Buthelezi said. African National Congress leader in KwaZulu-Natal, S'bu Ndebele, said people of Africa were not in conflict with the rest of world. "People of Africa were in conflict with people of Africa.

He said violence in KwaZulu-Natal, in which thousands have died in the past 15 years, could be solved through cooperation by the political parties -- as was currently being done.

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UMTATA March 27 Sapa

**FORMER TKEI COP WITHDRAWS AMNESTY APPLICATION**

A former Transkei security policeman on Monday withdrew his application for amnesty to be heard by the Truth and Reconciliation Committee at the Umtata town hall in the Eastern Cape. Bongani Wana initially applied for the amnesty for the deaths of three African National Congress operatives, Zolile Sangoni, Zonwabele Mayapi and Lizo Macanda and the attempted murder of Thozamile Nkume. Members of the Transkei Security police shot the four men at Nqadu road on February 5, 1988. In his initial application, Wana said the operation was executed within the scope of his official duties. Wana told the committee, chaired by Judge Selwyn Miller, that he carried out these killings while on official duty.

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UMTATA March 27 Sapa

## **TRC HEARS OF TORTURE AGAINST POLITICAL DETAINEES**

A former Transkei security policeman on Monday described to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission amnesty hearings in Umtata the methods he used to torture many of the detainees under his supervision during the 1980s.

Captain Nkosana Nelson Siqholo, who was an acting station commissioner at Ngqeleni, is applying for amnesty in connection with the torture of "a number of victims" and for damaging a shop and house belonging to Transkei businessman Max Jafta. Jafta was accused of harbouring ANC cadres.

The TRC also heard that some of Siqholo's victims were now senior government officials and members of the Eastern Cape and Western Cape legislatures. Siqholo said he began hating the ANC after he attended a security police seminar on ANC political activities in 1981, during which a video was shown of mobs necklacing victims in townships. He said some of the detainees under his supervision were tortured and assaulted -- at times in the presence of senior officers -- in order to obtain information from them.

Methods of torture included suspending a detainee between two tables with a stick, which was later known as the "helicopter method". Another method employed was to force the detainee's head into a canvas bag filled with water. Siqholo attributed his actions to what he termed "acute" indoctrination, a rural background and a lack of political education.

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**JOHANNESBURG April 14 Sapa**  
**AMNESTY TO TEN FORMER RANKING SECURITY POLICE OFFICERS**

Ten former security policemen have been granted amnesty for the 1988 murder of anti-apartheid activist Johannes Stanza Bopape, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission said on Friday. A TRC statement said the men were also granted amnesty for the subsequent cover up of the murder. The 10 men are Adriaan van Niekerk, Hendrick Beukes Mostert, Jacobus Engelbrecht, Charles Zeelie, Johann du Preez, Gerrit Erasmus, Petrus du Toit, Johannes van der Merwe, Schalk Visser and Leon Loggereberg.

The TRC's amnesty committee found they were supporters of the former National Party government and committed the crime in their capacity as security policemen. Bopape died in detention after being tortured with electricity during interrogation. In their application the policemen said it had not been their intention to kill the activist. "The committee found that the applicants met the requirements of the Act in that they made full disclosure of all relevant facts. "The act was associated with a political objective committed in the course of a conflict of the past," the statement said. "The applicants believed that Bopape had connections with a group that was responsible for a number of bomb blasts in the Pretoria and West Rand areas." The Bopape family was referred to the TRC's reparation and rehabilitation committee for consideration.

Amnesty was also granted to Joel McCord Makanya for the unlawful transportation of firearms, helping three ANC activists to escape and the attempted murder of a policeman near Umzumbe in KwaZulu-Natal in July 1991.

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**JOHANNESBURG April 17 Sapa**  
**POLICE GAVE GUNS TO IFP MEMBERS, TRC HEARS**

Stilfontein police gave Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) members guns in the early 1990's to attack African National Congress supporters, the Truth and Reconciliation committee heard on Monday. Khadamile Tinyane, 29 of the ANC told the hearing in Mayfair, Johannesburg, that ANC Youth League (ANCYL) members had resolved to disarm policemen to defend themselves from IFP attacks.

Tinyane is applying for amnesty for stealing two police service pistols and the illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition. "We decided as youths that we have to get ourselves guns... to defend ourselves with these guns against the policemen and those who were against us," he said. "We had problems in the township, at another township next to ours, and people were given guns by policemen to kill." Asked which people he was referring to, he replied: "IFP members." Tinyane was jailed for six years for the robberies which took place in April and May 1993.

In the first incident, he forcefully took a 9mm service pistol from a policeman outside a shebeen in Khuma location, outside Stilfontein, and kept the gun at his home. In the second, Tinyane was present when an ANCYL member took a pump action gun from a police vehicle parked outside the same shebeen. When Tinyane was arrested a short while later, he was arrested for the first robbery and being in possession of the stolen gun and ammunition. Asked if why he had not used the gun against police since they were considered enemies by the ANCYL, he said: "No, we wanted to have more guns. It was not time to attack them, we did not have enough ammunition."

At the time of the robberies, there was no conflict between IFP and ANCYL cadres in Khuma, he said. However, Tinyane said the orders to disarm police was given by ANCYL and civic association member Jimmy Lebaka. "He was the person giving instructions." Tinyane said the local ANC branch were aware of plans to disarm police, but were themselves not involved in the campaign.

On Tuesday, the committee presided over by Judges Selwyn Miller, Chris de Jager and Jonas Sibanyoni, will hear testimonies from Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) member Thembinkosi Mabika, who is applying for amnesty for his involvement in a robbery at a dry cleaners outlet in Kimberley, allegedly carried out to raise funds for the Azapo. He was charged with attempted murder and the unlawful possession of arms and ammunition. The committee will hear six other applicants testify about their involvement in robberies carried out to raise funds for various liberation movements.

The hearings end on Thursday.

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**JOHANNESBURG April 18 Sapa**

**WINNIE APPROVED ORLANDO POLICE STATION BOMBING:TRC HEARS**

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela approved of a limpet mine attack on the Orlando police station in Soweto in October 1989, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's amnesty committee heard in Johannesburg on Tuesday.

Former Umkhonto we Sizwe cadre Siphon Mthandi, 34, who has applied for amnesty for the attack on the police station in which no-one was injured, told the committee he met Madikizela-Mandela at her home in Diepsloot after planting two limpet mines in a police guard house at the station. "The same day I got to Diepsloot extension... Mama (Madikizela-Mandela) called me over to say she had heard about the explosion and she asked me if anyone was injured. "I said I did not know and she then asked me if my commander was aware of the incident. I said yes, and she told me that was fine."

Mthandi, who was second-in command of his MK unit, said he was given the order to bomb the police station by his commander and the boyfriend of Madikizela-Mandela's daughter Zinzi, Sizwe Sithole. His duties included guarding Madikizela-Mandela's house at night, ensuring her regular guards were "doing their jobs properly" and finding out information in the township which would benefit the unit. Sithole, he said, was in regular contact with Madikizela-Mandela, ex-wife of former president Nelson Mandela. He said she had apparently told Sithole she was "pleased" with the bombing.

Mthandi testified that he had been given a four-day crash-course in gun and handgrenade assembly shortly before the bombing. "We were trained as to how to assemble and disassemble a firearm and how to assemble a handgrenade." Their skills were demonstrated to a group of six men from various parts of the country. Mthandi said he did not know their real names.

On the day of the attack, he left school at midday and went to a library across the road from the police station to assemble the two limpet mines and set their time-delays. He had intended to plant the limpets, being carried in a plastic packet, in a toilet at the station. "I realised I could not do it there (there were police members in the bathroom) and I left there... becoming scared because of the limpet's time-delay." He went through the reception area where many civilians stood gathered and decided to put the bomb in the guard house outside the station to prevent the civilians from getting injured. "I got into the guard room, planted the bombs under a table and left. "I walked away and somewhere down the road I heard the explosion," he said.

Mthandi also applied for amnesty for an attack on a police sergeant's house in Orlando West in December 1989. Sithole told Mthandi that a Sergeant Morget was responsible for the arrest of many activists in the township and was considered a "sell-out". On the night of the attack on Morget's house, Mthandi and Sithole, who were armed with AK47 rifles and handgrenades, threw a grenade over the wall of the property and jumped over the wall. They each fired a magazine, containing 50 rounds, into the house and fled. Mthandi later heard that Morget's wife and child were inside the house at the time, but there were no reports of injuries.

When Sithole and other MK cadres were later arrested, Madikizela-Mandela arranged a meeting with Mthandi at her home to warn him to be careful, he said. "When Sizwe (Sithole) and the others were arrested, I was not present. She made sure she could get a chance to talk to me and to warn me." Other applicants still to testify include Azanian People's Organisation member Thembinkosi Mabika, who is seeking amnesty for a robbery at a dry cleaners outlet in Kimberley, attempted murder and the unlawful possession of arms and ammunition. He claimed he robbed the outlet with the purpose of raising funds for his organisation.

Amos Tshabalala and Mdubeki Ntantiso are applying for amnesty relating to their convictions for murder, robbery and the illegal possession of arms and ammunition. Both men claim the robbery was carried out to raise funds for a liberation movement.

The hearings, presided over by Judges Selwyn Miller, Chris de Jager and Jonas Sibanyoni, will end on Thursday.

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PRETORIA May 11 Sapa

## **SENIORS SHOULD TAKE RAP FOR KILLINGS, ASSASSIN TELLS BASSON TRIAL**

LEADS to highlight Basson charges (3rd para) ; NO pick-up

A self-confessed apartheid era assassin on Thursday told the Pretoria High Court he applied for amnesty for only one his many murders because he believed his seniors, who gave him the orders, should be the ones punished. Trevor Floyd, a former member of the then SA Defence Force's Special Task Force and the Civil Co-operation Bureau, admitted earlier that he was involved in killing various people.

He was testifying in the trial of the former head of the SADF's chemical warfare programme, Dr Wouter Basson, who has pleaded not guilty to 61 charges, including murder, attempted murder, conspiracy, assault, fraud and drug dealing. In most cases the bodies of the people killed -- considered enemies of the state or people from Floyd's own ranks who had become a security risk -- were dumped into the sea from an aircraft. On one occasion his commander and pilot, known to the court as Mr K, forgot the pills with which to kill the victims, "so we used hammers to kill the people", Floyd said.

Floyd testified he had planned an assassination attempt on Ronnie Kasrils, now Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, and Dr Pallo Jordan, former Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, in London in the mid-eighties. Both were senior African National Congress members in exile at the time. The operation was later abandoned, Floyd said. He also told the court he received a poisonous ointment from Basson that he was supposed to rub on the door handle of a car belonging to senior Namibian official Peter Kalangula to kill him. That operation was also dropped due to an attentive guard.

Defence counsel Jaap Cilliers asked Floyd why his amnesty application to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission did not mention any of the incidents he had testified about. Floyd said at that stage it was not clear whether the TRC could give amnesty for crimes committed abroad. But Cilliers pointed out that Floyd had killed people in South Africa as well, including a man who was shot dead. The body was thrown in the Limpopo River. Floyd had also testified that he and a colleague, Danie Phaal, had taken a man known only as Christopher to Zeerust. Christopher died on the way after Phaal injected him with a substance. "My feeling was that the senior people who gave the orders were really responsible for those deeds," Floyd argued.

Only at a later stage did the former commander of Special Forces, General Kat Liebenberg, tell him that if an order was illegal, the person who executed it was as guilty as the one who gave the order. Floyd applied for amnesty in only one case, a planned assassination of ANC supporter Peter Ntuli, because Ntuli was not an authorised target and the order to kill him was therefore illegal, Floyd said.

In other cases he knew the targets were either involved with the South West African People's Organisation or the ANC or were a security risk. He said the police started an operation against Ntuli, and he was ordered to do some reconnaissance and help the police. "Before the job was executed, we were told to withdraw as it did not look good," Floyd said. He applied for amnesty after he read in a newspaper that Brigadier Jack Cronje had applied for amnesty in connection with the Ntuli case. Floyd said he was under the impression that in 1998, when he heard that the police had approached Phaal, and when he met the investigating team himself, he could still add other incidents to his amnesty application.

Testifying about the planned assassination of Kasrils or Jordan, Floyd said he was told Basson had supplied the poison to be used. When Dr Jan Lourens handed him the intended murder weapon, an injection device to be screwed on the top of an umbrella, he said it contained "Wouter's poison", Floyd said. But Cilliers said Lourens had claimed in an affidavit that he got the poison from Dr Philip Myburgh. According to Lourens' affidavit, he gave a screwdriver loaded with poison to a man with the code name Trevor, Cilliers said.

Floyd insisted that the device was to be screwed onto an umbrella. Also, his code name was not Trevor, but it was possible that Lourens knew his real first name. Floyd testified that a Portuguese team would have carried out the assassination, but the operation was later abandoned.

The trial continues on Friday.

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PRETORIA May 12 Sapa

## **DE KLERK DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT CCB, FORMER MEMBER TESTIFIES**

Civil Co-operation Bureau members were told to complete all their projects by September 1, 1989, because FW de Klerk, who had just taken over as president, had not yet heard of its existence, former CCB member Abram "Slang" van Zyl told the Wouter Basson trial on Friday. Explaining to the Pretoria High Court why he left the CCB in October that year, he added: "After I heard De Klerk's (February 2) speech it was clear that the country had entered a new phase where the CCB's operations would not be needed and would not be tolerated either."

Van Zyl testified about his involvement with the planned assassination of current Transport Minister Dullah Omar and about how he hung a baboon foetus in a tree at the Cape Town house of Truth and Reconciliation Commission chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Both Omar and Tutu were prominent in the anti-apartheid struggle at the time. Van Zyl said he was ordered to arrange that Omar be shot with a Makarov pistol at his house. A man whom he had recruited, Peaches Gordon, and two unidentified people would execute the assassination. He handed the pistol to Gordon in April 1989. By June, the job had still not been done, so he sent a colleague, Ferdi Barnard, to Cape Town to determine why not.

Barnard and Gordon said Omar arrived home at very irregular times and had people with him in the car most of the time. In August, Van Zyl again sent Barnard to Cape Town. Barnard and Gordon reported that Omar had had a stroke. Gordon said he could get hold of some of the heart pills Omar used. Van Zyl said that after discussing it with his commander, Staal Burger, and the unit's co-ordinator, Wouter Basson (not the doctor who is on trial), he ordered Gordon to get some pills. Van Zyl handed the pills over to someone from the medical regiment. Later someone involved with financial matters at the CCB, whom he knew as Nic, handed him a small bottle with a powder in September. Nic said the pills could not be replicated. He told Van Zyl to dredge Omar's food with some of the powder. That would cause him to have a second stroke. "It would seem as if he died of natural causes." But Gordon never managed to do the job, and Van Zyl asked him to destroy the powder and the pistol.

Van Zyl testified that Burger sent him a baboon foetus in August 1989 and ordered him to hang it at Tutu's residence. Accompanied by Barnard, Gordon and a fourth man he hung the foetus -- in a jam jar covered with brown gauze -- in a tree on the Bishop's Court property. Asked why that was done, Van Zyl said: "It was just an order I received. I saw it as part of the bigger scheme." He did not think it was a joke. Other incidents with which he was involved included the assassination of advocate Anton Lubowski in Namibia in 1989 and the bomb blast at the Early Learning Centre in Cape Town.

Van Zyl said the main purpose of the CCB was the maximum disruption of the enemies of the state. This included killing people. He was told the organisation had the ability to supply him with any type of weapon. This included sophisticated chemical weapons.

The trial continues. (Pick up as required)

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CAPE TOWN May 15 Sapa

## **BOESAK DRIVEN OFF THE POLLSMOOR**

Former anti apartheid cleric Allan Boesak maintained his innocence again on Monday minutes before he handed himself over to Bellville police to begin his three-year term. "I will go to prison this morning knowing that I am innocent and I will continue to be innocent," he said.

Boesak, who was hoisted on to the shoulders of supporters to the police station some 200 metres along Voortrekker Road, was flanked by his wife Elna, and his children from his previous. At least three ministers prayed and quoted from the scriptures including former Western Cape leader Chris Nissen. Boesak told the crowds: "We will transform that prison from a place of shame to a place of pride. From hopelessness to hope." He said that people should not despair or be angry or lose hope. "My going to prison should not be a reason to think we don't have hope. While I'm in there remember what we have done and what we have fought together for."

He urged the crowds "not to remember me but what we have done together. Much still must be done to transform South Africa." He said that if people wanted to hear his voice from inside prison they should listen to his wife Elna. Elna Boesak was due to address supporters at Pollsmoor Prison later on Monday. Boesak wore a dark grey suit with blue shirt and yellow tie as he accompanied ANC leader Ebrahim Rasool, ANC chief whip Tony Yengeni and other supporters on a march to the police station with Boesak leading the march. The crowd was singing: "What has he done, what has he done."

Nissen told Boesak that in God truth would triumph. "Go with him to his new home where you can transform that cell." Another minister Andrew Bruintjies told supporters he had been asked to minister personally to Boesak while he was in jail and also to his wife. Meanwhile, reformed 28s prisons gang member Rev Mike Michaels said that gangsters in Pollsmoor wanted Boesak "to come in and minister to them." Boesak entered the police grounds where he went into the police station for a few minutes accompanied by his wife. He then climbed into the back of a white Nissan, along with his wife, and they were driven to Pollsmoor as his supporters hung onto fences to peer through the bars, to have a last glimpse of their hero.

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JOHANNESBURG May 16 Sapa

## **NYANDA'S AMNESTY APPLICATION IS OPPOSED**

An amnesty application by former Umkhonto we Sizwe commander and current SANDF chief Sipiwe Nyanda was contested on Tuesday on the grounds that he had not specified the incidents for which he had applied for amnesty.

Nyanda told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's amnesty committee in Mayfair, Johannesburg, that he claimed full responsibility for attacks on the apartheid regime during his command. Nyanda was a long-standing member of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the African National Congress' armed wing. From 1983, he was commanded its Transvaal division. Nyanda, along with two other former MK operatives Solly Shoke and Malekole Rasegatla, is applying for amnesty for bombing government buildings, railway lines and military vehicles in the 1970s. Shoke is also now a general in the SA National Defence Force. Rasegatla is an official in the North West provincial department of safety and security. Jan Wagner, appearing on behalf of a group of victims, said the families of people killed in a number of MK attacks in the late 1970s and 1980s were opposed to Nyanda receiving amnesty. Wagner said: "It is clear that he does not know what exactly he is asking amnesty for." Wagner argued that amnesty could only be granted if the applicant made full disclosure. By not stating which incidents he was applying for, he had not made full disclosure.

Earlier, Nyanda testified that as Transvaal commander, he personally ordered the attacks on strategic targets in South Africa. He said because of the manner in which foot soldiers infiltrated the country it was difficult to determine the exact number of attacks. "I am personally not aware of the total extent of the loss of lives or injuries that were sustained." Nyanda's legal counsel Danny Bergher said his client had complied with the commission's regulations. "My client is asking for amnesty for any instruction which he gave which resulted in death or injury and he may still be unaware of," Bergher said. Justifying the bombings, Nyanda said: "All operations that were carried out ... were done in furtherance of the African National Congress' struggle against the apartheid regime. Every order that I issued was intended by me to advance that struggle."

Commenting during argument between the lawyers, Judge Selwyn Miller said: "Amnesty would not be granted if the committee was convinced the applicant had not made full disclosure." He said the committee would reserve their decision on whether Nyanda had met those requirements.

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PRETORIA MAY 19 SAPA

## **APARTHEID DOCTOR DENIES SELLING POISON DEVICES TO ARABS**

A highly qualified mechanical engineer, who in the 1980s designed special poison-injecting screwdrivers and umbrellas for the apartheid government, denied in the Pretoria High Court on Friday that he had tried to sell some of the devices to an Arabian country. Counsel for apartheid chemist Dr Wouter Basson put it to State witness Dr Jan Lourens that his deteriorating relationship with Basson was due to him trying to sell the devices overseas. Lourens, who had worked on Project Coast -- South Africa's top secret chemical and biological warfare programme -- with Basson, denied this. He said his relationship with Basson started disintegrating because of Basson's suspected affair with his former wife, Antoinette, who also worked for the former SA Defence Force. Lourens also had moral problems about the project and did not like the flamboyant life styles of his colleagues, which had nothing to do with Project Coast. He said the political situation in South Africa was changing and the so-called threat to the country at that stage had become faint. He said he never saw any sign of the massive chemical onslaught which the country faced, and the project became less and less coordinated as time went by. Lourens left the SADF early in 1993 because of growing dissatisfaction with his work and his deteriorating relationship with Basson and his other colleagues. He eventually decided to "go the Truth and Reconciliation Commission route" and fully confess his role in the country's chemical warfare programme. Lourens denied a claim by Basson's Counsel Jaap Cilliers that at one stage he planned to murder Basson and actually went to his house with a firearm. "I would not have visited him specifically, but if I accidentally bumped into him, I would have shot him," he said. Lourens earlier testified that he had manufactured various deadly "toys" for the SADF's Special Forces, which could be used to apply a variety of poisons. He had once taken a deadly umbrella to London on Basson's instructions. The poison, which he smuggled into England in his toiletry bag, was obtained from Dr Phillip Mijburgh at SADF front company Delta G. Basson has denied ever sending Lourens to London to deliver an umbrella to CCB agent Trevor Floyd. He claimed the umbrella that was developed at that stage, could in any event never have worked because it could not inject enough poison to kill anyone. Lourens replied that the umbrella he had delivered would definitely have been able to kill someone. Floyd, an agent of the SADF hit squad known as the Civil Co-Operation Bureau, earlier testified that he had thrown the deadly umbrella and poison into the Thames River because the planned project could not be carried out. The trial continues on Monday.

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JOHANNESBURG May 19 Sapa

## **ANC CADRES' AMNESTY APPLICATIONS TO BE HEARD NEXT WEEK**

Seven African National Congress cadres will appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's amnesty committee in Johannesburg next week for several offences, including murdering former SA Defence Force soldiers and attacking police stations in 1990.

John Ngobeni, Mhlavu Mahlavu and Jabulani Mbhalali will ask the committee, sitting at the Jiss centre in Mayfair, to be pardoned for attacking SADF members stationed at Nkowankowa stadium in Rita near Pietersburg and fatally shooting Constable Shingane and also shooting several other soldiers in an army truck. Ngobeni, who was commander of an Umkhonto We Sizwe unit, ordered and commanded the execution of the three operations in April and June 1990, said TRC spokesman Phila Ngqumba on Friday.

All three applicants maintained that the operations were in line with the ANC policies to attack apartheid security forces. Two other MK operatives, Dumisani Mgudlwa and Aaron Mkwanazi, will seek amnesty for attacking the Port St Johns police station in the Eastern Cape and murdering nine Bophuthatswana Defence Force soldiers during 1987 and 1988. Another MK soldier, Abel Choane, wants to be forgiven for accidentally killing a fellow soldier, known as Rufus, at the Vienna Camps in Angola.

ANC cadre France Mofapo Mohlala's will also ask to be pardoned for assaulting a Sergeant Botha while he was incarcerated at the Nylstroom prison. He alleged that he poured hot soup on Botha's face because he was angry that one of his comrades, who was being detained under the state of emergency, died without receiving help from prison officials.

He was granted bail for the assault in March 1989, but he absconded.

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