

# AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Western Cape Region MCN91-28-2-60



PO Box 13123, Sir Lowry Rd, 7900

1st Floor, Locarno House,  
228 Victoria Road, Woodstock

Tel: 021-448 5651

Fax: 021-448 5646

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## PRESS STATEMENT

On Saturday 29th August, six plainclothes policemen arrived at the Khayelitsha home of Mr Thembinkosi Mayijokwe and demanded to search the house and adjacent shop. When asked for a warrant, they refused to produce one, claiming that they were just doing their work.

Despite Mr Mayijokwe's protests, the policemen forced their way into the house and began searching wardrobes, suitcases, drawers and the cash register in the shop.

At this stage, Mr Mayijokwe's son Victor came home and a policeman by the name of Mawonga drew his gun and pointed it at the back of Victor's head. Friends summoned by Mr Mayijokwe then pushed the policemen out of the house whereupon they all drew their guns.

Outside the house, a scuffle broke out. When neighbours arrived, the police withdrew and began shooting from a distance. Victor Mayijokwe was shot in the right thigh and four spent cartridges have been retained by Mr Mayijokwe.

At this stage the police ran back to the Site B Police Station and have not returned since.

This is not the first time Mr Mayijokwe has experienced problems of this kind. In July last year, four men wearing balaclavas and police-issue boots robbed his store at gunpoint, removing R1300 in cash. Two days later, the same men returned but were prevented by neighbours from a repetition of the incident.

There are a number of disturbing factors arising from Mr Mayijokwe's experience.

First is the unlawful behaviour of the police in forcing their way into the home of a member of the public without a search warrant. Second is the fact that they were not in police uniform when allegedly "doing their work". Thirdly, when frustrated in these illegal activities, they drew guns.

We demand an explanation for this illegal behaviour on the part of the police together with reasons why they were instructed to search Mr Mayijokwe's house and shop, whether or not this was an authorised search and, if it was, why they were in plainclothes.

We also demand a serious investigation into the alleged theft of R1300 from Mr Mayijokwe's shop last year. This is not the first time allegations of theft have been made against police claiming to be carrying out their duties. In Strand recently, police were found to be involved in a robbery while allegedly searching a shop and, in Guguletu, the house of an MK cadre was searched in his absence, his woman friend assaulted and a considerable amount of money stolen. The friend was hit with a gun butt and intimidated into signing a document saying that police had done no damage save breaking a door to which they attached a value of R10.

Accountable and community-friendly were the words Minister Hernus Kriel when describing the new image of the SAP. Such a claim is laughable in the face of continuing regular complaints by the public of serious harassment, intimidation and outright criminal behaviour by the police force.

Issued by Mziwonke Jacobs, Publicity Secretary

For more information, please contact Susan de Villiers 448-5651 or 689-2373

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**The People Shall Govern !**