

African National Congress

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PRESS STATEMENT BY ANC SECRETARY GENERAL, CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

The personal attack contained in the statement released by President FW de Klerk this afternoon is unseemly, petty and misleading in the extreme.

The motivation of the ANC in addressing the situation in Natal is to save lives, bring all organisations into the process of transition and elections, and resolve the escalating conflict.

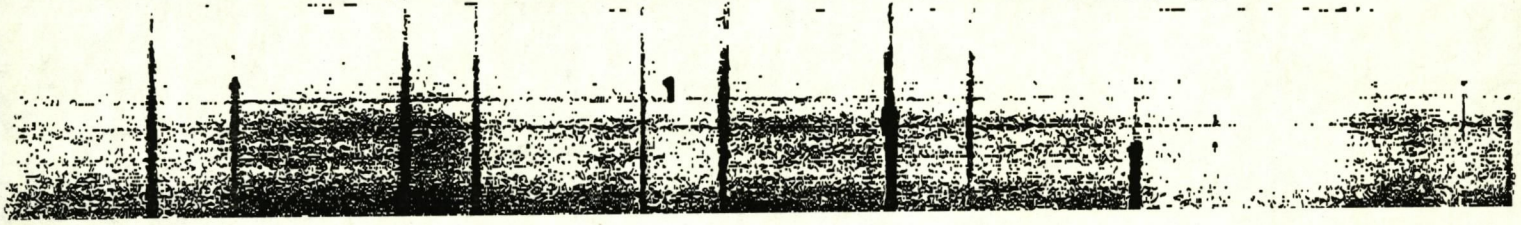
In the last six weeks alone almost 350 people have died in Natal. There have been five major massacres. Since last Friday 86 people have been killed, hundreds injured and thousands rendered homeless.

The State President clearly has no regard for black lives, nor for the maintenance of any semblance of legality. While his statement viciously attacks the TEC, he remains ominously silent on the public brandishing of weapons.

Just a few days after Judge Goldstone has placed before this country prima facie evidence that top police generals have been responsible for fomenting violence and providing weapons to the IFP, Mr De Klerk attempts to lay the blame for violence at the door of ANC supporters.

It is regrettable that once more Mr De Klerk has failed to live up to the responsibilities that go with the office he holds. He refers to the government's approach to assessing a situation as being based on ensuring good administration and that a free and fair election is possible, but fails to regard the extensive loss of life as significant.

He would be better advised to pause before he rushes to the defence of his so-called legally elected constitutional authorities. President De



Klerk is aware of the report of the TEC Task Force which points to the unmistakable abuse by the KwaZulu administration of the resources provided by South African tax payers. The KwaZulu Police form the centre of hit squad activities in Natal, a fact he is fully aware of, and so are various other departments. Large numbers of people are being trained in several camps with the assistance of elements of the right wing and former members of his own security forces to both foment and escalate the conflict. They are equipped from the armouries of the KZ police.

The central issue remains that the IFP and the KwaZulu Administration are determined to prevent the elections from taking place in Natal. De Klerk should use his offices of the State Presidency to address this critical question rather than descend to cheap politicking when he responds to my serious proposals as to how to prevent further loss of life and ensure that April 27 happens in Natal.

That he deems it fit to publicly and personally attack me, when channels of direct communication are wide open, indicates political posturing when what is required is decisive action to prevent a bloodbath.

Cyril Ramaphosa
ANC Secretary General
PO Box 61884 Marshalltown 2107
24 March, 1994