

# African found hanged

17-4-69

JOHANNESBURG, Thursday.  
AN AFRICAN arrested by police a week ago in connection with the murder of three people and four robbery cases, hanged himself in his cell at John Vorster Square, Johannesburg, today.

When police entered the cell at 7 a.m. John Butaleze was alive and well.

Shortly afterwards, he was found hanging by his underclothing from one of the inside bars.

Butaleze was being held on remand.

Police have connected him with three murders and four robberies — all cases in which victims were threatened or battered to death with a heavy iron bar.

## BODY FOUND

One of Butaleze's victims is believed to have been Mr. William George Jooste, a 25-year-old "Hippie", whose tattooed, half-naked body was found below a Booysens mine dump at the beginning of June last year.

A post-mortem revealed that Mr. Jooste was killed by three blows to the head with a heavy iron bar.

Police believe the dead man was robbed before he was murdered. His trousers and a parcel of clothing were missing.

A German immigrant, Mr. Hans Brauner (21), is believed to have been another of Butaleze's victims. Mr. Brauner's body was found near the Wilds View Hotel in Louis Botha Avenue, Johannesburg, in November last year.

## LARGE WOUND

At the time of the discovery, a police spokesman said Mr. Brauner's pockets had been turned inside out and emptied. He had died of a large wound at the back of the head.

The third man with whom Butaleze was apparently involved was Mr. Stephen Carl Gaffney, a 63-year-old Coloured. He was found dead in an alley in Nugget Street, Johannesburg, in August, 1968.

It was established that he too died after being struck on the head.

A senior police officer said today that four cases of robbery had also been linked with the dead African. — Sapa.

# UMLAZI 17.11.79. YOUTH

## DIES AFTER BEING IN POLICE CUSTODY

Daily News Reporter

A 17-year-old youth died after being held in custody at the Umlazi police station at the weekend.

The dead youth's father, Mr Simon Buthelezi, told The Daily News in the presence of his attorney yesterday that his son, Quedi, had been charged with the theft of his uncle's shoes and was due to appear in court last Thursday.

The last time he saw his son, a Std 9 pupil at Kwazini High, was that morning when he said he was going to the Umlazi police station to ask if the case could be postponed as he had an exam to write.

Four days later police arrived at Mr Buthelezi's home in Umlazi and told him his son had died at King Edward VIII Hospital.

"I was shown the corpse and saw extensive bruises on Quedi's head and arms. I asked hospital staff what had happened and they said they had been told by police that my son had been assaulted by other prisoners. He was not even supposed to be in custody at the time."

## Charges

Mr Buthelezi said a post mortem would be held today and his attorney, Mr G. Mxenge, had been instructed to provide a private doctor at the examination.

He said he had also instructed his attorney to investigate the possibility of laying both civil and criminal charges.

Port Natal's chief of police, Brigadier Gert Kruger, said a murder docket had been opened and the case was being investigated by senior officers.

Brigadier Kruger said the youth was charged with theft and appeared in court on November 7. He was remanded in custody until November 22.

## Released

On Thursday last week his mother approached the court prosecutor and asked that her son be released so he could write an examination.

He was released in to the care of his mother on condition that he be brought back to court the next day.

He appeared in court again the next day and was again remanded in custody on the R38 theft charge to December 12.

The youth was taken to the Umlazi police station and placed in a cell at 4.45pm.

At 5pm when the cells were checked it was found that the boy had been assaulted, apparently by his cell-mates.

He was taken to King Edward VIII Hospital where he later died.

# MAN DIES IN POLICE CELL SOON AFTER

# Wife is upset By BEZUIDENHOUT<sup>B</sup> 'malicious' <sup>S 7 m/s 1.11.70</sup> rumours'

By LUKE ZEEMAN

**THE DISTRAUGHT WIFE** of Mr. Louis Bezuidenhout told me this week that her husband walked out of their house in police custody with no injuries, and a few hours later she was told that he was dead. The police are investigating.

Lieut.-Col. A. J. van der Merwe, District Commandant of Durban West, confirmed yesterday that Mr. Bezuidenhout died in the Mayville police cells.

"The investigation is still at a preliminary stage," he said.

Mr. Bezuidenhout died on the night of October 20. His wife told me that he was an alcoholic. He was so worried that he might be sent away for treatment that he would often sleep under his bed.

Mrs. C. Bezuidenhout, who had been separated from her husband for several months, told me of a series of events which she said occurred when she was told of her husband's death.

"The last time I saw him alive was when he walked out of the house to a police van. He had recently returned from Johannesburg for a short visit. He had had a lot to drink that day and I left him at home to go to a nearby shop. While I was there he arrived and started an argument. I paid no attention to him but he grabbed me and started shouting.

Injuries. But later a policeman came and told me that he had fallen while getting into the van and had cut his forehead. This was quite possible as my husband was under the influence of liquor.

"A few hours later a policeman came to the door and told me that my husband had 'gone'.

"I was taken to the police cells where my husband died and was asked to identify him. I then noticed that there was dried blood on his forehead. It was a terrible shock for me. Although we were in the process of being divorced because of his persistent drinking I still felt very sympathetic towards him.

## Frightened

"I was asked to make a statement to the police, which I did, and it went on for five pages. It was then that I became very frightened because they told me that it would make it easier for me later.

"I did not know what they meant, but later both my elder daughters were also taken to the police station to make statements, as well as some neighbours."

DURBAN, Saturday.

rhage of the brain."

Mrs. Bezuidenhout told me that the inquest would only be held in a month's time.

"I am almost sick with worry, and it will be a tremendous relief when it is over. Since my husband's death someone has been throwing stones on our roof, and I am worried that this is just to upset me more.

"Louis would have turned 45 this week. He had promised two or the children presents for Christmas with some money he was still to receive from a company he worked for in Johannesburg.

"In a way I blame myself because I should have been more understanding. But this was very difficult as he had a

ARREST<sup>10</sup>  
<sup>B</sup>



MR. LOUIS BEZUIDENHOUT after he was arrested. His c him, was asked by the

very bad drinking problem. I had often advised him to go for treatment; but he refused and begged me not to send him away.

"It has been a terrible blow. I only wish I could have lived that day over and perhaps this would not have happened."

A police spokesman told me that Mr. Bezuidenhout had previously been placed under arrest on several occasions.

"We are investigating the case, but have not made any arrests. We will wait for the inquest finding before deciding whether any action is to be taken," he said.