

'Enough is enough'

This is a speech given by Cde Jay Naidoo of SACCAWU on May Day in Cape Town. Cde Naidoo also sits on the Natal Joint Working Group.

The people of Natal are saying "we have had enough of murder, rape, assassinations and plunder at the hands of the ZP, SAP, SADF, warlords and vigilantes. The scale of this in Natal is larger than anything that has happened in South Africa over the past 100 years, since the Boers fought to conquer this land.

Not even during two world wars has a war inflicted such damage, such large scale death in South Africa as this war has. In fact in Natal alone the death rate is the highest in the world - even higher than the death toll in Beirut and Northern Ireland combined.

Words alone cannot describe the suffering, the misery and the anger of the people of Natal.

The largest black hospital in Natal, King Edward, recently had to put up a 'no vacancies' sign with a difference - there was no space available for any other patient!

The hospital was overflowing with injured and broken bodies, wounded survivors of attacks.

Mortuaries around Pietermaritzburg were struggling in early April to accommodate the dead bodies which were the result of this war in Natal. A month ago, a total of 50 000 people were said to be refugees - people whose homes were destroyed, who had fled their areas in fear of their lives.

These refugees are being forced to live in tent settlements, in church halls, out in the open, on the beach or to squeeze into the already overcrowded homes of friends and relatives.

What is happening in Natal is a national crisis. It is the worst national crisis of our time.

It has gone on much too long. We must do all we can to make sure it does not go on any longer.

Only united national mass action throughout all regions of South Africa can end the crisis. We have struggled together nationally to achieve many victories. We are saying now: let us struggle together now to end the war in Natal!

We have tried for four long years to hold peace talks with Chief Buthelezi and Inkatha. We approached Inkatha for peace. We approached the churches to try and assist in bringing peace. We even approached the employers. We stayed silent while Chief Buthelezi threw the most terrible insults at us. We have done everything for peace.

But we have found that we have been banging our heads against a wall. Chief Buthelezi has found one excuse after another to avoid peace talks. When local peace talks seemed that they could succeed Inkatha decided to stop participating in any local peace talks.

There is absolutely no peace in Natal today. Instead there is only the spilling of more of our blood in all areas of Natal. Chief Buthelezi is fanning these fires of violence!

On March 23, Chief Buthelezi summoned a meeting of chiefs in Natal who support him, and in this meeting he said as from now we should place ourselves on a war footing. "We must now declare ourselves to be at war with those developments which wish to threaten us and the people we lead. Going to war with those against that which threaten us is something that we as Zulu leaders understand and it is something that brings the best out of us".

And Chief Buthelezi said further, in the same speech, that our anger must be controlled and therefore our actions should be controlled actions. (Extract from 'Memorandum for discussion at a meeting with the Amakhosi and Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Chief Minister of KwaZulu and President of Inkatha. Ulundi 23 March 1990').

What are these if not words of

war?

Five days later, in Pietermaritzburg, David Ntombela, and other senior Inkatha leaders mobilised thousands of people to attack and turn Pietermaritzburg into a total war zone.

We are still prepared to talk peace. But it takes two parties to talk peace. Chief Buthelezi has declared war. We have no choice now. We will fight back to defend ourselves.

Recently, an old man in Northern Natal, Sibusiso Mdletsahe, who had previously been an ANC member and was chairperson of the Inkatha North Coast Branch, deserted Inkatha and joined the ANC. On April 15 he was murdered. We do not want this war. It is forced upon us. There are only two people who can stop this war.

One is Chief Buthelezi. He is Minister of Police in KwaZulu and it is his KwaZulu Police that are killing our people. He is also President of Inkatha and Inkatha Central Committee members are leading attacks and killing our people. We are awaiting the day Chief Buthelezi directs his energies to peace. The other is F W De Klerk. His security forces are attacking the people. Or else they stand by idle while armed vigilantes attack the innocent. President De Klerk is now saying he wants an alliance with Chief Buthelezi at the negotiating table.

But at the same time he is saying that he wants to be part of bringing about a new peaceful, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

There can be no peace in South Africa while our people are dying in Natal. We say to F W De Klerk, make a clear choice. You cannot be part of the effort for peace and democracy while you fight a war in Natal against us! If you, President F W De Klerk are serious about peace, you can end this war in Natal.

The KwaZulu Police are a creation of the South African government. The South African Government has the power to scrap the KwaZulu Police.

We demand:

- * The ZP must be abolished
- * The security forces must conduct effective and impartial peace keeping.
- * A Judicial Commission of Enquiry into the role of police must be established.

Our call to the people of South Africa:

Defend Natal!

The war in Natal cannot be left only to the people of Natal. It is a matter of life and death for all of us.

It is only through united national mass action that we can force this government to bring about peace in Natal. Through united mass action we have forced the nationalists to the negotiating table, we have forced the bosses to back down on the LRA, we have forced the Bantustan system to collapse in most parts of South Africa.

We must now take united national mass action to end this terrible war against our people in Natal.

Our call to the people of Natal: Work in your local areas to build peace wherever possible! Conduct defence in the most disciplined way. Build democratic and responsible community structures and peace committees.

Our call to members of Inkatha: Work together with us for peace among the people: We have all suffered the loss of too many of our loved ones, too much of our property, too much pain and misery.

War hurts everybody, peace will benefit us all. Come forward to talk about peace in local areas. Let us try to build peace from the grass-roots.

Our call to employers: You have been silent for too long!

The future is built now. Your action for peace can make an enormous contribution.

PHOTO: A shocking picture of one of the victims of the violence in Natal.



Defend Natal!