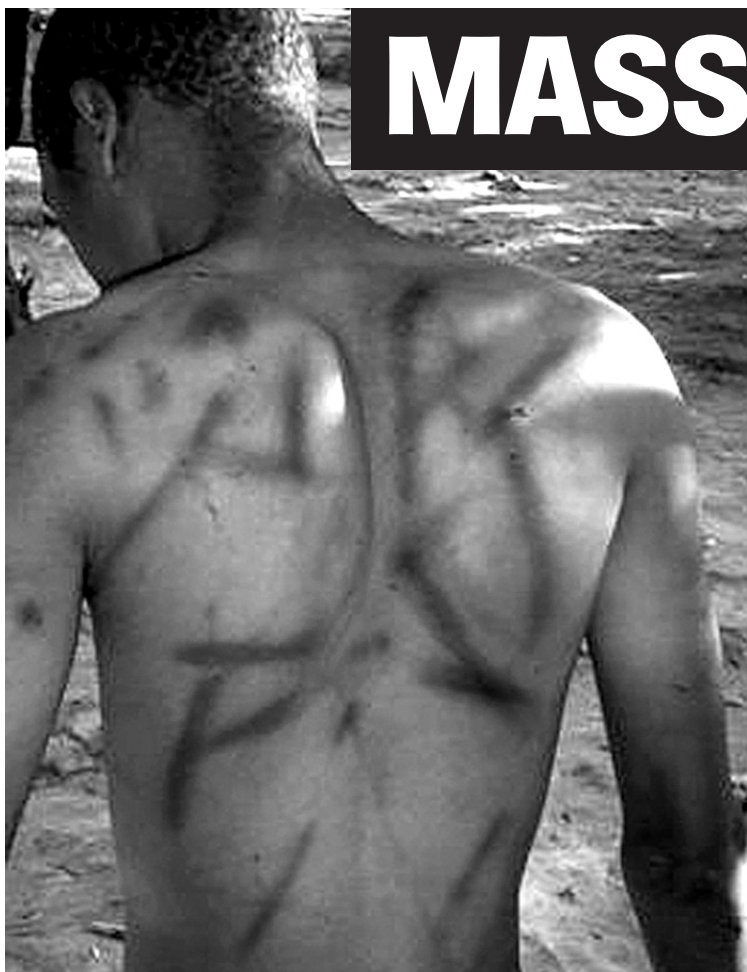


MASSIVE ABUSE OF KOMA



ATTACKED: Thabo Malatji shows the marks on his back after he was allegedly assaulted at an initiation school. PHOTO: MICHAEL SAKUNKA

McKeed Kotlolo

Nearly 100 boys at an initiation school were taken to hospital after three teenagers, allegedly kidnapped a month ago, had been admitted following botched circumcisions.

Grade 8 pupil Sifiso Radebe, 15, and two 17-year-old initiates were admitted to the Jubilee Hospital in Temba near Hammanskraal with septic genitals after operations at the Phelembe Initiation School in Bosplaas, owned by traditional healer Vusi Phelembe, 24.

This prompted the chairman of the community safety committee in the Gauteng legislature, Jacqui Mofokeng, to lead a team of local senior police officers, officials from the Tshwane Metro's health department, and family members of two alleged abducted initiates to investigate.

The team held a meeting with Phelembe at Jubilee Hospital on Wednesday before visiting the school.

The delegates expressed shock at the health condition of the initiates. Some were emaciated and

sickly, some walked with difficulty while others coughed continuously. An eight-year-old boy had facial injuries.

A decision was then made to take all the initiates to hospital.

Surgery had to be performed on 78 of them. The hospital's chief executive, Tiny Magano, said the majority of the initiates would spend the weekend in hospital.

The incident has resulted in the closure of the school. There was

drama when a group of parents arrived at the hospital yesterday, demanding the return of their children to the initiation school.

Moses Masemola, father of boys aged 13 and 14, said: "We expect the children to graduate. We want them back at the school."

"I don't know which school they want to take them to because Phelembe's school was closed down on Wednesday," said Mofokeng.

SOME OF THE RULES THE OWNER IGNORED

The owner of the initiation school allegedly flouted numerous by-laws for operating and managing an initiation school. They included:

- Changing the venue approved by the Amandebele-Ba-Lebelo tribal authority and the Tshwane Metro municipality for the school. Instead of Kanana village he operated two schools at Bosplaas and Temba;
- Kept allegedly kidnapped initiates at his school and

demanded payment from parents;

- Admitted initiates who had no pre-circumcision medical certificates issued by a medical practitioner, a clinic or hospital;
- Admitted children younger than the stipulated age of 15 years at his initiation school. The youngest was eight years old; and
- Admitted and circumcised initiates without signed consent forms from parents or guardians.

Boys beaten for not being circumcised

Michael Sakuneka

With a few days left before circumcised initiates could graduate, an initiation school head at Relela village in Bolobedu, Limpopo, is being sought by police.

This after he and his initiates allegedly brutally assaulted four youths who went to the school to pay the fees of one of the initiates.

Masilo Makwela, 15, Sello Monyela, 17, and Thabo Malatji, had accompanied a friend, Sello Malatji, to the school on Sunday to pay the initiation fee for his brother who was registered with the school.

On their arrival they were attacked after being accused of not having been circumcised themselves.

Three of the boys managed to escape and the fourth was later rescued by the police.

The "principal" and his initiates were also accused of stealing cellphones belonging to Sello and Masilo, worth more than R3 000.

The victims were admitted to the Letaba Hospital in NkowaNkowa outside Tzaneen on Monday. They were treated and discharged.

The police are investigating a case of assault.

53 sick initiates rescued and rushed to hospital

Frank Maponya

At least 53 initiates were rescued from a circumcision school on Wednesday suffering from a series of ailments that included dehydration.

The initiates were part of a large group attending circumcision school at GaChuene outside Lebowakgomo, Limpopo. The victims were removed from the school and admitted to various hospitals around Polokwane.

According to Khosi Vusani Netshimbupfe, chairman of the House of Traditional Leaders in the province, doctors who treated the victims said they were all dehydrated.

NOTICE OF A SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 400KV TRANSMISSION POWER LINE FROM APOLLO SUBSTATION TO LEPINI SUBSTATION, EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, GAUTENG

INVITATION TO COMMENT DEAT Ref No: 12/12/20/1170

Notice is given in terms of Regulations published in Government Notice R. 385 in Government Gazette No. 28753 of 21 April 2006, under Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998), as amended, that Eskom Holdings Ltd proposes to construct a 400kV transmission line, 30km in length, from Apollo Substation to Lepini Substation in Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, Gauteng.

In terms of Sections 24 and 24(D) of the Act, as read with Government Notices Regulations 22 – 26 and R. 386 (Item 1 (m); 7; 12; 15 and 16) and R. 387 (Item 1 (l) and 2), a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment is required for the proposed construction according to the following listed activities:

R. 386

Item 1 (m): "The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for any purpose in the one in ten year flood line of a river or stream, or within 32 metres from the bank of a river or stream where the flood line is unknown, excluding purposes associated with existing residential use, but including canals; channels; bridges; dams; and weirs."

Item 7: "The above ground storage of a dangerous good, including petrol, diesel, liquid petroleum gas or paraffin, in containers with a combined capacity of more than 30 cubic metres but less than 1 000 cubic metres at any one location or site."

Item 12: "The transformation or removal of indigenous vegetation of 3 hectares or more or of any size where the transformation or removal would occur within a critically endangered or an endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004)."

Item 15: "The construction of a road that is wider than 4 metres or that has a reserve wider than 6 metres, excluding roads that fall within the ambit of another listed activity or which are access roads of less than 30 metres long."

Item 16: "The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to:
(a) establish infill development covering an area of 5 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares; or
(b) residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use where such development does not constitute infill and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare."

R. 387

Item 1 (l): "The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for the transmission and distribution of above ground electricity with a capacity of 120 kilovolts or more."

Item 2: "Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructure, where the total area of the developed area is, or is intended to be, 20 hectares or more."

Interested and/or affected parties who wish to participate by contributing comments, or who would like to obtain more information, should please contact Netisha Chetty at the Public Participation Office, Envirovolution Consulting (Pty) Ltd, Tel: 0861 444 499 Fax: 0861 626 222 E-mail: netisha@envirovolution.co.za on or before 15 August 2008.

This project is conducted by Envirovolution on behalf of Eskom.