



Tutu calls for calm but is worried over detainee's death

the Star 18/7/84

Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, yesterday called for calm in the strife-torn township of Tumahole, near Parys, and commended the South African Police for not using firearms to put down unrest in the area.

But in a statement to Sapa the bishop said the SACC was "very concerned" about the death of Mr Johannes Bonakele Ngalo (26), who was arrested at Parys on Sunday and found dead in his cell yesterday.

Bishop Tutu's statement said: "We are deeply worried about the disturbances in Parys.

"We note that the police have not used any firearms — for this we want to commend them. But we are very concerned that someone taken by them into custody has died in detention. Our information is that this man was not involved in the disturbances."

Unrest in South Africa was "endemic" because of the "fundamental injustice of the apart-

heid system," he said.

"Virtually anything will trigger off disturbances. At a time of high unemployment the black community especially has been hard hit by the recent increases in GST.

Rent increases — the apparent cause of the Tumahole unrest — was like "pouring petrol on a furnace".

"We call on the authorities to deal with real causes of unrest — of which it is true some unscrupulous people are taking advantage — and not just the symptoms.

"Until blacks feel that their legitimate and inalienable right to participate in the decision-making processes of our land is acknowledged, so long will we deal only with the sporadic manifestations of dissatisfaction.

"We call for calm among the disadvantaged people of Tumahole township and express our condolences and sympathies with the bereaved and the injured," the statement added. — Sapa

... d Tutu ... commended the police for not using firearms during the unrest at Tumahole.

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