

WHAT'S UP: MZANSI

ARSON ARRESTS: Fifty-seven people have been arrested over violent protests at Vukuzakhe township in Volksrust, Mpumalanga, after a number of houses were torched on Monday.

Police said yesterday the people would face charges of public violence and malicious damage to property.

They said the situation at Vukuzakhe was calm yesterday. About 90 police officers were deployed to the township.

Four houses belonging to councillors were torched. It is believed residents were unhappy about a rates increase they say was instituted without proper consultation. – *Sapa*

MOTLANTHE WELCOMED: ANC deputy president Kgalema Motlanthe, appointed by President Thabo Mbeki to the cabinet last week, attended his first meeting of the executive yesterday.

Motlanthe was formally welcomed by Mbeki and warmly received by his cabinet colleagues. He will be a minister in the presidency and leader of government business. – *Sapa*

WATERY DEATH: A man was killed and three others were injured in Richards Bay yesterday after a water pipe burst.

Emergency services officials said it was not clear what had caused the pipe to burst. They

said the man's leg was amputated by the force of the water and he bled to death. – *Sapa*

BUSA READY: Business Unity SA (Busa) is ready to work for economic stability in Zimbabwe, the organisation said yesterday.

Busa welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Zanu-PF and the MDC and said it would support all Zimbabwean parties in the restoration of economic stability and growth. – *Sapa*

OPEN HEARING: The Freedom Front Plus has added its voice to calls for the Judicial Service Commission to open to the pub-

lic the hearing of oral evidence in a complaint against Cape Judge President John Hlophe.

The independence of the courts would be at stake if the oral testimonies were not held in public, the party said. – *Sapa*

POACHING GROUND: South Africa is a poaching ground for Australian and Canadian mining companies, a mining industry survey has revealed.

Chief executive officer of Landahni Business Leaders, Sandra Burmeister, said SA was renowned for its mining expertise and the industry was competing for skills in the global resourcing market. – *Sapa*

