

The Vice-Chancellor ^{his} of Rhodes University, ~~Cape Town~~, Dr D S Henderson, wishes to express ~~the University's~~ deep disquiet at the recent prohibition of gatherings held by the Black Students' Movement, and the detention of its president, Mr Thabiso Ratsomo, on April 26.

The banning of meetings held by the Black Students' Movement^x is a draconian measure which will force this student organization to operate in ~~limbo~~ for three months, without any ~~apparent~~ ^{stated} justification.

The University abhors the practice of detention without trial, and the Vice-Chancellor wishes to reiterate the call of the Vice-Principal of the University, Professor J W Brommert, who urged the authorities to adopt the principle of "charge or release", with reference to the detention of Mr Ratsomo.

Every law-abiding citizen in South Africa must long in his heart for a dispensation in which order and tranquillity can be sustained without recourse to bannings and detentions.

Dr D S Henderson
VICE-CHANCELLOR

May 2 1985.

[An edited copy to be sent with a "With Compliments slip" to NS Jimmy Bowan, President of SRC.
Not to be issued to ^{the} press, except upon request from individual correspondents]
D.S.H.
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