



Students set for victory



WAR TALK: All Blacks coach Steve Hansen is "not falling for it".

Gloves are off for key WCup clash

MIKE GREENAWAY

LONDON: All Blacks coach Steve Hansen emphatically ended the phoney war that has been going on this week between his team and the Springboks when he said: "Let's be honest, they want to rip our heads off, and if we are not in a similar mindset by kick-off, we are going to be in trouble."

Heyneke Meyer, in particular, has been lavish in his praise of the All Blacks ahead of tomorrow's huge World Cup semi-final at Twickenham, at every opportunity telling anyone who will listen that they are the best team the world has ever seen, while his players, taking their cue from the coach, have been equally complimentary towards their traditional rivals.

Hansen said the All Blacks were not fooled.

"Heyneke is a cunning devil and it has been a clear tactic of his to try and kill us with kindness this week, but we are not falling for it," the deadpan Hansen said.

"One of their young locks (Lood de Jager) let something slip in an interview when he said they don't fear us, and respect us, but not all that much - (De Jager said: 'Other teams make the mistake of respecting the All Blacks too much.') - and that comment would have had Heyneke annoyed because it does not fit in with his psychological strategy for this week."

Hansen said his team's performance against the French had been born out of desperation.

"We desperately did not want to go home. Last week was the start of the knock-out phase and it was either stand up and be counted or go home," Hansen said.

In one last dig at Meyer, Hansen poked fun at the oft-repeated line from the Springboks this week that they don't fear the All Blacks.

"It is a stupid man who goes into a fight and does not fear his opponent - if that is the case, you are either fighting the wrong opponent or are thick," Hansen said.

● See Sport



MOBILISING: Wits and University of Johannesburg students gather at the campus bus station this morning, mobilising to get ready to go to Pretoria.

PICTURE: DUMISANI DUBE

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MORE than 20 buses packed with clapping and stomping students left Wits University this morning and headed for the Union Buildings where they were to meet President Jacob Zuma and vice-chancellors - and students are set to claim victory in their quest for a moratorium on fee increases.

Excitement bubbled over as some students hopped into cars with friends while others took the Gautrain and Metrorail trains to get to Pretoria.

High on their agenda was a zero percent fee increase for next year, the scrapping of registration fees and the capping of vice-chancellors' salaries.

Following a meeting with the ANC-aligned Progressive Youth Alliance, which consists of the South African Students Congress, the Young Communist League, ANC Youth League and Congress of SA Students, the ANC has backed these demands.

The party has also called for a review of the autonomy of universities, which limits the government's intervention in university matters despite the state providing funding for the institutions.

A zero percent increase would amount to a moratorium on fee increases across the board, a move that has already been proposed by various bodies including the SACP, the National Education Health and Allied Workers Union and Equal Education.

ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe said last night that these would be part of the recommendations and presentations made to Zuma at today's meeting.

"In principle, the meeting endorsed the concerns and demands of the students that ANC resolutions on education be pur-

Busloads head off from Wits to meet with Zuma

sued with renewed determination, that the private sector be factored in addressing the challenges of education and that the matter of autonomy of universities be reviewed," said Mantashe.

While students were hopeful the meeting would produce positive results, some said they did not trust the government or the universities. This despite Wits and the University of Cape Town releasing statements in support of them.

"I can't predict what the government will say, but one thing I know is that students won't back down," said Ontiretse Phetlu, a second-year education student.

Phetlu said he thought it

likely that the students marching today would get similar treatment from the police that students received at Parliament on Wednesday and last night. Stun grenades were fired at students to disperse them. Some were arrested and hauled to court the next day.

Last night police fired rubber bullets and stun grenades and deployed a water cannon after University of the Western Cape students protested near Bellville late at night.

National police spokesman Vishnu Naidoo confirmed this, saying students burnt tyres, damaged roads, and damaged at least two police vehicles.



"NO" TO FEE HIKES: Students from the University of Johannesburg and Wits University protest outside Luthuli House yesterday.

PICTURE: DUMISANI SIBEKO



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