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~ DAILY NEWS
THURSDAY JANUARY 8 2009

700 health workers sent to
under-serviced KZN areas

NONDUMISO MBUYAZI

THE KwaZulu-Natal health department has sent more than 700 community service officers to under-serviced areas of the province to scale-up health care delivery and provide quality care to impoverished areas.

These include 52 pharmacists, 50 radiographers, 35 speech and hearing therapists, 20 clinical psychologists, 29 dietitians, 171 medical officers, 45 occupational therapists, 59 physiotherapists and 262 nurses.

KZN health spokesman Chris Maxon said the health officers would educate the public on disease prevention and basic health education.

â\200\234We hope they will assist in reducing the health care burden among the already overburdened health care workers,â\200\235 he said.

Maxon said the health officers began their duties at the beginning of this month.

â\200\234King Edward, Addington

and Umphumulo (near Kwa-Dakuza) are just some of the hospitals they will serve. Not only are they providing much-needed service to the community, but they are also gaining experience,â\200\235 he said.

Maxon said the health department introduced compulsory community service for health care workers in 2004 despite pessimism by certain sectors of the health care profession. '

He said the department was determined to ensure that community service by health care professionals was a worthwhile undertaking.

â\200\234In a 2002 study that focuses on the personal experiences of

doctors, dentists and pharmacists who have participated in community service, Professor Steve Reid concluded that community service for health professionals has a positive impact,â\200\235 he said. .

Maxon said despite difficulties and frustrations, the majority of the doctors, dentists

and pharmacists â\200\230who performed community service felt they had made a difference and had undergone some professional development.â\200\235

Maxon said most of the health care officers had received bursaries from the health department.

â\200\234In the last two years, the department has spent more than R64 million in health care bursaries,â\200\235 he said. Maxon said this amount was likely to increase annually because their mission was to lure more people into the health care industry.

Acting head of the health department, Dr Yoliswa Mbele, said she strongly believed that the community service officers changed the quality of care and the level of commitment to the poor. â\200\234Dr Martin Lutherâ\200\231 King once said everyone can beâ\200\231 great because anyone can serve. It is this spirit that this programme imbues among theâ\200\231 community service officers,â\200\235 said Mbele. .

THURSDAY JANUARY 8 2009
Roadlink will be banned, V

MPUME MADLALA

THE KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has not changed its intention to suspend the Juxury bus company SA Roadlink's operating licence in the province.

This comes after Roadlink's Stephanie Steyn was reported this morning as saying they and the department had come to an agreement and would no longer be going

DAILY NEWS

to court today as had been scheduled. She claimed the company had received a letter from the department requesting they withdraw the matter as a solution had been reached.

Transport MEC Bheki Cele strongly denied that he was backing off and said he did not know anything of this settlement.

The department had erred procedurally, but would be rectifying

that, he said. Cele said when they first went to court in December last year they were told to provide reasons why the company should stop operating in the province.

"We, however, did not follow the proper procedure and that is why we can no longer go to court on this matter, but we will be following our own legal process on this matter because I want the company out of this province," he said.

Cele said they had been gathering information on the company which would give him the right to shut its operation in the province.

"When we went to court last year it was an emergency, but the court ruled in their favour.

"We now have enough time to get reasons why they should not operate in the province and they will go," he said. - ;

The battle between the Departments Bheki Cele

ment of Transport and SA Road-

link began when one of the company's buses was involved in an accident on the south coast that claimed the lives of 11 people.

Cele then decided to suspend the company's operating licence based on this and other accidents involving SA Roadlink buses.

Since the beginning of the festive season six buses have been impounded for various reasons.

ODAY the ANC turns

97. When it meets to

launch its election

manifesto in East
London on Saturday, it will set
the tone for the coming
elections.

Just three years away from
scoring its centenary, this
grand movement of Africa
can either retreat into a laager
mentality or provide the inno-
vative leadership South
Africa sorely needs.

Indications behind the
scenes are that the movement
contains elements of both
responses. There are some
who say the ANC has made
many mistakes but has
largely been able to manage
the politics of difference. This
ability, they say, is the most
critical strength needed in a
country with so many diverse
interests. In the end, it knits
together the hopes of the
widest cross-section of the
South African population and
has until recently not been
challenged on this front.

While COPE challenges
this hegemony, this too has
been cited as a tribute to the
strength of South Africa's
democracy led by the ANC.
There have been spats and
tensions but not to the extent
that could spill into full-blown
violence with the potential of
civil war. They argue that in
the past few weeks, all parties

" have intensified their contact
with the people and have
found small pockets of in-
tolerance. The greatest possi-
bility for friction lies between
the ANC and COPE, and it is

here that the most work will
have to be done to curb hot
tempers. that could provoke
physical clashes.

Those in the ANC who
believe the depth, of leader-
ship experience within the
organisation will not fail the
country at this critical time
say the election contest must
be based on the appeal of the
manifestoes of the different

parties. They intend doing all they can to encourage

-citizens to focus on this and

move away from unnecessary belligerence.

Parallel

There is a response running parallel that provokes great concern. Instead of acknowledging that the political dynamic has changed, requiring fresh responses, this view glibly argues that COPE is a counter-revolutionary movement funded by foreign interests. The term counter-revolutionary within the South African liberation context implies that the activities fundamentally oppose all the values fought for and seeks to reverse the gains made in transforming society to be more egalitarian.

The label is used in much the same way as the United States uses the term Islamic fundamentalism. It is often a shallow way to deal with real criticism and a refusal to recognise the limitations of one's own response. Unfortunately, what flows from this approach is that it gives per-

Saturday sets the tone

The ANC's manifesto launch could decide whether the elections will be marked by mature acceptance of differences or shrill demonisation

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mission to restrict, to crush and ultimately to kill. In the Soviet context, counter-revolutionaries were enemies of the people.

Those in the ANC intent on promoting this view need to consider that they sow the seeds of destruction. They are encouraging an analysis that will further narrow the space for difference. In the past, the challenge has essentially been to manage differences between the political thinking and interests of the old order and the new. This year brings the challenge of handling political difference that has

evolved from within the new,
non-racial democratic order,

This is not to suggest that
democracy is fully in place.
While the constitution is in
place, the conditions of
hunger and inequality remain
huge challenges that diminish
the dream of a social demo-
cracy. Much remains to be
done, whatever the political
configuration after the
elections. :

Good leadership and able
professionals are needed in

the key sectors of health, edu-
cation and security.

The COPE phenomenon
has shown that there are
people who can be brought
into the political arena who
can add fresh skills and

talents. While this may inject

- much-needed enthusiasm and

healthy competition into the
political process, it says little
about the strengthening of
our crucial institutions essen-
tial for the comfort and
security of our daily lives.

Irrespective of who leads,
the challenge of building
proper institutions as firm
pillars of a well-functioning
country remains. Parliament,
the hospitals, the media,
schools, the police and others
need to fulfil their primary
functions. Traffic depart-
ments across the country
appear to have taken their
jobs seriously by halving
fatalities this festive season.
What was it that changed? We
need to look closely at this
success story.

The media in particular
will have its work cut out. Its
primary role is to provide the
public with enough informa-
tion to make informed deci-
sions and give voice to the
powerless and marginalised.
So far both the electronic and
print media have broadly
overemphasised the COPE
phenomenon, to the disadvan-
tage of all other political
parties.

IF'rom a media point of view, this can be excused to some extent since news also tends to focus on what is new.

THE MERCURY

By its very nature, we are â\200\230trained to move the story forward, looking at all times for new dimensions that sometimes give greater clarity. We are also operating in an international climate that affirms quick fixes and instant gratification. The emergence of COPE feeds into that hope that something different is happening that can help us find fresh energy to consolidate close to a century of organised effort. Not only does it create the political space for strong, effective alternatives but also provides the pressure on the ANC to self-correct instead of drifting into a laager.

Changing terrain

The media will have to artfully navigate the changing

political terrain. Its responses -

can either encourage the worst inclinations among all of us or help to bring out the best. In the interests of building a respected and solid media practice, it will need to be seen as fair, conducting itself without fear or favour. Unfairness at this point would go a long way to diminishing its important social role. Fortunately, some media outlets have recognised this and are putting mechanisms in place to safeguard against unfairness. The Star - The Mercuryâ\200\231s sister newspaper â\200\224 for example, has commissioned the Media Monitoring Project to provide weekly reports on levels of fairness

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during the elections. These reports will be published regularly.

While the media continues

_to express considerable dis-

comfort with a Jacob Zuma presidency, there has to be acknowledgement that a substantial section of the public will vote in favour of him. His popularity cannot be presented as blind support for a man who is an idiot. He brings to centre stage the interests of communities that have often operated at the margins of urban discourse.)

Dismissing him and all he represents as traditionalist is no different from glibly pulling the counter-revolutionary label out of the hat.

We are poised on the cusp of a great opportunity that will test our ability to respond with great maturity as never before. If the ANC does not set the tone on Saturday, greater responsibility will fall on the shoulders of other political parties and civil society. We can do well'to be spared such expenditure of energy at a time when all our efforts are needed to sort out and consolidate the functioning of our institutions so that all South Africans are able to enjoy an improved quality of life.

0 Zubeida Jaffer, a journalist and author, is based at the Centre for African Studies at the University of Cape Town. See www.zubeidajaffer.co.za and <http://zubeidajaffer.blogspot.com/> for further commentary.

Xenophobia fear
as election looms

NTOKOZO MFUSI
& WENDY JASSON DA COSTA
â\200\224â\200\224 FoTTAVIA

HERE were fears that

South Africa could be

heading for another

round of xenophobic
attacks on the same scale as
last yearâ\200\231s, or even larger, be
cause of the looming elections,
non-government organisations
warned yesterday.

At least 60 people were
killed and more than 1 446
charges were laid after last
yearâ\200\231s countrywide outbreak of
â\200\230xenophobia.

Duncan Breen, of the Con-
sortium for Refugees and Mi-
grants in South Africa, said the
organisation had asked the Hu-
man Rights Commission to in-
vestigate last yearâ\200\231s attacks.

â\200\234The potential exists for it to
happen again. We need to act,â\200\235
he said.

He warned that xXenophobia
could become a big issue closer
to the election because a report
to be released later this month
" showed that many local leaders
were mobilising support
around the issue of foreigners.

Breen said little seemed to
have been done to address the
root cause of last yearâ\200\231s vio-
lence. One of the key reasons
was that foreigners were â\200\234tak-
ingâ\200\235 RDP houses, while the
owners were actually renting
to them.

The Consortium for
Refugees and Migrants in
South Africa is a network of
refugee and migrant service
providers for organisations
like the Black Sash, Amnesty

International and Lawyers for
Human Rights.

According to Breen,

although the large scale violence has subsided, attacks on foreigners have not stopped.

Evidence was the recent attacks on Somalians in Port Elizabeth and several incidents in Gauteng.

Suren Pillay, of the Human Sciences Research Council, said studies indicated that the common factor in communities where xenophobia occurred was â\200\234profound dissatisfactionâ\200\235 with the government.

â\200\234The conditions which gave rise to the violence are still largely there,â\200\235 said Pillay.

Crime

It was crucial to take note of the sentiments expressed about foreigners. If the previous attacks were just criminal, then the targets of those attacks still had to be explained.

Both he and Breen said government communications needed to be improved urgently because communities did not understand policy issues and how various allocations, like housing, were made.

However, despite this weekendâ\200\231s attacks on foreigners at Albert Park in Durban, which left three people dead after they were forced to jump from a building, authorities say it was not xenophobia, just a case of rooting out corruption and crime gone wrong.

Other victims said the mob had specifically asked if they

were â\200\234amakwerekwereâ\200\235 (foreigners) before beating them.

At a meeting between the two parties to try to resolve the tensions, some of the culprits were pointed out. But despite CCTV footage of the attacks no arrests had been made, said Sarim Mwakalo, chairman of the Tanzanian Community Forum.

Albert Park councillor Vusi Khoza said there had been an influx of foreigners into the area since last yearâ\200\231s xenophobic attacks, buildings were in a

poor state and liquor outlets were flourishing.

â\200\234Bylaws are not respected or observed in the area and the municipality is not doing enough to ensure that they are enforced and followed. Bylaws on vagrants, overpopulating buildings and loitering are not followed,â\200\235 he said. â\200\230

â\200\234The city says the issue of foreigners is not their responsibility but that of provincial and national government, but I feel someone has to get the ball rolling.â\200\235

Municipal manager Michael Sutcliffe said foreign nationals were the responsibility of the national government, which had neglected KwaZulu-Natal and instead focused on Gauteng and Cape Town.

The National Prosecuting Authorityâ\200\231s Tlali Tlali said many people had been prosecuted in connection with last yearâ\200\231s attacks. Special courts had been established only in the Western Cape. Other cases were on the normal court rolls.

Provincial ANC list to be finalised

SIPHO KHUMALO
POLITICAL STAFF

TOMORROW is the day that could make or break the futures of a number of ANC politicians in KwaZulu-Natal as party delegates meet in the provincial list conference to decide who will be elected and who will be left out of the candidate list for the coming elections..

With more than 500 ANC branches in the province having drawn up lists of who they want to represent them in the provincial council of provinces, the national council of provinces and the national assembly, the meeting will see delegates from the various branches producing a provincial list of those who are most likely to hold public office after the 2009 elections.

â\200\234Some of us are visiting our traditional healers to get charm portions so that we will become attractive to those who

. will be deciding on our fate.

â\200\234It is not good enough merely to be on the branch list because the weekend conference is going to vote on it, dis-
tilling it to a small number,â\200\235

MCHUNU

said an ANC provincial MPL.
For the provincial legisla-
ture, which has 80 MPLs, the
conference should produce a
list of 130 names, while the
process of nominating candi-
dates for the national assembly
and national council of
provinces is more complicated.
Branches have nominated
more than 300 people who will
be put to the vote tomorrow.
Most of the current MPs

and MPLs will not be voting.
Those who will be voting in-
clude delegates from branches
and members of the provincial
executive committee.

Those who were nomi-
nated by five or more branches
will have their names placed on
the ballot paper. The delegates
will vote and those getting most
of the votes have an increased
chance of making it to parlia-
ment, said an ANC source.

The process itself is meant
to be democratic though it also
seeks to achieve gender bal-
ance and ensure continuity by
returning experienced MPs.

However, the balancing act
by the list committee does not
end there. It will be tweaking
the lists coming in from more
than 546 branches to factor in
MPs and MPLs, and those who
might not have been elected by
branches but who would bring
special skills to the ANC parlia-
mentary team.

ANC provincial secretary
Senzo Mchunu said the final
list would be concluded at the
national list conference to be
held later this month.

The conference will be offi-
cially opened by provincial
ANC chairman Zweli Mkhize.

Â£

LEE RONDGANGER
Johannesburg

URING the past four years,

111 members of the policeâ\200\231s

elite VIP protection unit â\200\224

responsible for protecting
the president, among others â\200\224 have
been charged with crimes ranging
from murder, attempted murder, rape,
armed robbery and the abuse of
power.

This is according to the safety and
security department in a reply to a
parliamentary question from the De-
mocratic Alliance.

The revelation comes in the wake
of an undertaking by police watchdog
body the Independent Complaints
Directorate to begin a full-scale
investigation into the unit, which
over the past few years has gained a
reputation as road bullies.

According to the office of safety
and security minister Nathi
Mthethwa, between 2005 and 2008:

0 Six officers faced charges of
murder or attempted murder;

U Ten officers faced charges of
assault, or assault with intent to
cause grievous bodily harm;:

2 One officer faced a charge of
rape;

0 Twenty-six officers faced driv-
ing-related charges, most involving
reckless or negligent driving, of
which eight were for driving under
the influence of alcohol;

Q Two officers faced charges of
damage to property;

0 Three officers faced charges of
pointing a firearm, or handling a
firearm under the influence of
alcohol; and

THE MERCURY

U A member of the unit faced a
charge of armed robbery;;

Over the same period, six officers

were charged with abuse of power, two for dereliction of duty and 56 for misconduct.

But, according to Mthethwa's reply, during the past five years only two members of the VIP unit had been dismissed, and five members suspended. .

The disciplinary regulations of the SAPS prescribe both remedial and punitive measures which are used as - reactive responses to incidents of misconduct. In addition, members are subjected to proactive measures, including in-service courses such as disciplinary management, customer service and labour relations, Mthethwa said.

Misconduct

Personnel are also debriefed in sessions with commanders, where performance is reviewed and incidents and deviations discussed with the objective of preventing misconduct and improving operational functioning, Mthethwa said in his reply.

The VIP unit is broken into two components, the VIP protection services, which has 935 members, and the static and mobile security services, which has 2 371 members.

DA MP Dianne Kohler-Barnard said VIP officers were getting away with their criminal actions without any proper disciplinary measures being taken against them. -

The data released by the minister of safety and security illustrates how

arudderless police service has lost all ability to hold units to account, and underscores the importance of Monday's decision by the Independent Complaints Directorate to conduct a full investigation into the unit.

Officers committing serious criminal offences must be removed from the SAPS without delay, and the DA reiterates its call for the introduction of a new code of conduct for the VIP unit, to assist in holding its officers to rigorous standards, Mthethwa said.

This week the complaints directorate launched a nationwide investigation into the VIP unit after a Johannesburg motorist was apparently

assaulted by members of President Kgalema Motlanthe's protection unit on Saturday.

Tommy Tshabalala, the general manager of investigations at the directorate, who will also lead the investigation into the unit, said the probe should be complete within a month.

Among the issues that would be probed, he said, was the disciplining of the VIP officers.

During the past few years, several motorists have complained of being pushed off the road by VIP unit staff, and their actions have become so rampant that they have been nicknamed the 'blue light gang'.

Recently, a 28-year-old constable attached to the VIP unit assigned to protect KwaZulu-Natal Social Welfare MEC Meshack Radebe was charged with eight counts of attempted murder after allegedly shooting at the tyres of a vehicle that did not move over fast enough.

150 parties register for elections

XOLANI MBANJWA
POLITICAL BUREAU

EN new political parties have registered to contest the elections,

expected to be held in -

early or mid-April, taking the total to 150 organisations. .

They include the strangely named, the radicals, the copycats and the promising. But the Independent Electoral Commission's hefty deposit charge might discourage chancers.

Oddly, the little-known parties already have presidents, secretaries-general and spokesmen.

In contrast, there were 21 parties contesting the 2004

general elections, according to the IEC.

However, South Africa's political landscape and discourse are still shaped by fewer than five parties and dominated by the ANC, which celebrates its 97th birthday today.

Next week will be dominated by the launches of unknown parties, with the electorate treated to a tapestry of manifestoes and logos, and a cacophony of promises.

Freedom Power promises to change the constitution, offer free university education, bring back the death penalty for certain crimes and send in the army to crime spots.

The party also wants to

push the incompetent Bafana Bafana to the top. Perhaps Freedom Power will appeal to 2010 World Cup enthusiasts. Congress of the People (COPE) might be challenged by the new kid - The Real Congress - while the African Christian Democratic Party might be rattled by the National Chris-

tian Democratic Par ty.

South Africaâ\200\231s name could be changed because two of the new parties have the name Azania, which so far has been monopolised by Azapo.

The Freedom Front and other minority-defending parties will be joined by the Khoisan Aboriginal and Others Movement. '

THE MERCURY

Radicals could perhaps be encouraged. by the Peopleâ\200\231s Revolutionary Congress.

There are also the National Seopesengwe Congress, the African Bond Unity, the Social Democratic TFront, and the African Reformative Party.

Some of the newcomers say they will consider entering the

. elections only at provincial

level because of the hefty fee required by the IEC to contest national polls.

The leader of the African Bond Unity, Cheryl Philander, admits to a financial challenge.

â\200\234We are financially struggling. We havenâ\200\231t even completed compiling our election manifesto because we need

lawyers to advise us for that. We are launching next week and we hope by then we will have enough funds to know whether we will contest only the Western Cape or the national elections as well,â\200\235 said Philander, '

The general secretary of The Real Congress, Buti Msimanga, said it also needed funds to contest at national level.

The interim president of the Azanian Native Socialist Congress, Mzwanele Zulu, said his party would be launching on Saturday.

Â© â\200\234At the launch we will announce our manifesto and we will say whether we will

contest provincial or nation
elections.â\200\235

. In 2004 the IEC charged
parties R150 000 to be on the n i

each provincial ballot.
IEC

Pansy Tlakula said th g
â\200\234depositâ\200\235 served to discourage|
chancers from contesting inj
elections they would lose. i
â\200\234In the interest of demoi
cratic elections no one wants all
multi-page ballot paper that no {
only hampers the election
processes and makes them||
much more expensive but i
and this more serious â\200\224 als
confuses voters.â\200\235

ERCURY

THEM

DA musica

chairs

for leadership posts

DEON DE LANGE

POLITICAL BUREAU

EMOCRATIC Alliance
chief executive officer
Ryan Coetzee and the
partyâ\200\231s Eastern Cape
leader, Athol Trollip, have
emerged as early front-runners to
replace leader of the opposition

Sandra Botha when she quits to -

become an ambassador later this
year.

Botha yesterday confirmed
she would retire after this yearâ\200\231s
elections to â\200\234pursue opportuni-
ties outside party politicsâ\204ç.

She declined to comment on a
report yesterday that she had
been offered a much-sought-after
diplomatic posting to the Czech
Republic. .

The Mercury lis reliably
informed that she has been
offered a posting to Prague,
becoming the third senior DA
leader within 18 months to cross
to diplomacy after Douglas Gib-
son was posted to Thailand.

DA justice spokeswoman
Sheila Camerer, one of the
longest-serving MPs, will also
leave soon - for Bulgaria as
ambassador.

Botha says she will remain
loyal to the DA.

â\200\234My full' commitment rests
with the DA and ensuring that we
achieve every possible success in
the next election, after which I

intend remaining a loyal member of the party,â\200\235 she said, stressing that she would retain her position until parliament was dissolved for the elections.

DA leader Helen Zille said: â\200\234I would have preferred her to stay and I told her so. But I cannot stand in her way if she has other ideasforher career at this stage.â\200\235

Coetzee and Trollip, both rising stars in the party; are already

COETZEE

being touted by insiders as the most likely candidates to succeed Botha in this high-profile position â\200\224 assuming the DA remains the largest opposition party after the elections.

This also assumes that party leader and Cape Town mayor Zille will stay out of the national legislature. :

Zille is widely expected to stand as her partyâ\200\231s candidate for premier in the Western Cape, where the DA hopes to wrest power from the ANC.

DA labour spokeswoman Anchen Dreyer MP has also been mentioned as- a possible contender, but she probably lacks support to take on Coetzee and Trollip.

The highly regarded DA federal deputy chairman, James Selfe, moved quickly yesterday to quash speculation about his own candidacy, saying he would prefer to stick to â\200\234mainstream parliamentary politicsâ\200\235.

He would prefer not to move from one â\200\234exacting positionâ\200\235 to another.

Trollip said he had yet to decide whether to stay on as party leader in the Eastern Cape or accept nomination to the DAâ\200\231s list

TROLLIP

of potential MPs.

â\200\234If the opportunity arises for a coalition government in this province involving the DA, I may consider staying. If not, I will

" probably go to the National

Assembly, in which case I would consider making myself available for any leadership positions.â\200\235

In 2007 Trollip unsuccessfully challenged Zille for the party leadership when Tony Leon stepped down.

Coetzee also confirmed .he would be available for the position, but stressed he was â\200\234currently focused on running an election campaign and making sure I get re-elected to parliamentâ\200\235 â\200\224 an obvious requirement to qualify for the position of leader of the opposition.

The emergence of Coetzee and Trollip is further assisted by the fact that nearly half the partyâ\200\231s current MPs will not be coming back after the election.

DA federal chairman Joe Sere-
mane is almost certain to retire,
and other DA heavyweights,
including Tony Leon, Kraai van
Niekerk, Camerer, Tertius Del-
port, Eddie Trent and Ryno King,
will not return after the polls.

e s e
TSy s

SOWETAN Thursday January 8 2009

BLACK POWER Members of Blackâ\200\230Conscmusn' s
: mat Ons rec elved from theâ\200\230SABC

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,_ age Zikalala sald the SABC
Was, omded by the electlon !

The SABC. says lt Wlll COVER

â\200\234all political parties â\200\230according
to. the number. of their palia~;

mentary seats. s :
Those: who â\200\230are: stxll to

prove thems elvesat the ballot

box would have to' â\200\230generate:
neWsworthy events o get st
coverage - from the pubhc'

broadcaster
Thisisto ensure that there

is equitable coverage- of -all

pohtlcal parties durmU this
yearâ\200\231's election, SABC news

â\200\230head Snuki Zikalala said.

.-Addressing the media at
the - â\200\230public: broadcasterâ\200\231s
taunch of its election cover-

. tably cover pohtlcal partles ;
â\200\230This means the ANC wlt h i f
â\200\23079â\200\2317 â\200\230of the 400 parhamenta.ry:.'" (
: seats would be afforded most .
-timÃ©; whlle the PAC wlt h one
;seat will get the least.

He also said that the SABCâ\200\230 '

had appointed. an official to

. deal â\200\234with complaints from
political parties. -

Zikalala said the *SABC
would run special election
programmes to ensure that
the electorate was informed

about the .various political .
- car â\200\230in :President Kgalema

partiesâ\200\231 policies.
. This would include a

day.
SABC actmc chlef exec-

~utive Gab Mampone said the

public broadcaster had bud-
geted R42- million for the
coverage of this yearâ\200\231s elec-
tion. -

Meanwhile, Zikalala â\200\230has
demanded that the police
return the unedited version
of the tape they confiscated at
an accident scene involving a

Motlantheâ\200\231s motorcade.

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SOWETAN Thursday January 8 2009

Taxman
'In line' for

Selebi's

position

Kingdom Mabuza

The contest for national police commissioner Jackie Selebi's position seems not to be over yet despite reports that South African Revenue Services (Sars) Pravin Gordhan has been earmarked for the post.

Selebi was put on special leave last year after he was charged with corruption and defeating the ends of justice.

He allegedly accepted a R1,2 million bribe from murder accused Glenn Agliotti - among other serious allegations.

A highly placed ANC source close to Soweian said yesterday Gordhan was tipped to take over from

- Selebi. He is a loyal mem-

ber of the party and- he

understands the need for |

police stability. Gordhan has been cred-

ited with turning Sars into an effective body that hugely |

improved tax collection.

But another key ANC

member has said defence intelligence's . Lieutenant-General Mojo Motau is also in the running. Motau is a former head of Umkhonto we Sizwe. He is a well-known Zuma supporter who appeared on the ANC's national executive committee list in Polokwane.

An ANC national exec-

utive member was quoted
as saying yesterday the
debate was now about â\200\234how
much money Selebi must
get to vacate the positionâ\200\235.

Safety and Security Min-
ister Nathi Mthethwa said
on Talk Radio 702 on Mon-
day he had asked President
Kgalema Motlanthe to
replace Selebi.

Presidential spokesman
Thabo Masebe yesterday
said the request for Selebiâ\200\231s
removal was â\200\234a matter
between the minister and
the presidentâ\200\235.

Attempts to contact
Selebi were unsuccessful.

The ANC has embarked on a
name-change frenzy that bor-

- ders on schizophrenia.

â\200\230The irrationality of the
choice of new names should
be cause for serious concern
to people who are not mem-
bers of the ruling party.

The way the names are
imposed should solicit anger -
among blacks but their acqui-
escence makes one wonder
about their understanding of
political processes in a democ-
racy.

One day another party will
take over and the names of
ANC members, some of whom

.~ are or were political hoodlums,
- will be arbitrarily removed.

My gripe is with Dobsonville
residents who failed to stand up
for the late Mary Malahlela -
the first black woman medical
doctor, who spent her entire
career loyally serving residents
of the township.

. Besides a primary school,
nothing in and around Dob-
sonville is named after her, not
even the clinic where she
worked for. so many years.

Instead, Braam Fischer and
Joe Slovo are honoured in

- new townships in the area. [
- suspect Discoverers Hospital

in Florida will soon undergo a
name change, though I notice

- that the zealotry of the name -
- change brigade is diluted

where white interests are con- ;.
- cerned.

I challenge Dobsonville res- |
idents to campaign to change

- the hospital to the Dr Mary
- . Malahlela Hospital or demand

that it changes Braamfis-
cherville to honour this great

;. WoImail.

Maswabi Legwale, Soweto

guards probed

Kingdom Mabuza

The independent complaints directorate says it has powers to initiate an investigation without a complaint. -

And itâ\200\231s doing just that in the case involving the presidential VIP protection unit and a motorist who was allegedly shot at after he failed to give way to the flashing blue lights at the weekend.

Members of the VIP protection unit were escorting President Kgalema Motlanthe on the N12 when an allegedly drunk and defiant motorist drove close to the convoy and collided with one of the vehicles.

â\200\234We will interview the motorist and members of the protection unit,â\200\235 ICD spokesman Tommy Tshabalala said. â\200\234We have information that a shot was fired. We cannot ignore the incident since it was in the media.

â\200\234Remember that we have powers to initiate an investigation without. somebody lodging a complaint with us. We are investigating allegations of misconduct or criminality.â\200\235

Members of the unit allegedly confiscated footage captured by SABC journalists who were on the scene. Tshabalala said the investigation would be concluded within two weeksâ\200\231 time.

Police spokesman Sally de Beer said an investigation was under way with a view to instituting criminal charges against the driver of the red car and finding out if police acted within their mandate.

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SOWETAN Thursday January 8 2009

'Politics has become dangerousâ\200\231

Riot Hlatshwayo

Sizile Ndlovu, chairman of Cope in Mpumalanga, has survived two attempts on his life.

Now he says the province has turned into a battlefield, where politicians are killed â\200\234Mafia-styleâ\200\235.

Ndlovu says the killing on Sunday of Jimmy Mohlala, speaker of the embattled Mbombela municipality, was a polit-

ical assassination because he differed

with ANC colleagues.

Ndlovu was the ANC's Bohlabele regional secretary between 2004 and 2006.

"We should remember the Mafia-style in which Govan Mbeki municipality deputy mayor Thandi Mtsweni was killed, the shooting at my home with AK-47 assault rifles in 2006 and now the killing of Jimmy Mohlala," Ndlovu said yesterday. -

Assailants shot at Ndlovu at an ANC meeting in Cottendale on July 14 2006

- the docket at the Mhala

but missed, according to

police station.

He said he was expelled from the ANC a few days later for blowing the whistle on the party's corrupt councillors in the Bohlabele district.

Ndlovu's house in Orinoco village near Thulamahashe was sprayed with AK-47 bullets on July 17 2006.

"But the case did not go far because some

Limpopo's then police spokesman Director Phuti Setati refused to link Maluleke's shooting to politics, saying "we can't speculate".

Ndlovu said unless police improved their efforts to protect politicians - in Mpumalanga, "we will all be finished through the barrel of a gun".

Though suspects had been arrested in some of the shootings they were

politicians in the province

work hand in hand with
top police officers,â\200\235 he.said.

The survivor of Mpumalangaâ\200\231s political mayhem also referred to an incident in which Caswell Maluleke, then mayor of Bohlabela and now speaker of the Ehlanzeni district in Nelspruit, was shot 15 times in April 2000.

SURVIVOR: Sizile Ndlovu

acquitted or had their
_ cases withdrawn.

â\200\234Corruption andthe assassination of people are the order of the day in this province,â\200\235 Ndlovu said. â\200\234I was expelled from the ANC for blowing the whistle on corruption.â\200\235

Mohlala will be buried in KaNya-
mazane on Sunday.

Ido Lekota

Terry Oliphant, the Beaufort West, Northern Cape, social welfare official accused of molesting young girls and filming himself while having sex with one of them, appeared in court yesterday.

Oliphant faces a charge of statutory rape. His case was postponed to March 2 for further investigation. He is currently out on bail.

His court appearance came after the SABC's current affairs programme Special Assignment broadcast a show on Tuesday in which Oliphant was accused of abusing several young girls.

The programme also showed

Filmed himself

how Oliphant made videos of himself having sex with under-aged girls, including a 15-year-old.

The Film and Publications Board has said it would ensure that Oliphant faced further charges, including the making and possession of child pornography.

Yesterday, the Beaufort West prosecutor's office said Oliphant could only be prosecuted on further charges if there were police dockets for such cases.

Special Assignment said one of the girls had laid a charge of statu-

in sex with girl

tory rape against him, yet he remained in his job at the SA Social Security Agency (Sassa). The ministry of social welfare yesterday said Oliphant had been on suspension since October 21.

â\200\234The man is currently on suspension and there is a disciplinary process parallel to the criminal investigation. The region in which he works has been directed to fast track the disciplinary process,â\200\235
â\200\230Sassa chief executive officer Fezile Makiwane said in a statement.

In the statement, Social Devel-

Â£38

bR

opment Minister Zola Skweyiya described Oliphantâ\200\231s alleged behaviour as â\200\234outrageous, despicable and totally unacceptableâ\200\235.

â\200\234We cannot have our own staff violating children. While everyone has a right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, we view the allegations in a very serious light, hence the suspension and disciplinary hearing.â\200\235

Meanwhile, the Congress of the People has suspended Oliphant, the partyâ\200\231s local organiser.

â\200\234Cope views [his] alleged conduct as depicted in the report as abhorrent ... and a crude abuse of power,â\200\235 Cope spokesman Palesa Morudu said yesterday.

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DA urges

The Democratic Alliance has called on the ANC to fire five cabinet ministers, including Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, ahead of this year's national elections.

The chief opposition party said yesterday Dlamini-Zuma must go because she carried responsibility for the backing South Africa has given to dictators and oppressors across the world.

The Star

The DA was reacting to a statement by ANC secretary-general

. Gwede Mantashe on Tuesday that if

the ruling party won the upcoming elections, its new policy institute, and not the president, would monitor the performance of ministers and that incompetent ones would be sacked.

President Kgalema Motlanthe

does not need to wait until after the

THURSDAY JANUARY 8 2009

election before he removes ministers who are not doing their jobs,

DA chief whip Ian Davidson said in

a statement.

If he does not do this now, then the ANC cannot expect anyone to take its promise of good government seriously.

The party said the minister in the Presidency, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, Land and Agriculture

Minister Lulu Xingwana, Trade and Industry Minister Mandisi Mpahlwa and Home Affairs Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Ngakula also deserved the boot.

Mpahlwa had all but ignored his ministry's role in driving job creation and growth, while Mapisa-Ngakula had left South Africans despairing over ever getting the documents they need.

mediate removal of incompetent ministers

The DA said Tshabalala-Msi-

mang deserved to be fired for â\200\234her catastrophic reign in the Health Departmentâ\200\235, which ended when Motlanthe replaced her with Barbara Hogan in September.

It claimed that Xingwanaâ\200\231s management of the Land Bank had damaged South Africaâ\200\231s land reform programme irredeemably.
â\200\224 Sapa

THURSDAY JANUARY 8 2009

The Star

_Botha to pursue new role as ambassador

BY DEON DE LANGE

emocratic Alliance CEO
DRyan Coetzee and the

partyâ\200\231s Eastern Cape
leader Athol Trollip - have
emerged as front-runners to
replace DA MP and leader of
the opposition Sandra Botha
when she quits and becomes an
ambassador later this year.

' Botha yesterday confirmed
that she will retire after this
yearâ\200\231s elections to pursue
opportunities outside party
politics.

She declined to comment
over The Starâ\200\231s report yesterday
that she has been offered a
much sought-after diplomatic
posting to the
Czech Republic.

The Star
was reliably
informed that
she has been
offered a post-
ing to Prague, becoming the
third senior DA leader within
18 months to cross to diplo-
macy, after Douglas Gibson was
posted to Thailand.

The DAâ\200\231s justice spokesper-
son and one of the longest-
serving -MPs, Sheila Camerer,
will be leaving for Bulgaria as
ambassador.

â\200\230Botha said

she would

Zille set to stand
as party premier
in Western Cape

remain loyal to the DA. ~

My full commitment rests
with the DA and ensuring that
we achieve every possible suc-
cess in the next election, after
which I intend remaining a
loyal member of the party, she
said, stressing that she would
retain her current position
until parliament is dissolved
for the elections.

DA leader Helen Zille said:
I would have preferred her to
stay. But I cannot stand in her
way if she has other ideas for
her career at this stage.

Coetzee and Trollip, both
rising stars in the party, are
being touted by insiders as the
most likely candidates to suc-
ceed Botha in
this high-pro-
file position -
assuming the
DA remains the
largest opposi-
tion party after
the elections. :

This also assumes that
party leader and Cape Town
mayor Zille will stick to her
guns on staying out of the
national legislature.

Zille is widely expected to
stand as her party's candidate
for premier in the Western
Cape, where the DA hopes to
wrest power from the ANC,

either alone or in coalition with other opposition parties, after the elections.

DA MP and labour spokesperson Anchen Dreyer has also been mentioned as a possible contender, but she probably lacks enough support among her caucus colleagues to take on Coetzee and Trollip.

The highly regarded DA federal deputy chairperson, James Selfe, yesterday moved

The Star

quickly to squash speculation about his own candidacy, saying he would prefer to stick to mainstream parliamentary politics if he was asked to serve in the next parliament. Approached for comment yesterday, Trollip said he had

* yet to decide whether to stay on

as party leader in the Eastern

Cape or accept nomination to

the DA's list of potential MPs. The party's list process,

THURSDAY JANUARY 8 2009

whereby its candidates for the national and provincial ballot will be determined and prioritised, is currently under way.

If the opportunity arises for a coalition government in this province involving the DA, I may consider staying. If not, I will probably go to the National Assembly, in which case I would consider making myself available for any leadership positions within the caucus.

Trollip unsuccessfully challenged Zille for the party leadership when Tony Leon stepped down in 2007.

Coetzee yesterday also confirmed he would be available for the position, but stressed he was focused on running an election campaign and making sure I get re-elected to parliament. An obvious requirement to qualify for the position of leader of the opposition.

The emergence of Coetzee

and Trollip is further assisted
by the fact that nearly half the
partyâ\200\231s current MPs will not be
coming back after the election.

DA federal chairperson Joe

" Seremane is almost certain to

retire and other DA heavy-
weights, including Leon, Kraai
van Niekerk, Camerer, Tertius
Delpont, Eddie Trent and Ryno
King, will not be returning.

P See Page 7

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The Star

THURSDAY JANUARY 8 2009

â\200\230Race not
answer in
unequal
societyâ\200\231

BY SIYABONGA MKHWANAZI

The SA Institute of Race Relations has backed COPEâ\200\231s proposal that race should not determine economic empowerment and affirmative action policies. .

The think-tank said yesterday that continued implementation of affirmative action in the workplace would not attain the desired results, but would create an unequal society which would benefit a handful of the historical white elite and the new black elite.

This would disadvantage the poor across all racial lines, argued the instituteâ\200\231s deputy CEO, Frans Cronje.

The SAIRR also pointed out that the failure of the education system to produce highly skilled graduates for the labour market had led to racial inequalities of a far greater scale than racism or racial discrimination in the workplace.

Cronje said information published by the institute â\200\234revealed that almost half of all pupils dropped out of the school system while less than half of all university entrants graduatedâ\200\235.

â\200\234In such an environment, no amount of affirmative action is going to improve standards of living, but will simply serve to preserve the positions of the small black elite which has now joined the historical white elite.â\200\235

The only plausible way out to improve living standards

was not through affirmative

action policy, but an improved education system.

Equality in education
would make affirmative action

obsolete by simple weight of -

numbers and the requirements
of a growing economy, and
black South Africans would
inevitably find themselves in
senior professional positions.

In the build-up to the launch
of COPE last month, party
leader Mosiuoa Lekota called
for the scrapping of affirmative
action.

Minister
in call to
Motlanthe
on Selebi

Safety and Security .Minister
Nathi Mthethwa has requested
President Kgalema Motlanthe
to replace suspended National
Police Commissioner Jackie
Selebi.

The minister has made a
representation to the president,
putting the facts in terms of
making sure that a new perma-
nent commissioner takes over,
to make sure there is control of
the South African Police
Force, said Mthethwa.

spokesperson, Hangwani
Mulaudzi.

This comes after Mthethwa

hinted earlier that he believed
it was time for Selebi, who is
facing charges of corruption
and defeating the ends of jus-
tice, to leave the police force.

Selebi will go on trial in the
Johannesburg High Court on
April 14 on charges relating to
payments of about R1,2-million
to him.

Selebi was suspended in
January 2008, when he also
quit as head of Interpol.

AfriForum CEO Kallie Kriel
yesterday said he supported
Mthethwa's call for the
appointment of a permanent
police commissioner, even if
Selebi was found not guilty on
the charges against him.

The South African Police

Union yesterday, however, questioned the motives of those calling for the speedy appointment of a new police boss.

â\200\234The position of the national police commissioner is an administrative job ... We fail to understand why politicians are so desperateâ\200\231 ... Maybe it is because of the elections,â\200\235 the union said in a statement. â\200\224 Sapa

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THURSDAY JANUARY 8 2009

The Star

â\200\230Social grants official accused of
statutory rape is COPE member

ANC spokesperson Garth Strachan says there is no record of social grants officer Terry Oliphant, who has been charged with statutory rape, ever being a member of the party.

Oliphant, who was recently exposed on SABC3â\200\231s Special Assignment programme as allegedly being involved in statutory rape, was more recently a member of the Congress of the People.

COPE spokesperson Palesa Morudu said. Oliphant was an ordinary member and that the alleged offences were committed three years ago, when he was still a member of the ANC.

Oliphant was suspended from his job yesterday and appeared in the Beaufort West Magistrateâ\200\231s Court on a charge of statutory rape, officials said. i

â\200\234He has been charged with statutory rape, but he hasnâ\200\231t

pleaded yet. That will happen at the start of his trial,â\200\235 said police spokesperson Captain Malcolm Pojie. ,

Oliphantâ\200\231s court appearance came less than a day after Special Assignment revealed his alleged sexual assault of girls in Beaufort West.

The programme showed how Oliphant made videos of himself having sex with under-aged girls, including a 15-year-old.

Morudu said Oliphant had been suspended from COPE.

â\200\234COPE views his alleged conduct as depicted in the report as abhorrent ... and a crude abuse of power,â\200\235 Morudu said.

â\200\234COPE will immediately suspend his membership to the party and also institute a disciplinary process.â\200\235

Strachan said the ANC condemned such behaviour and

urged that the full might of the law take its course.-

Special Assignment reported that he remained in his job at the SA Social Security Agency (SASSA) despite the charge against him.

But Social Services Minister Zola Skweyiya said yesterday morning that Oliphant had been suspended and that disciplinary action would follow.

Skweyiya described his alleged behaviour as "outrageous, despicable and totally unacceptable".

"The very essence of SASSA and the Department of Social Development is to protect and assist the most vulnerable members of our society. We cannot have our own staff members violating children," said Skweyiya.

Oliphant's case was postponed until March 2. - Sapa

PAC wants equal representation in naming game

Eelen Suzman was a brave woman, but the Marks Building at parliament should not be renamed after her, the Pan Africanist Congress has said.

"The Marks Building must be renamed -the Sharpeville Building, if it must be renamed," PAC MP Motsoko Pheko said in a statement yesterday.

"[PAC] respect Mrs Helen Suzman. She was a brave person (who) deserves to be honoured, but this must apply to PAC leaders such as Mangaliso Sobukwe, Zeph Mothopeng, Jeff Masemola and Nyati Pokela, who have been ignored."

On Tuesday, the Democratic

Alliance said parliament's Marks

Building, long the home of opposition parties within the parliamentary complex in Cape Town, should be renamed the Helen Suzman Building. It would be an appropriate way to commemorate publicly her contribution towards building a non-racial society based on constitutional democ-

racyâ\200\235, said DA leader Helen Zille.

Apartheid critic Suzman died
last week at the age of 91.

Pheko said some people had
been honoured for their role in
the countryâ\200\231s liberation struggle
and some had been â\200\234over-hon-
ouredâ\200\235 at the expense of others.

. â\200\234For instance, PAC leaders and
martyrs have been treated as if

they never existed. It must not be
forgotten it was the blood of PAC
martyrs that was spilt in Sharpe-
ville and Langa on March 21 1960
that made todayâ\200\231s parliament.â\200\235
Pheko said that with â\200\234due
respectâ\200\235 to the DAâ\200\231s suggestion, it
was â\200\234the blood of the masses of
this country who watered the tree
of freedomâ\200\235.)

Honouring the countryâ\200\231s peo-
ple must be devoid of sectarian-
ism, he added. â\200\234Otherwise weâ\200\231ll
have a situation such as in Russia
where St Petersburg was renamed
Leningrad after the overthrow of
the tsars, but again renamed St
Petersburg after the overthrow of

_ the communist regime.â\200\235 ~ Sapa

e T T T T e e e

The Tunes Thursday January 8 [2009

Botha sad to

hang up gloves

STAFF REPORTER

DEMOCRATIC Alliance MP Sandra Botha will miss her role as opposition leader in parliament. -

The DA leader in the National Assembly is to resign her seat to take up an ambassadorial post in eastern Europe.

â\200\234] have had .a wonderful time in parliament and I am glad that I was involved during such exciting times,â\200\235 she said.

She would not discuss the details of her new post, saying it had not been finalised.

Although it has been suggested that Botha is likely to take up the post months before the general elections, she said she hoped she would be able to â\200\234complete the DAâ\200\231s workâ\200\235 before she leaves.

She was involved in the selection of candidates for the DAâ\200\231s list of prospective MPs, she said. .

Â«] am confident that, for the first time, we actually have a very solid team.that will take the party forward and make valuable contributions in parliament.â\200\235-

Botha said the DA was optimistic that its support had increased, despite the formation of ANC breakaway party the Congress of the People. .

â\200\234Qur support base has grown so much and it is impressivÃ© how well the party has done in growing the numbers,â\200\235 Botha said.

â\200\234I do not believe that Cope will have an impact on us. They will have an impact on the ANC.â\200\235 : -

The DA is tipped to take control of the Western Cape, where infighting has eroded the ANCâ\200\231s support base: " e

SALLY EVANS

ANOTHER high-powered politician has been implicated in a sexual abuse scandal in Beaufort West.

Terry Oliphant, a social grants officer in the Beaufort West Municipality and Congress of the People member, was yesterday suspended by the party.

This after the SABC's Special Assignment investigative programme reported that he groomed minors for sex and makes videos of himself having sex with them.

The programme showed clips of

The Times

Social grants officer 'Exposed' on TV

to point out that Oliphant; had been

Oliphant having sex with a girl, alleged to be 15 at the time. She charged him with statutory rape last year.

The party's Palesa Morudu said it was regrettable that the programme's producers ran the sensational promo effectively linking Cope to these alleged sexual crimes, without affording "us an opportunity for comment" but confirmed Cope - had suspended Oliphant. The party was also quick

a member of the ANC at the time of the incident, although the ANC say they have no record of his membership.

Cope will also institute a disciplinary process," said Morudu.

Special Assignment took Oliphant's employer, the South African Social Security Agency, into task, saying it employs the alleged rapist and did not suspend him from his position.

Thursday January 8 12009

The agency's chief executive officer, Ffiezile Makiwane, responded yesterday that Oliphant had, in

- fact, been suspended.

The disciplinary process is in

process [sic] alongside the criminal investigation. The region in which he works has been directed to fast-track the disciplinary process. [Social Services Minister Zola Skweyiya] is outraged and has instructed us to finalise the matter without delay,â\200\235 Makiwane said.

Oliphant made his second appearance in the Beaufort West Magistrateâ\200\231s Court yesterday morning,

confirmed his lawyer Willem Wagener. :

â\200\234The charge against him [Oliphant] is of statutory rape. These charges came up recently, in November or December 2008. We are waiting for a decision from the director of public prosecutions to see if they want to proceed with the matter or not.â\200\235

Controversial mayor of the Central Karoo District municipality in the town, Truman .Prince, was accused of soliciting sex from underage girls in 2005 and suspended by the ANC in 2006.

A

MAYIBONGWE MAQHINA
and DOMINIC MAHLANGU

FORMER presidents Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki might snub the ANC's 97th anniversary celebrations this weekend. :
The party will also use this weekend's festivities in East London to launch its election manifesto on

- Saturday.

Though the ANC said yesterday that Mandela would be addressing the gathering by way of a pre-

recorded message, and that Mbeki -

had been invited to attend; it has emerged that neither man has committed to doing either.

With just three days to go before the party's biggest -and most- important rally this year, organisers

were still scrambling to secure Mandela's

commitment to be a speaker.

Although national executive committee member Fikile Mbalula told a press conference in East London that Mandela would address the rally, Mandela's spokesman has denied this.

Mbalula said: "We expect him [Mandela] to deliver a message of support ... either by video or by communicating the message to the organisation.-As the former pres-

ident and as a disciplined member-

of the ANC this is one of the things that we've got to expect."

" But Nelson Mandela's chief executive officer Achmat Dan-

goko said:

"-goko said:

"£ .

. goko said Mandela had not yet com-

mitted himself to addressing the ANC gathering. "This is still under discussion," he said.

'We expect Mandela
to deliver a message
of supportâ\200\231.

_With- regard to â\200\230Mbeki, ANC
Carl

â\200\234There is absolutely no indication
of him [Mbeki] attending.â\200\235

_A senior ANC member told The
Times that Mbekiâ\200\231s absence would "

not be unexpected: â\200\234It is clear that

Neihaus ~ said:â\200\231

Organisers scramble to secure Madibaâ\200\231's participation:
: re N " ey . he is inoLt 15151~1; o.f_ th(;, rlnovem?fnt aiw .
more. Last year while in office he -

snubbed the event and instead
called a press conference to make
an announcement about Jackie Se-
lebi. We are not really worried
about him any more.â\200\235)
Another ANC official told The
Times that Mbekiâ\200\231s absence would
be â\200\234a blessing for the partyâ\200\235. :

â\200\234Toyen if he comes, what is he .

going to say or add to our pro-

â\200\234gramme? He has refused to cam-

paign for the movement and I donâ\200\231t

â\200\230think we really miss him.â\200\235
Speaking at the same press con-

ference - yesterday, NEC member

Jeff Radebe said the party had'sent k

invitations to its two living former
national presidents â\200\224 Mandela and
Mbeki.

But Mbekiâ\200\231s spokesman, Mukoni

â\200\230Ratshitanga, said he knew nothing

about the ANCâ\200\231s invitation and re-
ferred queries to the partyâ\200\231s head-
quarters at Luthuli House.

â\200\234If they did [invite Mbeki], I
donâ\200\231t know about it and I canâ\200\231t
confirm â\200\230it at the moment,â\200\235 Rat-

_ shitanga said. -

The latest row comes three
months after Mbeki wrote to ANC
president Jacob Zuma, asking that
the party not use his name in its
election campaign.

Mbekiâ\200\231s request was made after '

the ANC announced that he would
play a role in electioneering â\200\224

" without asking him first. -

T T T R T S T e e T S L

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The Twes Thursday January g 12009

Wild weekend party time for ANC

MSIMELELO NJWABANE .

- campaign - song, . which - has: .been.-

T __. composed and produced by Sello â\200\234Chiccoâ\200\235

THE ANC jsplanning & massive celebration at Twala, onc of South Africaâ\200\231s leading m
usic

'<Eas't;Londonâ\200\231s Regent Hotel tomorrow. And producers. S

â\200\234about 2 500 people are expected to attend the ANC campaign manager and former ANC
â\200\230launch of the partyâ\200\231s election manifesto on Youth League leader Tikile Mba
lula, said:

Saturday, which coincides with the partyâ\200\231s Â«rPhig will be a gpectacular. Brace-you
rself

is unchanged. People' have come in their

pumbers in terms of events and in defence

of their only organisationÂ»,â\200\235 he said.. -

Â«This- week alone, We had more than

7 000: members in the area of Mbhashe

who all crossed to the

from the United Democratic Movement,â\200\235

97th anniversary. A for some humper-to-bumper â\200\230 Mbalula said.

Jeff Radebe, who is head of ANC policy, said razzmatazz.â\200\235 â\200\230This w|â\200\234
be a According to Radebe,

tomorrowâ\200\231s bash would be used to reveal ils One of the people funding there will al
so be & business

. tomorrowâ\200\231s: ANC: party (1S -,sp,ectacul,ar. Brace qunction tonight.

1 hoxing profrioter .:Branco:

HÃ© said this, and the na-

â\200\230Milenkovic, who has also yourse\ f for = tional manifesto rally that

funded LomOorrowâ\200\231s event at
the Regent Hotel.

â\200\234My involvement in spon-

soring the event is .. because 1 have re-
ceived tremendous support from the gov-
ernment- in this province with my boxing

_tournaments,â\200\235 said Milenkovic.

â\200\234Politics is very much like boxing in @
way, because when two men enter the ring
one man will remain standing and the other

one will be knocked down,â\200\235 he said.

Mbalula took a dig at the Congress of the
Peopleâ\200\231s attempts Lo woo voters in Bastern

Cape.

@pe support of the ANC in this province

will take place on Saturday

razzmatazzâ\200\231 at the EPRU stadium, were

not the only activities
planned for this weekend. :

Â«It is expected. that the ANC provinces
will hold their own manifesto rallies.

Â«This is not the only big-bang of the ANC.
You are going to see a lot of action moving
towards [this yearâ\200\231s general) elections,â\200\235 he
said.

Several sources said the ANC multi-
media campaign is the biggest ever for any
election they have ever had.

The contract for the campaign is said to
be worth millions.

themselves

But community says attacks sparked

by crime concerns,

NIVASHNI NAIR

FOREIGN nationals who were at-

tacked by a mob of South Africans in Durban at the weekend have warned that they will retaliate if they are attacked again.

This is despite a community meeting attended by foreigners and local residents on Tuesday night at which it was agreed that the attack was not xenophobia, but an act of vigilantism triggered by concerns about crime.

On Sunday, two foreign nationals died when about 20 South African men and women forced their way into a building in the city centre in which Tanzanians, Mozambicans - and Zimbabweans were living.

Zimbabwean Victor Zowa, 24, and Tanzanian Omar Said, 25, jumped from the building, fearing that they would be beaten by the mob. Zowa died at the scene. Said died later in hospital. Zimbabwean Eugene Madondo, 23, who jumped from the third floor, is in a critical condition in hospital.

Local ward councillor Vusi Khoza said the mob stormed into the building because they believed that those living there were responsible for the increase in crime in the area. .

Yesterday, however, the chairman of the Tanzanian community forum, Bonta Sarim, told The Times that though the meeting resolved that the attack was an act of vigilantism, the foreign nationals are convinced that the attack was the product of xenophobia.

Why did they come to us and specifically target us? Are South

â\200\230Why did they
come to us and
specifically
target us?

not xenophobia

Africans not criminals? If they
think that foreigners are the only
criminals in the country, is that not
xenophobia?â\200\235â\200\231

Sarim, who represents the for-
eign nationals living in the area
surrounding Albert Park, said his
community will not retaliate, but
will fight back if they are attacked .
again.

He said: â\200\234How many more times
must this happen to foreigners? I.
have lived in this country for 15
years. I have a South African wife
and children born here. This is my
home and I will fight back.

â\200\234We are warning the local com-
munity that if they

think about doing

. this again, we will

seek revenge be-

cause we have lost

another two broth-
ers this week.â\200\235

Sarim said foreign

i nationals still fear

for their lives after last yearâ\200\231s wave

of xenophobic attacks, which
claimed 60 lives countrywide.

He added that tensions had eased
in the neighbourhood since the
community meeting.

Police spokesman Superinten-
dent Vincent Mdunge said the sit-
uation had stabilised. No arrests
have yet been made.

Durban city manager Michael
Sutcliffe said: â\200\234Parties clearly agree
it has to do with crime and what is
happening in that area. The fact
that we have been squeezing out
landlords who own buildings which
become havens for crime ... has a
lot to do with this matter.â\200\235

Sutcliffe said about 40 dilapidated

buildings in the Durban CBD housing foreigners and some South Africans had been declared uninhabitable.

Selebi axing would have
same blueprint as Zuma's

WORDS are not just words;
they carry bigger meanings.

I listened on radio while the
safety and security minister,
Nathi Mthethwa, announced
that he had submitted a letter
to President Kgalema
Motlanthe ordering that the
suspended police
commissioner Jackie Selebi
should be fired.

I wonder how Mthethwa's
decision to decide to fire
Selebi is considered
strategically and ideologically
different from Mbeki's
decision to fire Jacob
Zuma due to his corrupt
relationship with Schabir
Shaik.

To my recollection, Selebi
has famously said that Agliotti
was his friend and finish and
klaar and Zuma has
famously said that he is
innocent until proven guilty.

Words, as we know, do carry
bigger meanings.

I suppose the safety and
security minister should be
reminded that everyone is
entitled to a free and fair trial,
and that all citizens are equal

before the law. Selebi's matter
in this instance is no different.
This is the part that the
ANC is still failing on: that of
talking the talk but not

walking the walk.

Since Mthethwa has also
now admitted the existence of
our worst fears regarding the
SAPS, he should show his total

IN THE
FIRING

LINE:
National
Police
Commissioner
Jackie Selebi
faces the axe
from his
position for
corruption
Picture:
Simon
Mathebula

commitment to the
reinstatement of the
Scorpions to safeguard the
country's laws. â\200\224 Moletsane
Maleho, by e-mail