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[NKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

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No.7589

BUSINESS DAY, Thursday, March 27 2003

IFP struggling to retain control of KwaZulu-Natal

~ ANC plays the pied piper as  
politicians change their tune

Xolani Xunduy  
Political Correspondant

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dtum, which once il  
some people in Kwazn-  
lu-Natal dancing in unison as  
Inkatha Freedom Party (Ifp)  
leader Mangosuthu Buthelez)  
played, is losing thythm,  
3ix days into a period allow-  
/ing MPs and MPLs (0 cross the  
floor without losing their seats,  
the party finds ftself in a  
quandary as it strugglos to re-  
tin ts hold over the province  
and the coveted premiership.,  
Party members in the  
KwaZulu-Natal legislature have  
been made to sign pledges  
decloring their loyalty ay the  
African Nationa| Congress  
(ANC) juggernaut leaves no  
stone unturned In ity attempl  
ta wrest control of the provinee  
from the IR  
Following the defection of  
former IFP member and edy-  
cation MEC Gabriel Ndaba-

ndaba to the ANC, Omie Singh  
from the Demacracatic Alliance  
(DA) to the ANC, and the res-  
lgnatlon of former 1150 Ml,  
Theresa Millen ly fonn her  
OWN party, the balance of pow.  
er in the provinee is dpped In  
favour of the ANC,

This leaves the IFP with 33  
seats to the ANC's 34, The DA,  
which is 4 coalition pariner of  
the IFD has six: the Uniled  
Democtutic Movement hag  
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The Minority Front and the

New National Party, both ANC allies, have two and three seats respectively. The African Christian Democratic Party has two,

This means that the ANC needs only two defections to govern the province and indications were that the party is spending sleepless nights (ry-

" In order to lure IFP members,

JEP spokesman Reverend Musa Zondi says: "We've got proof that senior ANC leaders

-are talking to our members, something which is threatening to destroy our relations." The

He says the 1149 will also join us inside the ANC to take control of the province. He will focus his energy on preparing for next year's general elections,

Political analyst Aubrey Matshiqi believes that the balance of power in the province will harm relations between the two parties at both national and provincial levels,

ANC spokesman Mitholephi Mthimkhulu refused to be drawn into whether the party would get the two members it required to take control of the province.

The IFP is increasingly becoming irrelevant for progress in KwaZulu-Natal, he said. The IFP has surely reached its sell-by date, it is only a matter of time before it closes shop.

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Political analyst Aubre  
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