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ISOLEZWE, ULWESIBILI, JUNI 24, 2003

# Sicela abomNyango bafeze izethembiso

**MHLELI - Ngithi**  
angiphawule njengomuntu  
osebenza ngaphansi  
komNyango wezeMfundo  
ngale nsumansumane  
yamasekhula asekhishiwe  
mayelana nokushintshwa  
kwezinto (restructuring)  
nezindleko zakhona.

Ngesikhathi uMnyango  
wezeMfundo usisusa  
ezindaweni esasisebenza  
kuzo, wasithembisa ukuthi  
uzobhekana nezindleko  
kodwa manje usujika  
endleleni.

Nasethembisa imali  
engcono, kodwa manje  
seniyayehlisa ngoba  
sesihambile. UmNyango

ususivukele esiswini  
njengotshwala ngoba  
kwathiwa asikhethe  
izindawo esifuna ukuya  
kuzo, sakhetha, sihe  
sisalindile kwakhishwa  
isekhula entsha  
esishintshile.

Safakwa ezindaweni  
ezithandwa yizikhulu,  
sathula. Izindawo  
esisebenzela kuzo azinazo  
izinto zokusebenza ezanele;  
sicela izikhulu zomNyango  
zisicabangele ngokuthi zifeze  
ezakuthembisa.

Aziyeke ukushintsha  
izinto manje.

**Muntukhona Mahlubi  
ONDINI**

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# I-ACDP ifuna kuxoshwe uSomlomo waKwaZulu

## S'KHUMBUZO MIYA

Ebika eseMgungundlovu

## KULINDELEKE ukuthi

ingene namhlanje  
impikiswano yamaLungu  
esiShayamthetho saKwaZulu-  
Natal ngesiphakamiso  
sokukhishwa esikhundleni

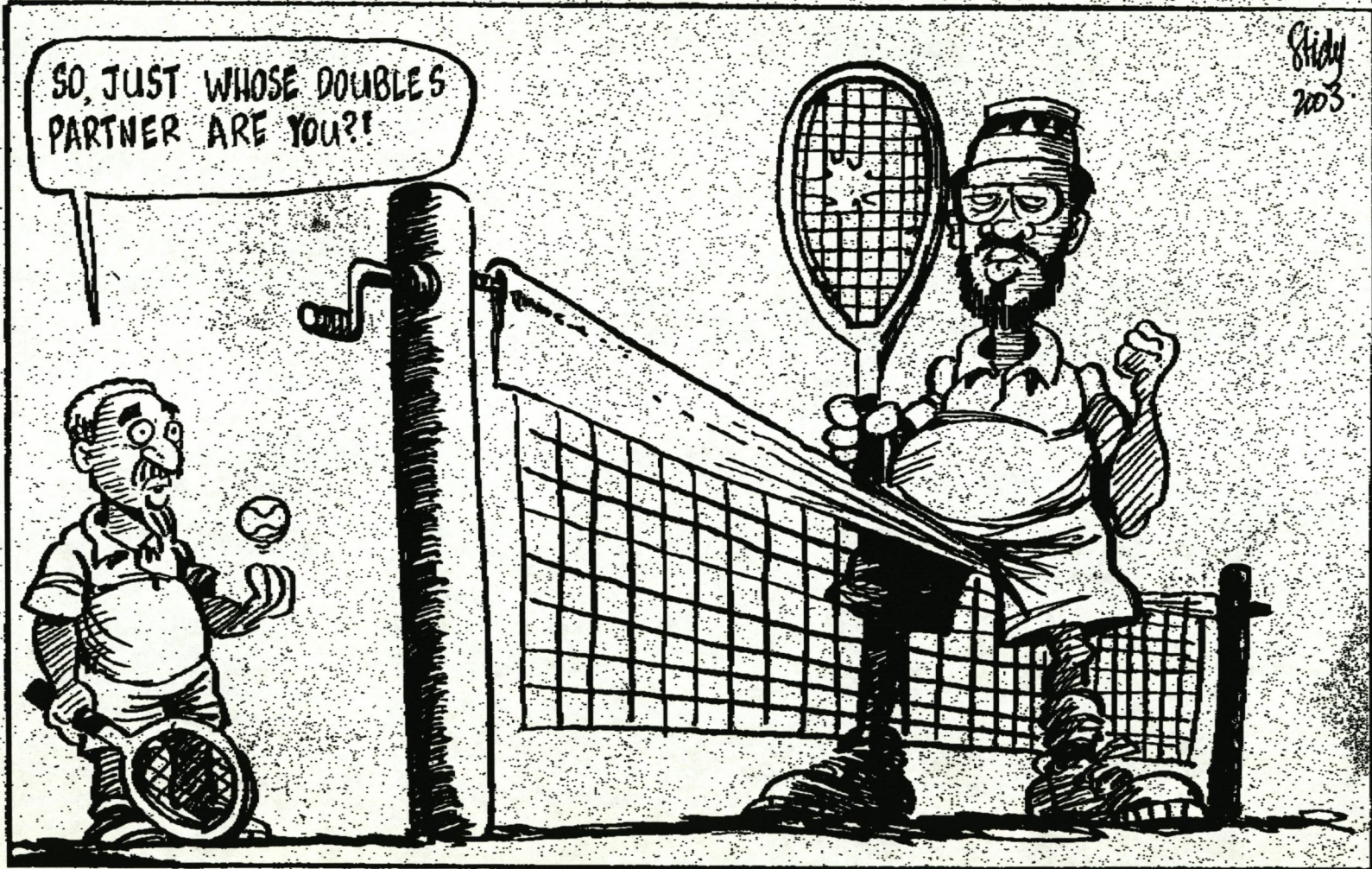
kukaSomlomo Inkosi uBonga  
Mdletshe weNkatha Freedom  
Party (IFP) nesizokwenziwa  
yiLungu lesiShayamthetho  
elimele i-African Christian  
Democratic Party (ACDP),  
uNkk Jo-Ann Downs.

Isiphakamiso se-ACDP  
obekulindeleke ukuthi  
senziwe izolo, asibanga  
khona ohlwini  
lweziphakamiso zosuku  
ngemuva kokuba iPhini  
likaSomlomo, uMnuz  
Willies Mchunu,  
ememezele ukuthi  
isiShayamthetho sithole  
incwadi kadokotela  
ekhomba ukuthi  
uMdletshe akaphathekile  
kahle.

Ukwethulwa kwalesi  
siphakamiso  
kwisiShayamthetho  
kubhekeke ukuthi  
kushubise imimoya  
phakathi kwamaqembu  
amakhulu kulesi  
sifundazwe, okuyi-IFP  
ne-African National  
Congress (ANC),  
njengoba uKhongolose  
enqume ukusiseka lesi  
siphakamiso.

I-ACDP eyenza lesi  
siphakamiso phezu  
kokuthi inelungu  
elilodwa kulesi  
siShayamthetho,  
ibonakala yethembele  
kwi-ANC enamalungu  
amaningi  
kwisiShayamthetho  
njengoba inawu-35.

Phakathi kokunye,  
kulesi siphakamiso  
uDowns ubalule ukulova  
kukaSomlomo,  
ukungasukumeli  
ezokuphepha  
nenkohlakalo eyabikwa  
wumcwangingi-mabhuku.



# Feisty fighter in new role

**S**INCE announcing her resignation from her political home of so many years and the formation of her new party the Independent Democrats, the former Pan Africanist Congress firebrand MP Patricia de Lille seems to have been doing some ground-work.

On Saturday, she formally launched her party, drawing 500 delegates from all nine provinces.

"We have been working very hard and are doing very well. We are here to launch our policies and we are taking politics back to the people of South Africa where it has always belonged. We are here to get back to the basics," she said.

De Lille says her party is working towards capturing 3% of the in 2004 election vote. This is a far cry from the 1% that the PAC has achieved in the last election - with her as part of the party leadership.

What remains to be seen is how she hopes to increase 14 000 secured votes (this assuming signed up members announced on Sunday will be there to vote for the ID in April) to about 2.2 million in the next 10 months.

The question is what is De Lille going to offer the electorate that is - for example - different from her former party the PAC or even the Democratic Alliance which is aiming at getting 10% of the votes?

De Lille has acknowledged that broadly the ID is in agreement with the ruling African National Congress policies.

"Where we differ is at the level of implementation. We will look at what it is that the Government is supposed to be doing in terms of its policies and ask questions why it is not implementing those policies," said De Lille during a post launch media briefing on Sunday.

She, for example, applauded the Government's statement about its new position on Aids - commonly known as the April 14 statement - in which Government committed itself to "a comprehensive HIV-Aids programme that includes prevention and treatment and ways of ensuring that anti-retroviral drugs were affordable to people living with Aids".

This question to be asked, she said, is why has the Government up to date not implemented the April 14 statement and made anti-retroviral universally available to people living with Aids.

In this regard the ID's question will resonate with those asked by the organisations such as the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) and even the Congress of South African Trade

Patricia de Lille punched far above her weight for the PAC in Parliament, now she seeks to do even more as leader of a new party, writes Political Editor Ido Lekota



Independent Democrats president Patricia de Lille and her deputy, Professor Themba Sono, are the only high-profile politicians in its ranks. They need more.

Unions (Cosatu) as well as church organisations such as the South African Council of Churches (SACC) on this matter.

Other issues on which the ID will seemingly strike a chord, especially with the poor and the vulnerable in the society, include the call for a basic income grant and the extension of the child support grant to all children under the age of 18 by 2004. This has been the position of a coalition of organisations including the churches and the labour movement.

Another important matter that the ID has identified as a rallying point is the issue of child and women abuse. In its draft policy the ID argues - whether correctly or not - that there is currently no national strategy on

child abuse and neglect prevention.

The party is calling for the drawing of such a strategy.

This issue has already drawn some backing, judging from the message of support received from a group of anti-women and child abuse, called Kililo.

The group comprises mostly black professional women who intend establishing a centre for abused children and women in Soweto.

In a sense this is what will differentiate the ID from the DA - the possibility of having key civil society organisations identifying with its campaigns. What remains to be seen is whether this identification could then translate in votes from the masses the interests of which these civil society organisations claim to be repre-

senting. Another edge that the ID has over the DA is the fact that De Lille, as the party leader, does have some political credibility.

Her actions in Parliament - including the exposure of the controversial arms deal - have to a large extent assisted her in building an image of being a "freedom and a corruption buster".

The fact that former head of the special investigation unit Advocate Willem Heath was a guest speaker at her party's launch - where he delivered a speech blaming President Thabo Mbeki's legal advisers for the flaws in the arms deal - is an indication that De Lille has all the intention of continuing flogging the corruption horse to her advantage.

There are, however, a few dangers that De Lille as the leader of the ID should be wary of. Already there is a perception that her party could serve as a political home for disaffected members of the coloured community - especially in Western Cape - whose intention is to get at the mainly African-led ANC government.

Already included in her leadership are individuals such as former Western Cape police commissioner Lennox Mack, who resigned after alleged political interference by the ANC MEC for safety and security Leonard Ramakatsane.

When he left, Mack claimed that political interference was making it impossible for him to become what he was good at - being a committed policeman.

Now he holds a political position in opposition of the ANC as the ID secretary for safety and security.

As one of the guest speakers at the launch, political commentator and director of the Steve Biko Foundation, Dr Xolile Marigou, warned that the ID "should not allow itself to become a cynical anti-African government force".

However, De Lille has already countered this, arguing that she is "a true Pan Africanist who will use her roots to build a completely non-racial party".

Another major hurdle that De Lille has to overcome is to have more prominent and credible people in her party.

During her speech on Saturday, she dismissed the notion that her party needed prominent people for it to be taken seriously.

"Prominent and credible by whose standards?" she asked.

The objective reality is that political parties in this country (and probably everywhere else in the world) thrive on the kind of leadership it has. That means leaders who - in the eyes of the public - have built a credible profile for themselves as members in their various stations of life.

Presently De Lille and - some may argue - her deputy, Professor Themba Sono, are the only high profile members known to the public.

This has got to change if the ID wants to position itself as a contending force in the South African scenario. This may mean that De Lille should work hard and either steal some disaffected high profile members from other political parties - or work hard to lure prominent individuals who currently claim to be apolitical but are influential in South Africa politics.

THE NATAL WITNESS, TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2003

## **NEW ENTRY RULES FOR VISITS TO UK**

SOUTH Africans planning to visit the UK for longer than six months will have to obtain entry clearance before departing, the British High Commission announced yesterday.

Spokesman Nick Sheppard said the new regulations, effective from November, will not alter the conditions under which South Africans and other non-Europeans may enter the UK, only the procedures to be followed.

"The applications will be processed by the British High Commission in Pretoria, rather than by an immigration officer at Heathrow Airport," said Sheppard.

"This means they will spend far less time going through passport control on arrival, as their eligibility to enter the UK will already have been checked."

Sheppard said other countries whose citizens will have to apply for entry clearance before they arrive for long stays in the UK are United States, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Further information on the new regulations is available on the UKvisas website ([www.ukvisas.gov.uk](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk)) or the British High Commission website ([www.britain.org.za](http://www.britain.org.za)). The inquiry number is 012 483 1402.

## THE MERCURY

## Plan to cut school crime

**KRISENDRA BISETTY**

THE KwaZulu-Natal education ministry has released an action plan it hopes will result in a reduction in crime and violence in schools.

The plan entails the establishment of a provincial school safety committee that will have, among its tasks, the development of a coherent school safety picture and establishment of a safety monitoring system.

District school managers are to be empowered to provide regular information on crime problems, which will be addressed by the committee.

The plan was revealed yesterday by KZN education minister Narend Singh at an inter-ministerial education and safety and security summit on school safety in Durban, attended by about 100 officials, parent representatives and teachers' unions.

Singh said there had been an "alarming" rise in crime, drug and alcohol abuse in schools.

The first meeting of the provincial safety committee is due to take place next month.

Schools with a high incidence of serious crime are to be selected for targeted crime-prevention programmes.

THE MERCURY

# THE MERCURY

FOUNDED IN 1852

## Election Jockeying

**C**ONTINUING fulminations in KwaZulu-Natal between the ANC and the IFP, no doubt, have as much to do with the impending elections as anything else.

Electioneering is certainly a part of the process of democratic government, but the people of this province may be excused a certain weariness with a process of political gamesmanship which has now been dragging on for about a year.

The province has to be actually governed, as well as disputed for political control, and there is a danger of the quality of governance suffering if the party composition of the provincial cabinet is to be endlessly contested.

An election, possibly in less than a year, will decide who will govern KwaZulu-Natal for the next five years. Until then, all in the current coalition would best serve the electorate by getting on with the job.

There can be little doubt but that the majority of the voters – in KwaZulu-Natal as well as nationally – approve of the ANC/IFP coalitions which operate at national and at KwaZulu-Natal provincial level because they have restored the peace and provided a pragmatic framework within which the truly challenging issues of the future can be addressed.

Political figures do their cause no good at all by posturing. Most voters are sane enough to know their interests lie in stability and growth, not the short-term fortunes of political parties.



Tuesday June 24 2003 **SOWETAN**

# 'Mbeki trying to cloud real issues'

**DURING** debate on the President's budget, I issued the following call to President Thabo Mbeki:

If we start focusing on the real issues of jobs and crime and Aids, then you and I can carry on a debate about solutions to the great problems affecting our people. This could only benefit South Africa.

But if the president insists on making all questions into matters of race, then we are going to find ourselves in a dead-end street.

Mbeki chose not to take up my suggestion. Instead, in his response he accused white compatriots of denying our country's apartheid past and its impact on the present.

The President knows I have never said South Africans must simply forgive and forget. On the contrary, in April's debate on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission I noted, in Mbeki's presence: The TRC has done a magnificent job in exposing atrocities of the apartheid era. We must never forget them; we must work to ensure that their like never happen again.

The Democratic Alliance agrees with him that persisting racism and racial disparities in our country constitute an obstacle to the achievement of the goal of national reconciliation.

But we vehemently object to his accusation that those who question the Government's conduct are determined to prove everything in the anti-African



**Tony Leon**

stereotype. We also cannot accept his practice of repeating such stereotypes *ad nauseum*, using shocking and grotesque imagery to drown out any discussion of the real issues at hand.

South Africa can never focus on the acute problems of joblessness, HIV-Aids, and crime if we remain stuck in the cul de sac of racism.

When Mbeki is ready for honest dialogue about the real issues, he will find the DA more than willing to participate.

**Tony Leon MP**  
Leader of the Opposition,  
Parliament

# Bahlongoza ukusesha ezikoleni

**KHEHLA MFEKA**

**B**AZOBHEKANA nokuseshwa abafundi bezikole zaKwaZulu-Natal uma luphumelela uhlelo lokuqinisekisa ukuphepha ezikoleni oluhlongozwa wumNyango wezeMfundo kulesi sifundazwe.

Emizamweni yokuvimba ukuhlaselwa kothisha nabafundi emagcekeni ezikole osekudlangile kulesi sifundazwe, lo mNyango uthi lolu hlelo luzosiza kakhulu kanti lungaqeda nokuphathwa kwezidakamizwa.

Ezinyangeni ezimbili ezedlule kubekhona izigameko zokudubulana kwabafundi ezikoleni ezahlukene.

Kwesokugala eZibukezulu High School, eMbali, kwadutshulwa umfundi nguzakwabo.

Lesi zigameko salandelwa ngesinye khona eMgungundlovu ngesikhathi umfundi

waseSmeru Secondary School edutshulwa ebulawa nguzakwabo emagcekeni esikole. Ngalo lelo sonto umfundi waseShowe wadutshulwa ngomunye ngesikhathi bekhombisana ukusebenza kwesibhamu.

EChafsworth, eThekwini, intombazane yesikole yagwazwa nguzakwabo kanti naKwaMashu kwabikwa isigameko esifanayo.

Yilezi zigameko ezenze ukuba abathintekayo kweze mfundo kanye nakwezokuphepha balusukumele lolu daba.

UNgqongqoshe wezeMfundo kulesi sifundazwe, uMnuz Narend Singh, nozakwabo wezokuPhepha, iNkosi uNyanga Ngubane, izolo bazibophezele ekuqinisekiseni ukuthi kube nokuphepha ezikoleni.

Kodwa bathe lokhu kuyophumelela uma nomphakathi ubamba iqhaza eligcwele. USingh uth

uphenyo lwabo lwakamuva abalwenze ezikoleni ezingu-20 eThekwini namaphethelo, luveze ukuthi u-16 wamaphesenti abafundi uphatha izikhali esikoleni.

"Isikhathi sokukhombana ngeminwe ukuthi ngubani okufanele aqinisekise ukuphepha ezikoleni sesiphelile. Kufanele siqhambuke nezinhlelo ezizosebenza, kanti bonke abathintekayo kufanele babambe iqhaza," kusho uSingh.

Uthe izikole eziningi zikhala ngokuthi azibiyiwe futhi azinabo onogada kodwa yena akakuboni lokhu njengenkinga enkulu ngoba ezikoleni lapho kwenzeka lezi zigameko kubiyiwe.

UNgubane uthi lesi sivumelwano sokusebenzisana kwale mNyango siseyisigalo nje.

Lolu hlelo kulindeleke ukuthi luqale ukusebenza ngoniyaka ozayo.



**UNgqongqoshe** wezokuPhepha KwaZulu-Natal, iNkosi Nyanga Ngubane, nozakwabo wezeMfundo, uMnuz Narend Singh, izolo bazibophezele ekuqinisekiseni ukuphepha ezikoleni zakulesi sifundazwe. Isithombe: Patrick Mtole

# Lacklustre attitude to HIV/Aids continues

*There is a high level of official denial even as the Aids death rate mounts, writes Kerry Cullinan*

**I**T IS HARD to believe we live in a country where so many of those aged between 15 and 49 who died in 2000 did so from Aids-related illnesses, according to the Medical Research Council.

Hard, because there is still a disturbingly high level of denial from communities and from the government about exactly how badly we are affected by HIV/Aids and there is no coherent operational plan to deal with the virus.

There is also a general lack of consensus about exactly what we need to do to prevent new infections and how to treat those who are already infected - conservatively estimated to be around 5 million people.

On April 17 last year, the cabinet finally realised it was losing popular support because of its stance on HIV/Aids.

Thus, it issued a "statement of hope" in which it conceded that anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs could slow the progression of Aids and said it would offer rape victims free ARVs as post-exposure prophylaxis.

**I**T SEEMED that South Africa had finally turned a corner and stakeholders could now concentrate on fighting HIV/Aids instead of fighting one another.

But in recent months tension has once again mounted between the government and sections of civil society over the government's apparent reluctance to properly explore the provision of ARVs in the public sector.

In addition, the government's continued association with Aids "disidents" who dispute that HIV causes Aids once again raised temperatures, particularly after health minister Manto Tshababala-Msimang invited disident Dr Roberto Giraldo to advise her on nutritional matters following an earlier invitation to him to address a Southern African Development Community nutrition conference.

The biggest expression of public disappointment in the government's approach to HIV/Aids, took place on February 14 when the Treatment Action Campaign organised a march on parliament to coincide with its opening. The march was supported by more than 10 000 people.

According to the TAC, South Africa is now "out of sync with most SADC countries who have commenced treatment programmes". Botswana offers free ARVs through public health, while Namibia and Mozambique have recently announced plans to treat 200 000 and 100 000 people respectively with ARVs over the next few years.

Another of the TAC's civil disobedience demands is that the government "returns to the negotiations at Nodlac and makes a commitment to signing a framework agreement with business, labour and the community on a national HIV/Aids prevention and treatment plan".

For months last year, the government, business and civil society negotiated a plan at the National Economic, Development and Labour Council.

The TAC thought the negotiations had progressed "very well" and "consensus was reached within the HIV/Aids task team on most areas of the framework agreement, including the principles and challenges of ARV access".

However, when the TAC met

deputy president Jacob Zuma last October, he indicated the government might need until February to finalise the agreement.

The TAC agreed to wait until then. But, although business has since agreed to proposals made, government has yet to return to Nodlac with its mandate.

The TAC believes the talks were "derailed by political opposition" when health officials Dr Ayanda Mzila and Dr Nono Simelane reported back to Tshababala-Msimang.

"From the optimism of the negotiations we now feel that we are back in a dark and difficult situation - once again characterised by political denial about HIV," the TAC said.

**"PRESIDENT** Mbeki's refusal to recognise the gravity of the HIV epidemic in his state of the nation address seems to be proof of that."

The government responded by denying that any agreement had ever been reached and stated that it would only be able to decide on whether ARVs could be used in the public sector once a joint treasury-health department task force working the matter had reported back.

However, the TAC has condemned that approach, saying: "We cannot be reassured by the existence of a secretive committee of the departments of health and finance, whose research cannot be subject to

public scrutiny but which will form the basis for a cabinet decision of enormous import. This policy causes many preventable deaths."

The government does have an HIV/Aids strategy but it is simply a broad set of guidelines and not an operational plan with targets for every clinic, school, municipality and province.

As a result, the implementation of the HIV/Aids strategy is very uneven in the country. Gauteng province has for a number of years run an impressive multi-sectoral HIV/Aids programme, yet other provinces virtually do not have any HIV/Aids programmes and consistency falls to zero for the disease.

Moreover, there is no one who holds a high position in government who is consistently speaking out about HIV/Aids.

Deputy President Jacob Zuma has been designated to do so. But he has been devoting most of his energies to brokering a peace plan for the Cpeq.

Despite the government's inability to fully control itself, and communicate even its partial commitment to fighting HIV/Aids, progress is being made. The government has increased the budget allocation for HIV/Aids from R322 million in 2001/2 to R3.6 billion in 2005/6.

It expects to distribute 400 million free condoms before the end of the current

year, using outlets such as she-beans as well as clinics.

According to a government news release in mid-April, 650 government hospitals and clinics now offer HIV-positive pregnant women and their newborn babies Nevirapine, to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission.

By the end of December last year, almost 7 000 babies had been given Nevirapine. As the transmission rate from HIV-positive mothers to their babies is around 30%, that means the programme has saved about 2 100 babies from HIV infection.

**H**OWEVER, while the government is now claiming its mother-to-child programme as an achievement, it should not be forgotten that the government was forced to extend its offer of Nevirapine to all its health facilities after the TAC brought court action against the health minister and her provincial counterparts.

Had it failed to roll out the Nevirapine programme, the government would have faced a contempt-of-court charge.

The government's statement listed another achievement: voluntary HIV counselling and testing was available at 882 sites at the end of 2002.

Internationally, voluntary counselling and testing is considered key in getting people to take personal responsibility for their HIV status, either by changing their behaviour to

ensure they remain HIV negative or adopting healthy lifestyles if they test positive.

However, a recent assessment of the government's voluntary counselling and testing services by the Health Systems Trust found that most of the test sites were in health facilities, thus many of those who went for the test were either sick or pregnant and had been referred by health workers.

In essence that means very little "voluntary" testing was occurring.

Prof Richard Feachem, who heads the Global Fund to Fight Aids, TB and Malaria and was recently in South Africa, found that there are many positive aspects to government's fight against HIV/Aids.

"From the mood in the country it is not a question of if but when the public sector delivers anti-retroviral drugs," Feachem told journalists.

Yet, the figures speak for themselves. There was an increase of 30% in the death rate of women teachers under the age of 35 in KZN from 1999 to 2000, according to a study of personnel salary records by the health economists and HIV/Aids research division at the University of Natal.

An average of 35 teachers a month died in KwaZulu-Natal in 2000, and the average age at the time of death was 36. By 2010, actuaries predict that life expectancy in South Africa will be around 36.

Thus, failure by the politicians to recognise HIV/Aids as a massive social threat is matched by communities' denial and silence. Until communities are prepared to come the threat posed by HIV/Aids and pressure their councillors and MPs to take up the issue, politicians will be able to get away with their lacklustre approach to HIV/Aids.

**Q**This article appears in the latest issue of Focus, the magazine of the Helen Suzman Foundation.

# IF 'KILL THE BOER' ISN'T HATE-SPEECH, WHAT IS?

**MUST** the slogan "Kill the Boer, Kill the Farmer" be allowed as part of freedom of speech, or should it be used as a test case to determine what really is hate-speech?

I was vehemently criticised because we dared to appeal to the Human Rights Commission against this slogan. The criticism was that we could start restricting freedom of speech in South Africa through our appeal.

Of course, it is very important that freedom of speech in South Africa should not be impaired.

We have seen in Zimbabwe what the result is if that happens. But Zimbabwe is also a cruel example of what can happen if people are

allowed to practise hate-speech without limitation!

According to Section 16(2)c of the constitution, hate-speech is regarded as the advocacy of hatred that is based on race or ethnicity and which constitutes incitement to cause harm.

If the slogan "Kill the Boer, Kill the Farmer" is not regarded as hate-speech according to this definition,



MULDER

this section in our constitution can be removed.

Nearly 1 500 farmers were brutally murdered on their farms over the last couple of years. No freedom-of-speech argument can justify this.

During the hearing of our appeal before the Human Rights Commission, one of the counter arguments that was raised was the opinion that this slogan was only used to mobilise people and that the words could not be interpreted literally.

If "Kill the Boer" does not mean "Maak dood die boere", what does it then mean?

I would really like to see the reaction if other political parties

started using similar slogans in order to "mobilise" their people.

The Freedom of Expression Institute also argued during the appeal that the slogan should be allowed because a non-racial organisation like the ANC would never intend something evil with such a slogan!

Mugabe's Patriotic Front is also a non-racial organisation!

I am convinced that everything possible must be done to prove that this slogan be regarded as hate speech. It is in the interest of peaceful coexistence.

DR PIETER MULDER  
Freedom Front leader