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# SA's peer review on track, Mbeki pledges

Wyndham Hartley

Parliamentary Editor

CAPE TOWN — President Thabo Mbeki yesterday slammed reports on the government's alleged rejection of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism report as devoid of all truth, insisting that selective reporting was aimed at discrediting SA.

In the strongest denial yet of reports that the government had substantially disagreed with the peer review panel and had rejected the report, Mbeki said that in fact most of the panel's recommendations had been incorporated into a programme of action.

SA's peer review process has been marked with controversy from the outset, amid suggestions that the civil society partners were selected for their compliance and that changes were made to earlier reports. The intention of the peer review process is to promote political stability and economic growth in Africa.



Thabo Mbeki

Responding to a question from Democratic Alliance (DA) leader of the opposition in the National Assembly Sandra Botha, Mbeki advised her to chase the commentators away and to believe what he was saying because "I promise you they are not telling the truth and I am certain that I am being more truthful than the commentators".

Botha had suggested "numerous reputable commentators" had suggested that the review report had been heavily edited.

Mbeki also advised Botha to be patient because the process stressed that the review panel's report had the status of a draft until it was placed before the "peers" and this would happen at the African Union summit in Accra in July.

Then there was a period of six months before the reports were made public, he said.

SA was constrained by this process and could not comment on the substance of the report.

He lashed out at reports about the peer review report being doctored, saying that people had gained access to early drafts and had selectively taken information to discredit the country.

Mbeki also got involved in the recent furore over African National Congress (ANC)-promoted

Continued on Page 2

## Mbeki's peer review vow

Continued from Page One

name changes in Durban, which drew opposition from the Inkatha Freedom Party and DA.

Mbeki warned that changes were necessary and inevitable because the country was no longer a colonial outpost but a proud African country. Unlike in the past, new names should not be imposed on the country and should enjoy the support of the majority of the people.

He suggested that perhaps the National Geographic Names Council hold public hearings to hear at first hand what people felt on the issue. He said that in considering name changes, legitimate

sensitivities should be taken into account and "we need to debunk the myth that some communities are being marginalised".

He said that the last 300 years of colonialism and apartheid had left an imprint on SA that gave the wrong impression. The issue of name changes was one of the critical challenges facing the country in the transformation process, Mbeki said, adding that soon the government would put a proposal before the nation on the way forward.

He reminded MPs that changing names was mandated in the constitution and was also recommended by the truth commission.



# BUSINESS DAY

Friday, June 1 2007

## A clear threat

**H**ARD to believe that a single inflation figure could make such a difference to the outlook, but April's shock 6.3% consumer price inflation rate had economists racing yesterday to revise their forecasts sharply upwards. Suddenly, everyone is calling for the monetary policy committee to hike interest rates when it meets next week — and castigating the committee for not acting earlier.

Surely one month's data can't, on its own, be that decisive? And that's especially so given that monetary policy is supposed to look forward, not backward. But it's precisely this that is part of the answer. The most recent Reserve Bank forecast said it was probable that inflation would rise to hover just below the top of the 3%-6% target range in the second quarter of this year, but would not go through 6%.

The April figure shows the forecast to have been too optimistic, which is why private sector economists, and no doubt the Bank itself, have taken another look at their assumptions.

As important is that when inflation comes in well above consensus forecasts, as the latest CPIX figure has done, it means that something is happening that economists had not factored into their models. And that thing tends to be about changes in pricing behaviour, reflecting the emergence of what economists call "second round" effects.

We knew the petrol price had risen sharply in April and the once-off impact of higher transport costs should have been captured in all the forecasts. We knew too that certain food prices had risen. But clearly there were increases in retail prices that went beyond those drivers, and that provides a strong indication, for the first time in a while, that an inflationary spiral may be starting to

develop. Higher food and fuel prices feed higher inflationary expectations which then prompt businesses to hike a range of other prices.

They prompt trades unions to demand higher wage increases, too. The double-digit percentage increases unions are asking in the public sector and the mines are evidence of that. And high wage settlements could in turn fuel further inflationary pressure.

So April's 6.3% CPIX inflation rate, which was much higher than March's 5.5% and the consensus forecast of 5.9%, has been taken as a clear sign that we are in danger of a spiral that could continue to pressure prices in months to come. If that's the case, a rate hike is needed to put the lid on expectations.

That may be particularly important with wage talks going on in some key sectors.

Employers and trades unions may be looking not so much at the headline inflation numbers but at the breakdowns. And with food inflation running at 8.4% and inflation for the low-income group at 7.4%, no one is taking 6% that seriously as a benchmark. Wage rises that go with productivity increases don't cause inflation, but productivity is hardly assured.

And as it turned out yesterday, the consumer price inflation figure was not the only signal of a deteriorating outlook. Producer price inflation has been running ahead of consumer price inflation for some time. April's figure came in at a hefty 11.1%, up from 10.3% in March and, disturbingly, most of the pressure was from local manufacturers and not imports. That's likely to feed through to consumer prices soon. So while we should never read too much into just one month's figures, the risks, as they say, are now clearly on the upside.

## Disease control

**T**HE problem of uncooperative tuberculosis (TB) patients is not new to SA. Doctors have long complained that those infected with the disease, which demands long-term treatment, are inclined to stop taking their medication as soon as they are feeling better, increasing the prospect of relapses and promoting the evolution of drug-resistant strains.

However, what was an issue that concerned few outside the medical fraternity has become a matter of intense public interest now that extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB is a reality. This is especially so in the context of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, since those who are carrying the virus are particularly vulnerable to TB infection, and the mortality rate among those infected with the XDR version is exceptionally high.

Most worrying is the fact that XDR-TB is spreading steadily, implying that official efforts to contain the lethal strain are failing. The death of a fifth patient in Western Cape, confirmed earlier this week, coincided with reports that the 22-

bed isolation unit that was set up at Brooklyn Chest Hospital is full. As a result, a highly infectious patient had to be sent home for a few days while arrangements were made to establish a new isolation facility.

Contrast that with the response of health authorities across Europe and in the US this week when an XDR-TB patient was found to have ignored quarantine instructions and travelled internationally. He is now in detention, and the US Centre for Disease Control is co-operating with its European counterparts to track down anyone he has had contact with, including all fellow airline passengers, so they can be tested and treated if necessary.

Overreacting to the threat of XDR-TB runs the risk of driving the disease underground, since patients are understandably reluctant to accept the need to be detained indefinitely. At the same time, the government has a responsibility to protect the public from what threatens to turn into a deadly epidemic. At the very least, we have the right to expect a sense of urgency.



## Censor threat fades as MPs fix media law

PRINT and broadcast media in SA have been handed a reprieve from proposed controversial legislative changes that critics said amounted to censorship, writes Thom McLachlan.

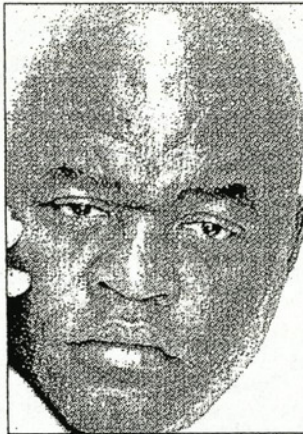
Yesterday, Parliament's portfolio committee on home affairs decided that the exemptions removed from the draft Films and Publications Bill, which aimed at cracking down on child pornography, would be reinstated to protect press freedom.

Committee chairman Patrick Chauke said the decision to revise the bill was the culmination of robust engagement between the committee, the media and others.

Chauke said that under no circumstances would the ruling African National Congress

government have passed a law that undermined press freedom. "It is evidence that this parliament of SA is not a rubber stamp but a parliament that takes people's views very seriously," he said.

A legal requirement to submit stories before publication would, critics said, have amounted to censorship. The industry, together with other role players, had said previously that should the bill not be revised it would fight the matter in court. *With Sapa*



Patrick Chauke



# Beeld wins eNatis tussle

Government wasting taxpayers' money trying to suppress news, says editor

Louis Delofse

Sapa

PRETORIA — The public's right to know about possible security problems with eNatis outweighed confidentiality concerns over the information, the Pretoria High Court found yesterday.

Judge Dion Basson dismissed, with costs, an application by Transport Minister Jeff Radebe to interdict Beeld newspaper from publishing a story on the security problems with eNatis, the computerised vehicle licensing system.

He dismissed the arguments of Radebe's counsel, Pat Ellis SC, that by publishing the story Beeld would put confidential information on security gaps in the old Natis and the new eNatis into the public domain. This, he argued,

could result in misuse.

Basson found that the information Beeld had obtained, from a leaked management report by the auditor-general on a network audit of the old Natis system, highlighted "mainly failures of management".

This was the argument of advocate Sias Reyneke SC, on behalf of Media 24, owners of Beeld. He said the newspaper planned to write about the "maladministration and poor governance" which led to security gaps in the old Natis and new eNatis systems.

"It is not because the system is designed that way. It is because it is not managed. It is because there is no governance of the systems," he told the court, adding that the auditor-general report highlighted "weak

passwords and password policies" and "access by users to powerful utility files and even blank passwords, allowing anyone to access the system".

Reyneke argued that the department had known about the security problems since February when the auditor-general's report highlighted it — and probably longer — but nothing was done to fix them.

"The press should not be blamed for blowing the whistle on maladministration and poor governance," he said.

Following the court's verdict, the director-general of transport, Mpumi Mpofu, told reporters outside court she believed that the eNatis system was now safe.

She called the ruling against the department "a minor setback" and said the department

would study the judgment before considering further action.

Beeld editor Peet Kruger, who attended proceedings, said he was "elated" by the verdict.

"I think this finding of the court says to the director-general that she should take the public in her confidence and tell us what they are doing to fix the problems with eNatis."

He said it was concerning that the media had to defend more and more interdict applications in court.

"Eventually one should hope that government gets the message that they are wasting taxpayers' money. I think it's unfair that we (taxpayers) should pick up the tab.

"We should tell them that they should stop dealing with the press in this way," he said.



# Public servants start strike today

Services set to grind to a halt as angry unions accuse minister of lying to public and Parliament

Amy Musgrave and Chris van Gass

THE public sector strike, which is expected to bring services across the country to a near standstill, starts today.

Unions lambasted Public Service and Administration Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi yesterday for "lying" to Parliament after her assertion that a "major breakthrough" had been reached in pay talks that have dragged on for 10 months.

"Either the minister is misinformed by her negotiators, or she is deliberately misinforming public service workers and the general public as to the present state of negotiations," said National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) president Nolutshando Mayende-Sibiya.

Public Service and Allied Workers general secretary Success Maitatsane backed Mayende-Sibiya, saying: "It is a fact. The minister lied both to the public and Parliament."

However, the cabinet backed Fraser-Moleketi yesterday, and disputed union allegations.

Tension is high among workers over what they call the government's lack of movement in talks. Union leaders warned yesterday that Fraser-Moleketi's "propaganda" had angered them.

This is likely to lead to union negotiators digging in their heels on their demand for a 12% pay hike. The government is offering

6%, while April's inflation figure was 6.3%.

Union leaders said the Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council had agreed to float a working document for the purposes of "exploring" possible settlements, and insisted that no deal had been reached.

Seventeen unions with more than a million members will participate in indefinite mass action.

The strike will affect government services across the board, including teaching, border control, airports, police, hospitals, correctional services and courts.

The Labour Court last night prohibited employees in essential services from striking.

Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) Western Cape secretary Tony Ehrenreich warned foreign travellers wanting to visit SA to reconsider their plans as no immigration and customs personnel would be on duty. This was expected to cause chaos at the two main international airports, OR Tambo in Johannesburg and Cape Town International Airport.

But Airports Company SA assured travellers last night that a contingency plan had been agreed on.

"We do not expect any major impact on airport operations," said communications manager Solomon Makgale.

Nehawu general secretary Fikile Majola said labour had been attempting to draw up min-



Essential services such as hospitals and border controls will be affected by the strike.

imum service agreements for sectors in the public service for five years. He said Cosatu's lawyers had drafted a proposal for a minimum service agreement, and unions had negotiated separate deals with some institutions, including hospitals. "Responses have varied. At Chris Hani Barag-

wanath (in Soweto) we have agreed to certain things," he said.

Asked if workers would strike where there was no agreement, he said: "We will impose our own minimum service."

The cabinet expressed "hope" yesterday that an agreement would be reached "sooner" rather

than later, saying: "We reject any insinuation that government is insensitive to the plight of its employees. In the event of a public sector strike, measures will be put in place to ensure that government business continues."

Opinion & Analysis: Page 15



# The stark similarities between Blair and Mbeki

**T**ONY Blair is putting on a brave face during his farewell visit to SA as Britain's prime minister. He will not have forgotten that President Thabo Mbeki recently tarnished his carefully manufactured reputation as a friend of the continent.

At February's World Economic Forum in Davos, Mbeki used unprecedented language to accuse Blair of hypocrisy. His offence had been to cancel, in effect, an investigation by Britain's Serious Fraud Office into a BAE Systems arms deal with Saudi Arabia, while allowing an investigation of that company's past relations with the South African government to continue.

Whatever its immediate causes, the Davos rift marked the end of a match made in heaven. Blair came to power in 1997 just as Mbeki was taking control in SA. Eerie parallels soon conjoined the two administrations. Both men were bold transformers of parties to

which they did not seem fully to belong. They entered power as technocrats and retreated from ideology to the "third way". Blair's "joined-up government" inspired Mbeki's "policy co-ordination", Downing Street and the Union Buildings sprouted similar policy units, and SA's cabinet office was fashioned on a Whitehall template.

Even their critics sounded the same notes. Each was labelled a centraliser determined to destroy cabinet government. Both administrations were accused of failing to exploit the best economic environment in a generation. Both leaders have also failed to understand or creatively reform state institutions. For this reason, the vast resources they have poured into dysfunctional schools, health systems and social grants have arguably gone to waste.

Economic stability was anyhow secured not by Blair and Mbeki, but by Gordon Brown and Trevor Manuel. A



**ANTHONY BUTLER**

premier's role is not to claim credit for his finance minister's achievements, of course, but rather to sell economic policy to citizens and activists. But Blair's party ditched the leftist Clause IV of its constitution out of cynical electoral calculation rather than as a result of genuine ideological conversion. Mbeki

did worse still, imposing Gear's necessary programme of economic stabilisation without persuading a sceptical African National Congress of its merits.

Blair the leader was created by the Labour Party's communications genius, Peter Mandelson, and his tenure was scarred by the abuse of "spin".

Mbeki's people learned some of their dark arts of perception management from New Labour, and concealed the difficult realities of government behind a defensive gloss. Problems cannot be solved if they are always denied, however, and ministers in both administrations have hidden inaction and incompetence behind infantile rebuttals of evident realities.

While the two men began as champions of modernity, they turned into the conciliators of ethnic entrepreneurs and traditional leaders. Blair, in particular, stoked English nationalism and abandoned constitutional modernisation to court the "royal family".

The two leaders' paths converged dazzlingly in 2005, when their African agendas briefly achieved a heady synergy. Blair's Commission for Africa rescued Mbeki's faltering New Partnership for Africa's Development, boldly pushed the continent up the western policy agenda, and secured modest gains in debt relief and increased aid.

Blair typically neglected to sell his Africa vision to his successors in the Group of Eight (G-8) and European Union presidencies. His simplistic reading of his own plan — as an exchange of aid for good governance — placed too great a weight of expectation on Africa's leaders. He also overestimated the determination of G-8 leaders to confront alleged business malpractice in their own countries.

BAE Systems operates in an important strategic sector and represents a major employer and foreign currency earner for Britain. When it was revealed that the Serious Fraud Office was

investigating hundreds of millions of pounds of potentially questionable "commission" payments by BAE, it placed Blair in a quandary from which he made a predictable escape. Mbeki's accusation of "hypocrisy" was an understandable if cruel assessment. Yet Mbeki, who chaired the cabinet sub-committee that approved SA's arms deal, did not emerge that well from the spat. Former ANC MP Andrew Feinstein acutely observed that Mbeki was resentful that Africa was treated unfairly, rather than that a legitimate corruption investigation was suspended.

It remains to be seen if the two men will bow out more or less together.

In Blair's case it required a putsch by backbench Labour MPs last September to force him to recognise that he had become a burden to his party and his country.

■ *Butler teaches public policy at the University of Cape Town.*

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BUSINESS DAY, Friday, June 1 2007

PUBLIC SECTOR STRIKE/Karima Brown

# More than percentage points at stake

**D**EMOCRATIC SA is no stranger to strikes and industrial action, so today's strike by public sector workers, after wage negotiations with the government fell through after eight months of tough talking, is hardly surprising.

In the 1990s, the government and labour fought pitched battles over the government's drive to privatise state-owned enterprises and its attempts to "right-size" the public service.

In 2004, public sector workers again downed tools, this time with the backing of conservative, mainly white, public servants' associations. Public opinion swung behind the strike as skilled and unskilled workers took on the government.

It does not take rocket science to make the link between low pay in the public sector and its dearth of skills and the poor service delivered to communities. Poor working conditions, appalling salaries and a lack of benefits are all cited as reasons why nurses, legal professionals, doctors, engineers and teachers have been fleeing the public sector for the private sector or overseas. It must, however, be noted that the advent of democracy in 1994 coincided with increased globalisation and economic liberalisation at home, resulting in rapid changes in the economy, often

with negative consequences for jobs. The public sector did not escape the onslaught but the government's determination to trim what was clearly in many instances a bloated and inefficient civil service was justified. But right-sizing the public service often also resulted in downsizing, and not always in appropriate areas.

In recent years, the government has shifted, especially on its understanding of the role of the state in providing services and creat-

ing economic growth. The Expanded Public Works Programme, through which the state will spend R400bn to kickstart areas of the economy, is a good example of this. Government also seems to have come round to the realisation that a well-trained and skilled, properly resourced and better-paid public service is not a luxury but a necessary starting point for service delivery and growth.

In his recent online letter in ANC Today, President Thabo Mbeki put it thus: "We must do much more to train and create a public service that meets the highest professional stan-

dards, that is proud of the fact that it exists to serve the people, that is patriotic and selfless, that fully understands the historic significance of the esteemed position it occupies as one of the principal architects of a nonracial, nonsexist, prosperous and egalitarian SA."

**'Cosatu is of the view that the government can no longer serve two masters'**

tinuously improve service to society, through enhanced public infrastructure, efficient systems and requisite personnel. We approach these issues proceeding from the premise that the state has a critical role to play in providing public goods such as health, education, housing, public transport, education and social security," says the ANC's draft Strategy and Tactics document.

The new approach was grudgingly acknowledged as being on the right track by the government's critics, including the labour movement, which lambasted Mbeki for initially

adopting a minimalist approach to the role of the state in economic development.

But while there is broad agreement about economic growth, there are major disagreements about how to defeat poverty and inequality. So we have today's dichotomy — between what the government refers to as the "developmental state" on one hand, and the abiding belief of many social activists, and even within the tripartite alliance, in a socially embedded "democratic state".

The modes of operation inherent in both models are at the heart of the tension between the government and labour on how to address the challenges in the public sector. Unsurprisingly, the "developmental state" is suddenly a buzz word in government circles.

On the other hand, labour and civil society complain about government's seemingly one-dimensional and undemocratic view of the state, which entails "informed" technocrats deciding what the people need and then pressing the button marked "delivery" to make it happen.

If we cut through the posturing that traditionally accompanies wage talks, it is clear that something more fundamental, perhaps more philosophical, than the traditional haggling over percentage points is

happening. SA will never have industrial peace in the public sector until we have a common understanding of what the state should be, what it should do, and how it should do it.

"It will cost the state in the region of R7bn more if they were to make an offer of 9%. But they won't budge," a senior Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) leader says. "The irony is that the government is prepared to give back the R100bn in the form of the recent (budget) surplus to the wealthy, but won't budge on double-digit wage increases for public sector workers. In fact, the intransigence of the government's negotiators expose the falseness of its rhetoric about the 'developmental state'," he complains.

Cosatu is of the view that the government can no longer serve "two masters" and says that it will have to choose. "On one hand, Mbeki is reeling under protests from the poor and workers and he is making appropriate noises in the ANC, but in government he still wants to satisfy conservative economic global players, such as the World Bank and foreign investors," says the Cosatu leader.

At the end of this strike, we will know to which master the government bows.

■ Brown is political editor.



BUSINESS DAY, Friday, June 1 2007

# Vital for leaders to hold their gaze on strike's inevitable horizon

STRIKES are not what they used to be. In the 1980s, when I was a young teacher, white people and black teachers did not go on strike.

In debates with some of the people now leading teachers' unions, we were told it was unprofessional to strike and that teaching, like the priesthood, was not a career but a calling. As a result, the most radical action teachers' unions were prepared to take was to organise annual choral music competitions, and it was not deemed "unprofessional" for teachers to use lesson time for choir practice.

In an attempt at making sense of the political conduct of black teachers, we advanced the argument that the apartheid state had succeeded in co-opting sections of the black middle class, hence the inability of black teacher unions to be critical of the power and hegemony of the apartheid state. As for white people, it was com-



**AUBREY  
MATSHIQI**

mon sense to us that they would never act in a manner that disadvantaged their government and economy. But how things have changed!

A member of the South African Communist Party and cabinet minister stood in front of the National Assembly this week and assured the

nation that the discussion document crafted by the task team charged with finding a compromise between the positions of government and labour was a "breakthrough". Public Service and Administration Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi then added that she hoped the imminent public service strike would be averted. In the present climate, I will say nothing about government propaganda in case I succumb to hyperbole and start evoking names such as "Goebbels".

But the public sector unions did not see the discussion document of the task team as a breakthrough and,

fortunately, restricted themselves to using words such as "misleading".

This means we are going to see black public servants teaching the toyi-toyi and revolutionary songs to their white counterparts in the streets of SA. The rest of the public service will, as from today, join the continuing strike at the home affairs department.

In case you think I am unsympathetic to the demands of public servants, I assure you I am not. As a former teacher, I think what we pay our teachers, police officers and nurses is embarrassing and not in concert with the level of service delivery we expect.

I do concede, however, that the education budget is to some degree akin to pouring bags of money into a black hole. But, if the argument is that teachers do not deserve a salary increase, the same argument can be made for the education minister, her provincial counterparts and senior officials, who are responsible for providing leadership to the national and provincial education departments.

The underperformance of our schooling system must, therefore, be blamed on politicians, our education departments and teachers who have a poor sense of their responsibilities. In

short, the failure to provide decent education, especially to the disadvantaged, is one of the most spectacular failures of the past 13 years.

Since this failure in education and in other areas of service delivery reflects in part on the performance of public servants, leaders of public sector unions must remember that there is no such thing as an "indefinite" strike and that at some point during a prolonged strike, public opinion will turn against public servants, particularly those in the education sector.

Furthermore, a prolonged strike divides workers at the point where the individual circumstances of union members begin to negatively affect the need for worker solidarity. An indefinite strike in the public sector also tends to reach a point at which public opinion is mobilised against public servants since citizens, as taxpayers, have a lower tolerance threshold for labour action in the public sector, and decision-makers in government who enjoy the luxury of not managing private profit, can pretend that their intransigence is in the public interest.

It does not help either that public servants have to contend with both the perception and reality of a low

"efficiency index" in the public service, supported in part by the view expressed in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Country Report that "the capacity of state institutions to deliver services effectively will remain weak for as long as skills constraints persist".

Union leaders must, therefore, think carefully about balancing mass action with the imperative of avoiding an outcome that delivers a salary increase that is not commensurate to the sacrifices made by workers.

For government, the challenge lies beyond the narrow victory of making savings in the wage bill because as the APRM report argues: "The government should proceed expeditiously with regard to the establishment of a single and unified public service to allow for skills and human resources allocation across the three spheres of government." This must be part of the broader approach of ensuring a healthier balance between effective service delivery and the job satisfaction of public servants.

■ Matshiqi is a senior associate political analyst at the Centre for Policy Studies.



# A new vision for the public service

**C**ONVENTIONAL narratives on the public service suggest rent-seeking bureaucrats, rampant corruption and outdated rules. But, for all its bad publicity, it is the public service that provides access to services, care, grants and skills, especially to poor communities. Targeting poverty requires that public service reform be rapid and systemic. An efficacious and effective public service is vital to the government realising its goals of halving poverty and unemployment by 2014.

Given the importance of wage negotiations to implementing a reform programme, why have the government and unions once again treaded the path towards deadlock?

The most important reason is that dialogue on wider reform questions has not preceded salary negotiations. The questions facing the government in implementing its reform programme are complex. Balancing the budget with sufficient pay and opportunities to attract high-quality applicants to build up public service capacities is a difficult task. In the context of high levels of unionisation and an incrementally developed system of protection for workers, union support is a requirement for successful implementation.

Ironically, there is significant common ground between unions and the government today. Traditionally, the government's summation of the public service labour market is that it was paying too much for lower-skilled jobs, and too little for management positions. As a result, the government implemented a systematic reform programme for managers and professionals. At the same time, it closed down jobs in the lowest salary band.

During the current wage negotiations, nuances have emerged from the government, especially with the introduction of the "occupational specific dispensation". The proposals mark the first attempt to deal with questions of mobility between salary bands and attracting young graduates into the public service. This is broadly what unions have been advocating since 1999. Yet, without dialogue, it is difficult for negotiators to convince unions of its merits.

The government's proposals raise questions about the efficacy of the major restructuring agreement signed in the public service. This



agreement has resulted in the government and unions agreeing to a convoluted process of matching organisational structure to staff numbers, which ultimately means an expensive and administratively complicated retrenchment process.

The assumption behind this agreement is a bloated public service. Yet the number of public servants has decreased 15% since 1996. More importantly, fiscal restraints have led to the closure of posts, with vacancies of between 22% and 40%.

Given these realities, the process agreements reached by unions and the government seem not only wrong-ended, but counterproductive to building public service capacity.

The unintended consequence of these agreements is that implementation is extremely difficult, and probably impossible. Through providing the employer with a system that makes retrenchments both costly and administratively complicated, unions have crafted a system of job security. This partly accounts for the confidence of unionists in

suggesting an "indefinite strike".

The more foundational reason for a renewed militancy among unions is that workers are not sharing the fruits of economic growth. The Congress of South African Trade Unions has long indicated that one of the consequences of the growth path is that labour's share of the economy has been reduced. This declining share is part of the reason for rising levels of inequality in SA, as are high levels of unemployment and very low wages for many workers. The convergence of these factors begins to explain the higher demands from unions across sectors, including the 12% increase demanded by public service workers.

Unionists realise that shifting the growth path to the poor requires reclaiming power. The unilateral implementation of wages in 1999 effectively increased the government's power over wage outcomes. Unions have grappled to find conditions to leverage against the government. Public service unions may have found these conditions, finding a stronger bargaining position.

Through blocking a multiyear agreement and proposing annual wage negotiations, the unions have asked the government to make a choice between annual labour strife on the one hand, or predictability of wages with higher settlements on the other. But-tressing this manoeuvre with effective mass action could see the power pendulum swing back to the unions.

The challenge is to reconfigure bargaining to reach developmental ends, especially in the public service. For instance, the availability of high-quality maths and science teachers is crucial to improving the skills of, and providing opportunities to, poor children. The problems in the supply of these skills across the public service are multiple, including lack of students using training opportunities, migration for higher pay and entry-level salaries.

The creation of internships and bursaries are important first steps by the government in ensuring that the supply problems in the public service are resolved. These are once again areas that unions would support if

dialogue processes were followed.

The decline in the number of public servants is worrying given the inability of the South African economy to absorb new entrants into the labour market. The public service should be playing a role in absorbing new entrants. The typical rejection of this argument is that increased public service employment is simply a tool for generating and redistributing rents. But recent cross-country analysis shows that relatively safe government jobs represent partial insurance against external risk. This research argues that the growth of public service jobs is more pronounced in countries facing external risk. SA's reliance on commodity prices, among other factors, increases its risks, yet its public service has declined — an indication that the economy is more vulnerable.

Any reform programme, however, comes up against budget constraints. Adjustments to the percentage of the public service wage bill to about 35% of the budget could provide significant investment to attract, retain and create new jobs in the public service, without having the negative effects of crowding out other spending. In fact, if increased employment goes together with service delivery improvements, it may lay the foundations for reaching employment and poverty reduction goals. The suggestion is heresy in many sectors, but might just be a pragmatic and innovative response to a growth trajectory that fails to absorb labour and deepens inequality. Moreover, increasing the personnel budget could be financed through reprioritisation, rather than by increasing taxes or deficits.

SA needs to craft a long-run vision for the public service, and a long-term plan to realise it. To arrive at this agreement will require navigating complex power arrangements, a history fraught with antagonism and introducing pragmatism in the debate on public service reform. The question is, can the state and unions provide the necessary leadership?

■ Hassen is an independent policy analyst, writing in a personal capacity. This article is based on research he is undertaking for the Employment, Growth and Development Initiative at the Human Sciences Research Council on the role of public service in halving unemployment.



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# Expand HIV testing: WHO

## People need to know their status

**V**OLUNTARY HIV tests should be offered to all patients attending clinics, for whatever reason, in countries where Aids is widespread, the World Health Organisation said yesterday.

Elsewhere, testing is recommended for all patients attending selected facilities, such as antenatal or sexual health clinics.

Issuing new guidance to governments, the global body said a major expansion in testing was essential if the world was to beat the HIV/Aids pandemic, which has killed more than 25 million people in the past quarter of a century.

The Aids virus today infects around 40 million worldwide, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa, where just 12% of men and 10% of women know their HIV status.

"This is radical in the sense that things have to change,"

WHO HIV/Aids director Kevin De Cock said.

"Across the world, people with HIV are flowing through healthcare settings, not being diagnosed and not being offered the advantages of knowing their status."

Drugs can hold HIV at bay and keep patients alive, but unless people know they are infected they will not seek treatment.

They are also more likely to infect others.

The WHO says less than 20% of HIV-positive people in low and middle-income countries know they are infected.

The situation is better in rich countries, yet even in United States an estimated 25% of infected people are unaware they are carrying the virus, while in Europe the rate is around a third.

Until now, most testing has been "client-initiated", with in-

dividuals having to actively seek an HIV test.

But in future, the WHO wants to see "provider-initiated" schemes, with testing becoming the norm at health centres, unless a patient declines.

Universal coverage is recommended for countries gripped by a generalised epidemic, where the HIV prevalence rate in pregnant women is consistently above one percent - which includes most of Africa and parts of the Caribbean - while targeted testing is suitable for concentrated or low-level epidemics.

Some countries in Africa, such as Botswana and Kenya, have already started broad testing programmes and De Cock said the price of around \$1 (R7) for a simple, rapid test meant that cost should not be an insurmountable obstacle.

Reuters

## Cell C says Q1 loss almost doubles

SOUTH Africa's third-ranked mobile firm, Cell C, said its first-quarter net loss almost doubled as a weaker rand inflated its debt servicing costs, even while it boosted revenues and increased subscribers.

Chief Financial Officer Muhieddine Ghalayini said yesterday the company's net loss widened to R369.5 million in the three months to end-March from a loss of R186.5 million in the year-ago period.

Ghalayini said unrealised

foreign exchange losses had caused the bigger net loss as a weaker rand made servicing its dollar and euro-denominated debt more expensive.

He said the company's first-quarter revenue increased to R1.8 billion from R1.45 billion and subscribers rose more than five times to about 3.3 million.

Ghalayini reiterated that Cell C's main shareholder, Saudi Oger, had received indications of interest from potential buyers but he did not know

how far talks had progressed.

Cell C has just 8% of SA's cellphone market and is struggling to compete with its bigger rivals Vodacom and MTN.

Ghalayini said the company was not facing liquidity problems since it had an unused R600 million loan facility available from Nedbank and R500 million available in shareholder loans. He also noted its bottom line in May would be more positive since the rand had strengthened. - Reuters



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**Daily News**  
FOUNDED IN 1878

## Dialogue must be the way

**U**NIVERSITIES should be places of higher education where the young can experiment with social and intellectual parameters in a controlled environment. When the police have to be called in to exercise the necessary controls, it reflects badly on the institution and the students.

The University of KwaZulu-Natal has had more than its share of controversy recently and this week had to call in the police to disperse hundreds of protesting engineering students who were blocking the entrance to an exam venue. When the students refused to move despite police warnings, stun guns were used and students claim some of them were injured in the resulting melee.

The police then opened the gates the students had padlocked to prevent other students from entering the exam venue.

Engineering students had complained that they were given insufficient time between the end of their academic modules and the start of exams for proper preparation and had tried the "diplomatic approach" but this had failed so they had decided to make their feelings known through protest action "as a last resort".

While the engineering students may have had a valid gripe, they had no right to prevent other students from writing exams the results of which could have a long-term effect on their futures. Because of this, the university authorities may well have been justified in calling the police.

However, universities are a microcosm of society and such disagreements will inevitably arise as they do in the world outside the university gates. It is therefore important that differences are resolved around the table to demonstrate to the young that problems can be solved through dialogue instead of the use of force.

A compromise has been reached and the students will be able to write their exams, but such incidents are worrying for parents, students and staff. They also erode the credibility of the institution and this no university cannot afford.

## Mbeki backer fired from ANC

**BONGANI MTHEMBU**

THE clash between backers of President Thabo Mbeki and ANC deputy president Jacob Zuma intensified yesterday when a well-known Mbeki supporter was expelled from the party by a disciplinary committee dominated by Zuma supporters.

Philip Mhlongo's expulsion came after Siyanda Mhlongo had written letters to the ANC's national executive committee finger-

ing senior ANC provincial leaders for being behind the plot to block Mbeki from visiting the province.

Both Mhlongos also suggested that Senzo Mchunu, provincial general secretary of the ANC and Bheki Cele, Minister of Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, had been partially responsible for the walk-out during Mbeki's address at the reburial of Moses Mabhida in Pietermaritzburg.

Philip Mhlongo said he was taking the case to the ANC's national executive committee. Siyanda Mhlongo's political career also hangs in the balance as he faces expulsion. He is accused of insulting Zuma.

The chairman of the disciplinary hearing, Siyabonga Cwele, reportedly told the media that Mhlongo's expulsion had nothing to do with national leadership or the divisions in the ANC. The Mhlongos have criticised the messages written on T-shirts which read "JZ 100% Zulu boy", saying that it created a distorted image of Zulu nationalism.

Philip Mhlongo added that Zuma backers were lying that the province had taken a position to support Zuma during the elective conference in November. "We have not chosen anyone yet to lead the ANC," he said.



PICTURE: BONGIWE GUMEDE



# 11th-hour talks fail

## All systems go for strike, say unions

AYANDA MHLONGO,  
BHAVNA SOOKHA  
and MONICA LAGANPARSAD

**U**NION leaders spearheading tomorrow's national strike have predicted that it will be the biggest the country has ever seen and could virtually bring cities to a halt.

Yesterday, the province's public service unions announced that it was "all systems go" for the indefinite strike, which comes after last minute negotiations between the unions and government reached a deadlock.

A spokesman for the Congress of South African Trade Union (Cosatu) said that even if talks between them and the government resumed before tomorrow, the strike would still be staged as planned.

A 6.5% to 9% increase will form the basis for government and unions to continue talks to resolve their wage dispute.

A discussion document on the latest proposals was described by Public Service and Administration Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi in parliament yesterday, as "a major breakthrough", but unions have said nothing positive should be deduced.

According to the South African Democratic Teachers' Union, there will be a total shutdown of schools.

When the *Daily News* called schools this morning, some said they would be notifying parents today whether schools will be open.

Durban High School, Glenwood High School, George Campbell Technical High School, Orient Islamic School and St Anthony's School will be opened while Sastri College and Burnwood Secondary School will be closed. Parents have been asked to check with schools.

Health services around the province are also expected to be severely affected.

Regional secretary of the National Education Health and Allied Workers Union, Khayelihle Nkwanyana, called on all workers to "work in a manner that drags their feet". Only Intensive Care

### How you could be affected

**EDUCATION:** Parents may find themselves having to make alternative arrangements for the children during the day as most teachers will join the strike.

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:** There may be delays and the public will have to wait in long queues for applications and grant collections.

**HOSPITALS AND CLINICS:** People can expect long queues at government hospitals as only a small number of nurses and clerks will be working. Doctors and nurses in critical units will however work. There are also likely to be delays at the medication counters as the staff there will be on strike.

**DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS:** Service delivery at all home affairs offices may be very slow, so those wanting to apply for ID books, birth certificates, passports and other documents will have to wait in long queues.

**POLICE:** Although police fall under essential services, officers who are off-duty or on leave may take part in the strike. Police officials who are not involved in crime prevention are expected to participate in the strike. Court officials are also expected to join the public service strike.

Unit personnel would be on duty.

To add to the service woes, KwaZulu-Natal's taxi operators are considering joining the national strike. It was still not clear whether the police officers would "fully" join the strike. Durban's courts, however, are expected to go on a go-slow.

Independent unions have also announced that they will participate in the Cosatu-led strike.

The Federation of Unions of South Africa said that while it did not traditionally resort to such action, it supported the looming public service strike.



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# Blair arrives in South Africa

**BOTHO MOLOSANKWE**

POMP and ceremony heralded the visit of British Prime Minister Tony Blair who arrived in South Africa this morning accompanied by his wife Cherie and a number of UK delegates.

Blair, who is stepping down as Prime Minister next month, is in the country to hold discussions with President Thabo Mbeki. His visit comes ahead of next week's G8 Summit in Germany, where Mbeki has been invited as part of the African group.

As the Blair plane touched down at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg there was a buzz of activity on the ground.

Security officials and police rushed around, speaking on their walkie talkies.

Security officers stepped inside the plane to make sure that everything was fine before hurrying out again. A group of soldiers marched forward carrying the South African and British flags. They formed a guard of honour alongside the red carpet, awaiting Blair - who



BRITISH Prime Minister Tony Blair arrives at OR Tambo Airport for a state visit to South Africa. He and his wife Cherie are welcomed by the High Commissioner, Lindiwe Mabuza

PICTURE: CHRIS COLLINGRIDGE

stepped out smiling. The Blairs were received by Paul Botang, British High Commissioner to South Africa, Justice Minister Bridget Mabandla and Lindiwe Mabuza, South African High Commissioner in London. After greeting and embracing a few people, Blair waved to the crowds and was whisked away

in a dark blue BMW.

Cherie Blair climbed into a red Jaguar. The two cars left, tailed by a heavily armed security convoy. The cavalcade headed to the Union Buildings in Pretoria where Blair was scheduled to meet with Mbeki.

BLAIR'S AFRICAN  
SAFARI: PAGE 13



# Blair's African safari

## Talks with Mbeki on Zim crisis

PETER FABRICIUS

**O**UTGOING British Prime Minister Tony Blair who leaves office on June 27, began his last tour of Africa with a surprise visit to Libya on Tuesday as British Petroleum signed a big natural gas exploration deal that will take it back into Libya after an absence of three decades.

Blair will also visit SA on his farewell tour and will hold talks with President Mbeki tomorrow. The Zimbabwean crisis and the G8's lagging implementation of its generous promises of aid to Africa will be major topics in their talks, Blair has indicated.

He will also be visiting Sierra Leone and Liberia, two West African neighbouring countries that have emerged from decades of terrible conflict and are now fragile democracies.

In South Africa, Blair will pay a courtesy call on former President Nelson Mandela, and will deliver a major policy speech on Africa and visit a development project which receives British financing.

Blair is also expected to press Mbeki to act on the "desperate crisis in Zimbabwe". The timing should be quite good for Mbeki who will be able to assure Blair that he has all but persuaded Zimbabwe's ruling ZanuPF and opposition MDC to meet in SA next month to start formal negotiations to create a political dispensation for free and fair elections.

The two leaders are expected to discuss how Blair can give the G8 a final push before he leaves to keep the



BRITISH Prime Minister Tony Blair shakes hands with Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi after a meeting at the colonel's headquarters in Sirte, near Tripoli. Blair arrived in Libya on Tuesday at the start of his farewell African tour seeking to bring about action on Darfur and climate change

PICTURE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

promises for a big increase in aid to Africa which they made at the summit he hosted at Gleneagles in 2005.

Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma told Parliament on Tuesday that Mbeki would participate in the summit and together with other African leaders of the founding Nepad countries and the chairman of the African Union would "assess how far the Gleneagles commitments of 2005 have been implemented".

Earlier deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad had told journalists that SA was confident that Britain's good relations with SA and Africa would be continued by Blair's successor. However he also hinted that Mbeki would seek Blair's continued support for Africa even after he left.

This apparently referred to reports that Blair intends to establish a foundation to address Africa's problems.

Blair declined to confirm this because he said nothing had been finalised, but added that he would help Africa in any way he could.

Blair's visit has been veiled in considerable secrecy for security reasons and his trip to Libya was apparently only announced at the last minute. He met Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in a further step on the road back to normal relations which were shattered by the involvement of Libya in the blowing up of a PanAm passenger jet after it took off from London's Heathrow airport in 1988. The Boeing 747 crashed into the Scottish town of Lockerbie, killing all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground.

Mandela played an important role in the negotiations which led to Gaddafi handing over two Libyan officials who were charged with placing the bomb.

Relations between the UK, other Western nations and Libya also improved dramatically after Gaddafi in 2004 gave up a programme to develop nuclear weapons. This led to the lifting of sanctions and the start of the return of Western oil companies to the North African country.

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# Education Department rejects scissors ban

IRENE KUPPAN  
and AYANDA MHLONGO

THE KZN Department of Education has no intention of banning scissors from the province's schools.

This is an option other provinces are considering after an incident in the Western Cape where a pupil was stabbed to death with scissors.

Moegamat Kannemeyer, a 17-year-old Eerste River Secondary School pupil, died on Monday after he was attacked with scissors by a fellow pupil.

It is believed that the two

boys had been arguing when Kannemeyer, a Grade 9 pupil, was stabbed in the neck and chest during break.

Speaking after the death of Kannemeyer, Western Cape Department of Education Minister Cameron Dugmore said his department was considering banning scissors in schools.

He said that if scissors were needed during lessons they could be supplied by the school instead of being brought to class by pupils.

Christi Naude, spokeswoman for the KZN Education Department, said they would

not be calling for a ban on scissors at schools.

"The terrible incident again emphasises that any instrument can be used as a weapon. Even an ordinary pen or chair can be used to hurt a person. Therefore the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education does not envisage a ban on scissors," she said.

Parents also believe that a ban on scissor is not the solution to addressing violence in schools.

Sayed Rajack, chairman of the Parents' Association of KZN, said pupils' violent ten-

dencies needed to be changed.

"The next thing you know schools will be banning rulers and pencils. All the stationery pupils use could become a problem," he said.

Rajack said pupils who became violent while at school needed to be strongly reprimanded.

"We need to look more critically at these problem pupils and make sure proper punishment is meted out to them. Too many children believe they can assault another pupil and the only action taken against them will be that they get released

into the safety of their parents. Parents need to take responsibility for their children."

The National Teachers' Union said that while the ban on scissors would not solve the violence in schools, it could be a solution if similar incidences continued to take place.

"The problem is that these instruments are needed in the daily learning exercises, so banning them could create a problem.

"What is needed at schools is discipline and teaching children to respect both their peers and teachers," the union said.

## Umlazi school tackles drug problem

BHAVNA SOOKHA

THE use of drugs at an Umlazi, Durban, high school has got so out of control that the principal and school governing body have decided to get the police involved.

Police from the local social crime prevention unit together with a psychologist, state prosecutor, community policing forum and student governing body members met at Ndukwenhle High School this week to discuss the problem with pupils.

Speaking to the *Daily News*, principal Bongani Ngwane said they had noticed a drug problem developing early this year.

"In March we started smelling dagga on the school

grounds and we noticed pupils were unable to pay attention in class. We also noticed a significant drop in the marks of some of the pupils and that was when we decided to get in some help," he said.

"We wanted to make pupils aware of the consequences of taking drugs and we wanted to do it sooner rather than later - that was why we called in all the relevant stakeholders."

Speaking to the pupils, Umlazi prosecutor Kubashnee Naidoo sent out a stern message.

"If you are caught with drugs you will be arrested because it is against the law. And don't think that if you come in with your school uniform that we will feel sorry for you," she said.

"If you are convicted and sent to jail your fingerprints will be taken and for the rest of your life you will have a criminal record. Imagine trying to apply for a job after you study? That conviction will follow you to your grave."

Naidoo asked the pupils if they wanted to become a statistic or if they wanted to make something of themselves.

"You will find yourself in prison if you continue to take drugs. Is prison where you see your future?" Naidoo asked the pupils.

Capt Gary Naicker and Insp Khephu Ndlovu, members of the area's social crime prevention unit, said this was the 16th school they had visited since the beginning of the year.

"We are visiting both pri-

mary and high schools in the area, and since we have started on this project there has been a definite drop in crime," said Naicker.

"We have noticed a drop in discipline-related incidents, theft and burglaries."

Ndlovu said the safety, security and drug awareness day was held after an initial visit to the school a few weeks ago.

He said during that visit they had noticed pupils arriving late to school and that they arrived in batches suggesting they had assembled somewhere before coming to school.

Grade 10 pupils at the school, Siyanda Nhlumayo and Mxolisi Mnqayi, said they were happy the police had intervened as the drug problem was "very bad" at the school.



LETTERS

# ID documents still a nightmare

THE current nightmares experienced by the public in trying to obtain identity and travel documents still continues although these have been overtaken by the eNatis debacle at the Transport Department.

I went to Home Affairs in December 2006 to apply for an identity document for my son who needed it to register for the 2007 matriculation examinations.

They promised that it would be posted to me within three months.

We waited patiently for five months and went back to Home Affairs in Pinetown to enquire.

Imagine my surprise when they checked on their system and told us that it had been posted in February 2007 and, because no one had received it,

it had been sent back to Pretoria. This is virtually impossible as I have a private box and check mail regularly.

I was given a number in Pretoria to call and had no success as it just rings.

The number at Home Affairs in Pinetown also continually rings. I have reached a deadlock as I am not sure who to call or who to write to.

I hope someone from Home Affairs can give me some direction on how to move forward from this point.

It is sad and regrettable that my son and many other people who are similarly affected may miss years of schooling because of inefficiency and poor communication in these departments.

N MAHARAJ  
Nagina

# I agree with strikers

IT IS INTERESTING the way we have the threat of looming strikes by members of the public sector.

I have never seen the need for strikes, but in this situation I am 100% behind the different unions in this matter.

It is an absolute slap in the

face for the workers and members of the different unions, especially since the minister saw it fit to grant most MPs increases varying from 20% to 75%. How do they justify such exorbitant increases?

DEREK WILLIAMS  
Durban

# Why I feel so strongly about crime

CAN you imagine it – you are enjoying yourself at a restaurant and then a scumbag comes and shoots you?

Why don't they just take people's belongings and leave them alone?

The man who got killed at the restaurant St Tropez was celebrating a friend's birthday.

Our country is becoming sicker each day. My condolences go to the family and friends of Marc Joubert.

To all criminals: does it ever occur to you that when you shoot somebody, one day you will be shot at?

The Bible I read says: "Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you."

It is very sad that we cannot find a safer place to continue with our lives without criminals intimidating us.

How many women and young children get raped and killed in this country? It is very depressing to find that we have to be watched by security while



BHEKI CELE

trying to enjoy ourselves because of crime.

The cruel methods the robbers are using are more ruthless than those in any other country.

It looks as if they are competing with criminals from other countries, wanting to be seen as the worst criminals in the world.

In South Africa taking one's life is nothing serious.

How many innocent people's lives must be lost our government sees a need to bring back the death penalty? Why does the government protect people who are not just a threat to us as members of the society, but to the leaders themselves as well?

The minister of safety and security had his house broken into not long ago. If those criminals got him in the house what does he think they were going to do? Mr Bheki Cele, you were going to be killed.

We either take control or the

criminals will continue to rule without any fear.

One may ask: why do I feel this strongly about crime?

The reason is that I have been a victim of crime. I lost my big sister, who was raped and strangled, and my brother was shot. Both incidents took place in Thokoza Location near Mpolweni Mission, New Hanover. They never did any wrong to their attackers, but they lost their lives and it still hurts when I think of them.

The worst part of all is that the guy who strangled my sister ran away from his home and we never got to the bottom of the case.

We are begging our government to reconsider hanging killers.

I will never get over the pain they caused to our family until I know that both perpetrators are punished.

NOMATHEMBA  
PHUNGULA  
Hammarisdale



**DAILY NEWS**  
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# Skills shortage 'not an urban legend'

**JANINE STEPHEN**

LIKE a true urban legend, the debate around South Africa's supposed skills shortage just won't go away.

This week Minister of Education Naledi Pandor joined the discussion, telling the National Assembly that she found the urban legend "amazing" and that there definitely was a shortage of skills in the country.

She said that perhaps the misunderstanding had arisen because "there are people in our country who do not easily find opportunities for work, and clearly this needs to be addressed".

"There are people who are trained, but not trained for the opportunities that are available in our society and therefore there's

a mismatch," the minister said.

She was responding to Democratic Alliance spokeswoman on home affairs Sandy Kalyan, who had said that an analysis of the 2005/06 annual reports for all 26 national departments found that government had some 40 000 vacant posts.

Kalyan in turn was responding to Commission of Employment Equity chairman Jimmy Manyi, who last week called the SA skills shortage an urban legend.

Kalyan branded Manyi's urban legend theory "bizarre".

"There is an under-utilisation of skills," Manyi was quoted as saying in news reports. "Skilled people who are out there are simply ignored."

Manyi reportedly blamed this

on racism. Deputy president Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was next to enter the fray, agreeing last week that there was some truth to Manyi's views.

The deputy president said that unemployment of black graduates could be attributed to them having skills that were misaligned with the skills in demand.

Pandor yesterday also disagreed that the blame for addressing the skills issue should be placed entirely on the Department of Home Affairs.

Kalyan had said that "red tape and bungling" in home affairs choked the country's ability to benefit from foreign expertise.

She suggested that government make use of the pool of skills held by asylum seekers and refugees in South Africa.



# Renaming guidelines

## Proposals must be motivated

HEINZ DE BOER

**D**URBAN'S street renaming exercise should inspire debate and help rekindle interest in South Africa's turbulent history and those people who helped shape the country. So says the man at the centre of the recent renaming controversy, city manager Michael Sutcliffe, who yesterday clarified how residents can better make their voices heard before the June 23 deadline for community comment and objections.

Although council has thus far received in excess of 15 000 comments and objections to proposals for the renaming of 181 streets, investigations by Sutcliffe have revealed that more than 5 000 of these were submitted by a handful of disgruntled residents and a marketing company that had jumped on the bandwagon.

The remaining 10 000 comments were largely composed

of photocopied petitions and repetitive e-mail messages that merely objected to the renaming process and contained no substantial motivation.

While Sutcliffe yesterday said these forms of objection would be catalogued and included in his report to the Masakhane Committee, the "specifics" would help the municipal task team, Masakhane Committee and a full sitting of council better understand how the public felt.

Council's final decision on the current renaming proposals and any future suggestions will also be governed by a set of street name guidelines adopted in 2001, which yesterday came under fire from opposition parties during the full council meeting.

Sutcliffe was quick to point out that the guidelines would equally apply to new renaming proposals that the public was welcome to submit in the weeks leading up to June 23.

Once the process of dealing

with the 181 name proposals have been dealt with, the public will have the opportunity to make further name change proposals at a local level.

"There are three main categories we are looking at which include the renaming of streets, in particular those in the Durban and Pinetown CBD, large roads that link areas and localised residential roads. Much of the confusion over renaming has come from misinformation that has been spread by people who should know better," Sutcliffe said.

Asked about his feelings on the thousands of almost pointless e-mails that were received, Sutcliffe said he was "not angry" at the senders, but rather sad that people were unwilling to accept different points of view.

"Many of the people, whose names were proposed, are those of outstanding South Africans who were poets, lawyers and community workers. Hopefully people will now start reading up on these people and the contribution they made to society," Sutcliffe said.



## HOW TO MAKE YOUR COMMENTS

- ☐ IDENTIFY the road name proposal and make a clear argument, with motivating factors, as to why the name is inappropriate or should not be changed.
- ☐ Any new name proposals should not be more than 20 characters long.
- ☐ Duplication with existing roads names should be avoided.
- ☐ Names should be easily understood, pronounceable

- and easily written.
- ☐ The name should preferably be of a KwaZulu-Natal resident and reflect the history and cultural diversity of the city.
- ☐ Objections to the whole renaming process as a whole will be accepted, but will not carry as much weight as objections that give specific reasons for the objection.
- ☐ Only in special cases (with

the approval of council) will names of living people be considered.

- ☐ A limited number of names of international personalities will be considered for local roads.

Send your comments to: Municipal Manager, 41 Margaret Mncadi Avenue, Durban 4001, or e-mail [corporategis@durban.gov.za](mailto:corporategis@durban.gov.za) by June 23

Q Daily News  
Thursday 31  
May 2001



*Mail&Guardian June 1 to 7 2007*

# Mail&Guardian

Mail: Letters, PO Box 91667, Auckland Park, 2006.  
Fax: 011 250 7505. Email: letters@mg.co.za

## Rotten in Mzantsi

To: Police National Commissioner Jackie Selebi  
From: South African citizenry  
CC: President Thabo Mbeki c/o Mukoni Ratshitanga  
Subject: Trust me!

Dear Sir

In the past year, the press has been awash with news of your many questionable friendships. These include:

- Glenn Agliotti, an alleged Mafia kingpin involved in contraband smuggling who is accused of murdering mining magnate Brett Kebble;
- Imran Ismail, the grey goods trader whom *noseweek* alleged paid you bribes;
- Steven Ferrer, the jeweller and fugitive from justice who made the payments on behalf of Ismail's syndicate.
- Paul Stemmet, thuggish security operative and Agliotti associate, who freelanced for police on Selebi's orders and has been implicated in a range of crimes.

This week, the *Mail & Guardian* has published details of yet another unsavoury friendship — with Gavin Varejes, a controversial businessman who, among other things, was implicated in the Tigon scandal, is an associate of brothel-owner Andrew Phillips, and benefits from a high-tech contract with the police.

Varejes has extended favours to you — a holiday or holidays at his luxury resort and a Mauritian resort. Though he presented evidence that you refunded him, these favours were extended to you at the height of the Tigon scandal. Gary Porritt and Sue Bennett, alleged masterminds of the Tigon scam, say that their counter-accusations against Varejes (for tax diddling among other misdeeds) were given the soft treatment because Varejes is your friend.

A year ago, you defiantly told the nation that Agliotti is your friend "finish and *klaar*". You have not engaged with Ferrer's allegations in *noseweek* that he made regular payments to you on behalf of Ismail, who now seems to have fled the country; neither have you commented on your friendship with Ismail. Your friendship with Varejes has been confirmed.

May we ask:

- whether you used your influence to stall the investigation of Varejes's role in the Tigon affair?
- whether it is appropriate for our police commissioner to accept holiday arrangements from a man against whom serious allegations have been made?
- whether it is not time, as our top law enforcement official, for you to take us into your confidence on these incidents, which together have the potential to undermine the stability of South Africa and its fight against crime, instead of resorting to ritual denials and bluster?
- whether it is not time for you to step down pending a full investigation of all the allegations against you, given the Scorpions' confirmation in court action against the *M&G* last year that they are investigating you?

Also published in the *M&G* this week are claims that, in the ongoing Scorpions investigation dubbed Operation Bad Guys, President Thabo Mbeki may have intervened to downgrade a raid against you.

We have been kept in the dark about all these developments, which do nothing to dispel the reek of rottenness in Mzantsi.



Mail&Guardian June 1 to 7 2007

## For heaven's sake, calm down!

Hysteria and paranoia — two symptoms of a growing political pathology in South Africa that distort the truth, complicate the quest for solutions to problems and inflame the climate of fear, suspicion and acrimony as the ruling party approaches its watershed national conference. Hysteria comes mainly in the form of overheated rhetoric and extravagant ideological mudslinging. And as we report this week, the country is flooded with conspiracy theories that have no proven basis.

President Thabo Mbeki lashes union leaders as “thugs” and “counter-revolutionaries”; Zwelinzima Vavi hits back by likening Mbeki's upbeat economic assessments to Nazi propaganda. There are (apparently false) claims of a murder plot against Jacob Zuma; Young Communist League leader Buti Manamela claims that someone who waved a gun at him at a football game was a political assassin; the Angolan and Libyan leaders are accused in the comically named *Special Browne Mole Consolidated Report*, apparently written by a hallucinating spook, of fomenting an anti-Mbeki coup; and — woe is us — Zuma spin doctor Ranjeni Munusamy squawks that a poisonous spider has been deliberately let loose in her home.

Many of these unsubstantiated and cavalier claims form part of the campaign of victimology by the Zuma camp, which is out to project itself as the victim of a gigantic Mbeki-spearheaded plot. But Mbeki set the tone in the late 1990s by accusing the left of “counter-revolution” and perceived leadership rivals of coup plotting. Last year he again told the ANC's national executive committee that a faction using Zuma's name wanted to topple him as South Africa's president.

Each increasingly over-the-top round in the war of words deepens the South African public's disillusionment with politicians and the political process. The spate of plot allegations projects a misleading impression, both locally and abroad, that the country is on the brink. And the left is correct to point out that the planting of false stories spawned a climate for Chris Hani's murder.

For heaven's, calm down! Enough hysteria and paranoia!



*Mail&Guardian* June 1 to 7 2007

## Varejes and the Tigon collapse

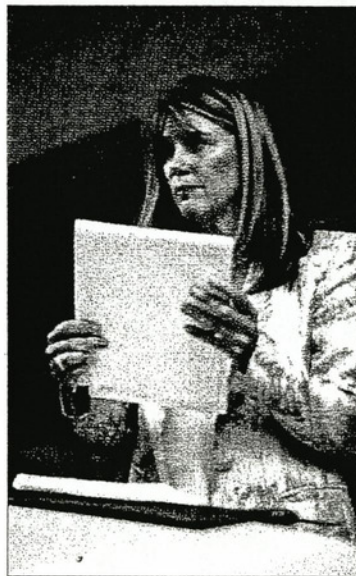
Gavin Varejes came through one of South Africa's most notorious corporate scandals virtually unscathed: the 2002 collapse of Tigon, which cost shareholders R250-million.

Criminal and civil proceedings aimed at mopping up the mess are still years from conclusion.

At their centre are Garry Porritt, the scheme's alleged chief architect, and Sue Bennett, his aide. They now face charges ranging from fraud to theft and racketeering.

They allege, in turn, that the roots of the disaster lay not in their misdeeds but in frauds committed by Varejes and business partner Tony Strike.

That is certainly not the whole story, but there are enough contradictions in the record to suggest Varejes and Strike may have been let off the hook, and to raise fresh questions about why Selebi once again participated directly in an investigation involving one of his friends.



long jail term. They are, on the face of it, inconsistent with other evidence.

### Strike-back

Varejes's and Strike's response to Porritt's damning claims was counter-accusation: in late 2001 Strike approached Sars with allegations against his accuser and Ramsay.

These were successful, despite the fact that he initially implicated himself in the process. Probing companies for which Simon Hurwitz was accounting officer a Sars investigator discovered — and explained in an affidavit — that 240 of the companies had an assessed tax loss totalling R855-million, and that between 1996 and 2002 profits of nearly R166-million were offset against these — suggesting a major tax fraud.



### The Tigon 'scam'

Seeking to list Tigon in London, Porritt allegedly went on an asset-buying spree to bulk up its value. To fund acquisitions without strict regulatory oversight, he sought investment through an unlisted vehicle, PSC Guaranteed Growth.

Some cash raised went to buy Tigon shares, inflating their value, and some apparently went straight into Tigon's bank account.

According to the state's indictment, Porritt also misrepresented Tigon's value.

As questions about Tigon's underlying worth mounted, and investors scrambled to sell out, the scheme began to unravel. When information supplied by Varejes and Strike led to an investigation in which Jackie Selebi involved himself personally (see main story), Porritt was arrested and his companies collapsed completely.

### Tit for tat

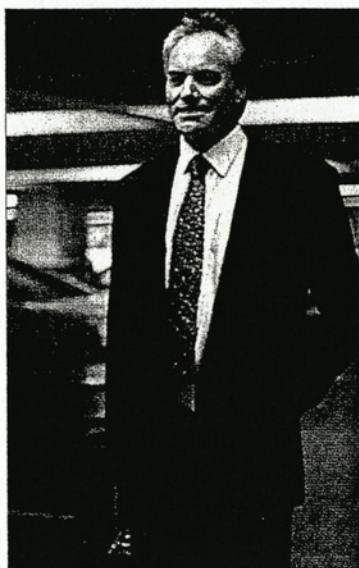
Porritt has insisted in court papers that the Varejes and Strikes intervention was not motivated by concern for good governance. Twenty months before his own arrest he had begun legal proceedings against them, claiming they had fraudulently inflated their cellular accessories company Europoint's profits before its sale to Tigon, and that while probing its accounts he came across company tax and VAT scams from which Varejes and Strike personally benefited.

### The VAT fraud allegations

In April 2001 Porritt launched a court action against Varejes and Strike, saying he had evidence of fraud and had appointed forensic auditors to scrutinise Europoint's books.

Six months later he approached the court with a new allegation: Europoint's income, reflected in internal records, could not be squared with sales figures disclosed to the taxman. VAT returns submitted to the South African Revenue Service had resulted in substantial refunds being paid to Europoint, but if sales were as high as they seemed to be from the company's books, no refund should have been due, Porritt said.

Either sales had been inflated



**Sue Bennett (top) and Gary Porritt**

to mislead potential buyers about the company's value, or Sars had been ripped off.

Porritt alleged that Varejes and Strike had helped cover up the accounting hole their VAT scheme created by making out cheques totalling almost R1,8-million to Sars, supposedly to repay the "erroneous" refunds. The cheques never reached Sars, however. According to Porritt, Strike and Varejes were the ultimate beneficiaries.

Enter Grant Ramsay, of Europoint's auditors, Simon Hurwitz, and "financial adviser" to Varejes and Strike.

In a 2001 affidavit, Ramsay said that in July and September 1997 he received cheques from Europoint signed by Varejes and Strike in favour of Sars. Instead of being paid over, these were deposited via the Simon Hurwitz trust account into his own trust and then transferred to Varejes and Strike.

Ramsay includes copies of the relevant cheques and bank statements to support his claims.

In his 2001 affidavit Ramsay states:

"The deposits... were made on the instructions of Varejes and Strike."

Varejes, however, says that Porritt's claims are untrue and Ramsay's evidence was "subsequently belied and contradicted by Ramsay himself in confessions made by him to the authorities".

Those confessions came later, when Varejes and Strike were winning a successful fightback campaign, and Ramsay was trying to plea bargain his way out of a

Strike also claimed that Ramsay had conducted the VAT scam alone, and had effectively stolen the cheques that had been intended for Sars.

The investigator chose to believe him:

"I humbly submit that it is highly improbable that cheques would be made out to Sars if they were intended for other purposes, as alleged by Mr Ramsay," he concluded, ignoring the obvious benefit of hiding the real VAT payments in Europoint's own books.

Sars raids in November 2002 led to Ramsay's and Porritt's December arrests.

Jackie Selebi personally played a part in the investigation, as Varejes confirmed this week (see main story).

It was against this backdrop that Ramsay dramatically changed his story. He negotiated a reduced sentence in return for his testimony against other alleged tax dodgers — including Porritt — and for coming clean about the fictitious losses he had created to help his clients cut their tax bills.

In a volte-face, Ramsay now agreed with Strike's account, claiming to have misappropriated Europoint's VAT payments himself and concocted the refund scheme to cover his tracks.

This new version of the story seems implausible. For it to work as Ramsay describes, time would have had to elapse between the initial VAT payment, the receipt of a refund from Sars, and the theft of legitimate cheques sent to Sars. But the documentary evidence in the court record shows that the original VAT payments, and follow-up faked payments, were made on the same day.

Nonetheless, Ramsay's new account was accepted, and he spent less than two years in jail.

As for Varejes and Strike, National Prosecuting Authority spokesperson Panyaza Lesufi confirmed this week that an investigation by the specialised commercial crime unit, which combines NPA prosecutors with police investigators, into a 2001 complaint laid by Porritt was still open, but cautioned against expectations of a speedy resolution.

"It is not envisaged that the investigation would be finalised in the near future due to the nature of the case," he said.

Strike did not reply to messages left at his office.

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# Another rogue for Selebi's gallery

**P**olice chief Jackie Selebi's questionable friendships extend to Gavin Varejes, a player in the Tigon affair, one of corporate South Africa's biggest scandals.

Circumstances suggest that their friendship contributed to the vigour with which Varejes's enemies in Tigon were investigated and charged, while related tax fraud allegations against Varejes and a partner appear not to have been pursued with any urgency.

Varejes heads Richmark Holdings, which has interests in information technology, communications, property and security. He confirms he is close to the police commissioner, but insists: "I have never used my friendship with Mr Selebi for any improper purpose."

However, questions remain, not least about:

- A December holiday — or holidays — that Selebi spent at Varejes's KwaZulu-Natal seaside development, Uvongo Falls. Varejes maintains there was only one such occasion, and presents evidence that Selebi paid. Others allege two further holidays. The timing of these suggest very bad judgement, if not impropriety, as they coincided with law enforcement events affecting Varejes.

- A 2003 Mauritian holiday for Selebi's family arranged by a Varejes company. Varejes presents evidence that Selebi reimbursed his company. The same company benefits from a contract awarded by the South African Police Service (SAPS) last year.

- Selebi's choice of friends. Not only are there unresolved questions about Varejes's involvement in the Tigon

affair (see story opposite), but Varejes is close, in turn, to Andrew Phillips, the sex entrepreneur and National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) target.

## A philanthropist

Selebi's explanation is that his relationship with Varejes is all about philanthropy. Asked to comment for this article, Selebi's office would only say: "If the *Mail & Guardian* is interested in the nature of the national commissioner's relationship with Mr Gavin Varejes, a representative is welcome to attend a function on Thursday evening ... at the Royal Durban Golf Club."

The function related to an initiative by Selebi to rehabilitate street children. Selebi and Varejes were both to attend, the latter in his capacity as president of the South African Rugby Legends Association, which supports the street children initiative.

Varejes said his company, Richmark, also made donations to police rugby, police athletics and the police widows' and orphans' fund.

## South Coast sojourn(s)

It is common cause that Selebi has holidayed at Uvongo Falls, an imposing development at Uvongo, a resort town south of Durban.

It was reported in 1999 that Phillips, the sex entrepreneur, and Varejes were buying the "ultra luxurious" development. While Phillips does not appear from formal records to be Varejes's co-owner, he, nevertheless, enjoys access.

Varejes confirmed that Phillips — whom he called a "life-long" friend but denied sharing business interests



with — was his intended co-purchaser of Uvongo Falls, but he said Phillips was not included in the final deal “as a result of a change in Mr Phillips’s personal and financial circumstances”.

This, it appears, was the direct consequence of a highly public February 2000 raid conducted by police and the NPA’s asset forfeiture unit (AFU) on Phillip’s Sandton brothel-and-strip club complex, The Ranch and Titty Twister. Phillips was arrested and the complex placed under AFU curatorship.

The AFU subsequently raided 19 of his properties on December 22 that year, attaching assets now valued at about R58-million.

Phillips’s trial on prostitution-related charges, perjury and employing illegal aliens has yet to be finalised. He has pleaded not guilty.

It now appears that as Phillips’s standoff with the NPA was coming to a head, Selebi may have been vacationing with Varejes at Uvongo Falls.

According to a source formerly associated with The Ranch, Phillips was involved in making arrangements for Selebi’s stay at Uvongo Falls in December 2000, although once there, Selebi was actually hosted by Varejes.

Varejes denied there was such a visit.

By early 2001 Varejes himself was under serious pressure. Tigon, the financial services group that was later to collapse amid scandal, sued Varejes and a business partner, Tony Strike, for R210-million, claiming the duo had fraudulently misrepresented the value of EuroPoint, a cellular accessories business they had sold to Tigon. In November 2001, during the course of the same litigation, Tigon heaped serious criminal allegations of VAT fraud on Varejes and Strike (see story opposite).

Varejes confirmed that the following month, December 2001, Selebi holidayed at Uvongo Falls. He denied there was anything improper about this and presented the *M&G* with copies of bank documentation showing Selebi had paid R10 000 to his company Brethil Developments, which owns Uvongo Falls.

During 2002, Varejes and Strike turned the tables on their accusers at Tigon, particularly Gary Porritt, its MD. Police and South African Revenue Service (Sars) officials raided Tigon’s accountants in November and Porritt was arrested in a blaze of publicity in December.

It is common cause that Varejes and Strike played a role in these events — Strike had given information to Sars,

while Varejes confirmed to the *M&G*: “At the commencement of the Porritt investigation members of the SAPS (including Mr Selebi) and Sars came to my house to gather information about Porritt and Tigon.”

Varejes denied he had any further interactions with Selebi regarding Porritt or Tigon.

Selebi allegedly holidayed at Uvongo Falls again immediately after Porritt’s arrest. In a court affidavit, Porritt associate Sue Bennett claimed: “Varejes boasts of and appears to enjoy special status with the SAPS.

“I am aware that Varejes was telephoned by the Commissioner of Police, Jackie Selebi, to advise him of the imminent arrest of [Porritt] and, immediately after that arrest, commissioner Selebi and his family then spent the Christmas holidays as guests of Varejes at his luxurious seaside holiday establishment at Uvongo on the South Coast.”

### **Mauritian getaway**

While Varejes denied Selebi had visited Uvongo Falls in December 2002 after Porritt’s arrest, he has confirmed to helping Selebi with separate holiday arrangements around that time.

When he emailed bank documents last week to show Selebi had paid for



Party's divorce from ANC crucial to much-improved by-election showing

# ID fights its way back

**Donwald Pressly**

Patricia de Lille's Independent Democrats seems to be on the comeback trail in the Western Cape. And the reason appears to be its decision to delink itself from the ANC.

In last week's by-election in Rivers-sonderend — part of the Theewaters-

kloof municipality, jointly governed by the DA and ID — the ID increased its votes from 2,49% in the municipal election in 2006 to 16,4%.

After losing the seat to the ANC by just 39 votes in 2006, the DA slipped to 34,7% of the vote, while the ANC improved its performance by just short of one percentage

point, to gain 47,5%.

Significantly, the DA and ID together outpolled the ANC in the area, after failing to do so last year.

Speaking in Cape Town this week, the ID's Simon Grindrod said the party had attracted new voters, the majority being those who did not normally vote.

Speaking about "the two ladies in his life" — De Lille and Helen Zille (he is Cape Town's mayoral committee member for economic development and tourism) — he said that they had mutual respect, which was "palpable when you see them together".

Grindrod suggested the possibil-

ity of a DA-ID ruled province after 2009, predicting that the two parties would have "a heck of an election" for the Western Cape government. In contrast with the municipal tier, where they had to compete, the proportional system would reflect the strengths of the two parties, which had very different constituencies.

Meanwhile, De Lille has been freed up to refocus on the arms deal and other scandals in Parliament. Despondency over the party's fight with the DA appears to be over.

A year ago, after it had been torn asunder by defections in Parliament and thrashed in the Tafelsign municipal by-election, De Lille's party was in the doldrums.

In that campaign, then DA leader Tony Leon repeatedly underscored the betrayal of coloured voters when the ID backed ANC councillor Nomaindia Mfeketo for a further term as mayor.

De Lille's reneging on

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a pledge to forge a multi-party government in an executive committee system in Cape Town had clearly alienated the ID's core constituency.

After winning seven parliamentary seats in the 2004 election, the ID lost two key members — Cecil Burgess and Chris Wang — to the ANC in the September 2005 poll.

Burgess's move was a brutal blow for De Lille, as he had been her legal adviser and confidant during her battles, including her suspension from Parliament after she had named former apartheid "spies" in the ANC.

Grindrod, a former hotelier, then entered the fray, conducting a high-profile campaign at the March 2006 election hustings and entering himself as a potential mayoral candidate.

Emerging as ID caucus leader on the Cape Town council, he appeared to enjoy having the casting vote. But as Zille has pointed out, it was only a casting vote if he backed the DA.

After backing Mfeketo as mayor, Grindrod acknowledged that he was so unpopular that even his neighbours refused to greet him. But his quip acknowledged a broader tactical disaster for the party.

The rebuilding of the party's image began in earnest. It entered Zille's multiparty government in Cape Town after an alliance partner withdrew at the beginning of this year.

This was quickly followed by the ID and DA's toppling of three further ANC administrations in the Western Cape: Drakenstein, Kannaland, Bergvliet and Beaufort West.



# eNatis inherits security breach

Beeld defeats transport department's attempt to gag the paper

Yolandi Groenewald

The Pretoria High Court this week heard that an Auditor General report on the old and new National Traffic Systems questioned whether the system had adequate security in place. It also emerged that the department had done nothing after being warned about the security breach.

The Auditor General's report, revealed in court, says that any official in the department of transport with access to a terminal has been able to access and change files, possibly compromising the database. The court heard that this problem has existed for years on the old National Traffic Information System (Natis) and had migrated to the new electronic National Traffic Information System (eNatis), but that this breach was only discovered in the recent Auditor General report, which was completed in February.

The security concerns came to light during a hearing of an application from the Director General of Transport, Mpumi Mpofu, to prevent *Beeld* newspaper from publishing the Auditor General's report on security problems related to the two systems. Judge Dion Basson dismissed the director general's application.

eNatis replaced Natis in April, but its implementation has been plagued by inefficiency and delays.

The system is designed to register and license motor vehicles and manage applications for drivers' and learners' licences. It also monitors traffic in South Africa, and contains information on motor vehicle registrations, the state of infrastructure, drivers, contraventions, accidents and financial records.

Advocate Sias Reynecke argued



DG of transport Mpumi Mpofu (right) and legal advisor Werner Koekemoer. Photograph courtesy of Beeld

for *Beeld* that the Auditor General's report revealed insufficient protection for passwords and that users at eNatis terminals could easily access different folders. He argued that it was in the public's interest to be aware of these problems.

In arguments it emerged that department of transport users of Natis and eNatis had been granted "powerful authority" to access files

on the network and that users had access to sensitive "root files". The old system also did not require passwords for access, a problem which has apparently not been addressed in the new system.

Reynecke argued that the fault did not lie with the system itself, but rather with the department's management. He said passwords were not administered adequately

and that "security patches" were not installed when needed.

But the department argued that revealing "confidential" information, including about the password problems, could have a negative impact on the functioning of eNatis. The department's advocate, Pat Ellis, argued that it was in the public interest not to have the security problems exposed in

detail in the public domain.

"Heaven forbid car theft syndicates use the information to break into the system to cover up their crimes," he said.

Ellis compared the department's concerns about publicising eNatis's security problems to a situation in which a prison's secret codes and keys were leaked to the public, which he said would have a detrimental impact on the prison's security operations.

But Reynecke hit back, asking whether the argument would hold water if the Auditor General had told the prison that the wardens were not locking the cell doors, and the prison then ignored it.

"The press then reports on this after the department had ignored the warnings. Now the prison wants to gag the press, because they say the inmates will be told their cells are unlocked," he said. "This is after prisoners have already escaped."

Ellis also argued that the problems the Auditor General reported on had to do with the old system and not eNatis and that a new audit report had to be done to investigate eNatis itself.

Reynecke rejected this argument, asking why the department was then trying to gag *Beeld*. "The director general wants to protect herself against people's criticism of poor governance," he said.

Department of transport spokesperson Collen Msibi told the *Mail & Guardian* after the verdict that the judgement "was a minor setback". "We are studying the judgment and will make a decision on what to do next," he said. "We still believe that this matter is confidential and not fit for the public domain."

He said the department would not be responding to any questions that will compromise the "security" of the report. Mpofu, who was also present at the hearing, did not respond, except to say she believed eNatis was safe.



*Mail & Guardian* June 1 to 7 2007

# 'Echoes of run-up to Hani murder'

**Rapule Tabane**

The SACP has warned that several mysterious recent leaks about assassinations and coup plots bear the hallmarks and sophistication of government security agencies and resemble a series of events that took place before the killing of SACP secretary general Chris Hani in 1993.

Some senior members of the party believe they are being spied upon and are convinced it has to do with their opposition to government policies and support for ANC deputy president Jacob Zuma.

Last week Cosatu was sent a document, whose origin is unknown, claiming that Zuma had plotted to overthrow President Thabo Mbeki's government with the assistance of foreign governments.

The document, titled *Special Browse Mole Consolidated Report*, said Zuma was funded by Libyan President Moammar Gaddafi and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santo, among others, to organise a popular rebellion against the current government.

SACP general secretary Blade Nzimande was implicated in the document, which said his visit to Libya ahead of a visit by Zuma was to prepare the ground for him.

Intelligence Minister Ronnie Kas-

rils has insisted that the National Intelligence Agency did not write the document, while the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) has been less clear about where it stands.

NPA spokesperson Panyaza Lesufi said the agency would not comment on suspicions that the document emanated from its office, nor would he comment more generally on the story, saying that this would give credence to allegations that the NPA

leaked information to the media.

The document emerged a week after the police said their investigation had uncovered the fact that a recent Zuma camp claim about a plot to assassinate him had been a hoax. Police have said they are considering prosecuting senior members of Zuma's inner circle in connection with the false claim.

At about the same time Nzimande also disclosed that he had been under

surveillance from strange cars whose number plates could not be traced. He said he first reported the incidents early last year.

Two weeks ago the Young Communist League's national secretary, Buti Manamela, also claimed that an attempt on his life could be linked to broader political events, while SACP national organiser Solly Maphaila said he had been subjected to three "strange" hijackings.

Nzimande said the pattern of events reminded his party of circumstances just before the death of Chris Hani. He said that at the time disinformation campaigns alleged that Hani was forming his own secret army and planning to destabilise the country's first non-racial national election, in 1994.

"We are glad the ANC says this [the coup plot claims] must be investigated quickly and decisively. Of course we all ought to keep cool heads, but it is a matter of serious concern," Nzimande told the *Mail & Guardian*.

Nzimande said he had been warned that in the run-up to the SACP congress in July, stories would be planted in the media to tarnish his image. He said the same thing had happened to Zwelinzima Vavi before the Cosatu congress last year, when stories about an alleged extramarital affair and abuse of Cosatu credit cards were published.

"We are not fingering our state security apparatus, except that we don't believe that anyone else would have the capacity to access some of the information in [the coup plot] report. The people who compiled this report have lots of capacity, which ordinarily rests with our security agencies," Nzimande emphasised, saying that some elements in the coup plot report were accurate.

## The knives are out

### November 2005

Emails purporting to be exchanges between certain ANC officials discussing how to get rid of Jacob Zuma and general secretary Kgalema Motlanthe from the party come to light.

### December 2005

SACP organiser Solly Maphaila is hijacked after meeting Blade Nzimande about the latter's trip to Libya. His laptop and some documents are stolen and the car is found abandoned elsewhere minus the documents. Maphaila has been hijacked on two subsequent occasions.

### May 2006

President Thabo Mbeki reportedly tells an NEC meeting that a group of people is plotting to topple him as president of the country and of the ANC. According to Independent Newspapers, he said the group was using the name of Zuma as a rallying point for its activities and was projecting Mbeki as anti-workers. He said Zuma had nothing to do with the plot.

### Early 2006

Nzimande reports to the police that he is being followed by cars with untraceable number plates. In the same year, Cosatu vice-president Joe Nkosi is accused of trying to

bribe Nzimande's bodyguards to provide him with information on Nzimande's movements. Nkosi denies the allegations but resigns from Cosatu.

### May 2007

Zuma backers reveal an assassination plot against the ANC deputy president. Police intelligence say it is a hoax claim intended to enhance Zuma's profile and to force the state to beef up his already tight security.

### May 2007

A document reveals plans by Zuma and foreign governments to stage a coup against Mbeki.



# Tony Leon, Gavin Varejes and the Mercedes-

In his June 2001 declaration of interests to Parliament, Tony Leon noted under consultancies or retainerships: "Richmart (Pty) Ltd — investment holding company". The value of benefits to be received, he wrote, was "nominal at this stage — to be negotiated".

In years to come, the then leader of the opposition left that space empty. Whatever transpired in his negotiations with Richmart, Leon may thank his lucky stars he did not become a director.

That would have been too visible, and Richmart co-founder Gavin Varejes could all too easily have become a public liability — his name popped up in the Tigon matter and a scandal

over R100 000 "hush money" he had paid to a woman who accused cricketering bad boy Shane Warne of sending her inappropriate messages.

Richmart was later renamed Richmark Holdings. The reason may be an appropriate metaphor for the political liability associated with Varejes: he changed the name, it is claimed, because of his admiration for Mark Rich,

the international commodity trader, sanctions buster and tax cheat who was controversially pardoned by Bill Clinton in the final hours of his presidency. Donations by Rich's former wife to Clinton's Democratic Party and his presidential library fanned the scandal.

Varejes, of course, has his own tax issues (see accompanying story). And neither has he

political donations.

When asked about Varejes, Leon said: "I've known him; and been friendly with him since we were in high school in Durban together ... It goes back to the 1970s in Durban."

He volunteered that the relationship was "entirely personal and social, I've never had any business relationship with him". Asked about his 2001 parliamentary declaration, he said: "It was talked about [but] nothing ever happened." Leon said he could not remember well, but his becoming "a director or member" had been discussed.

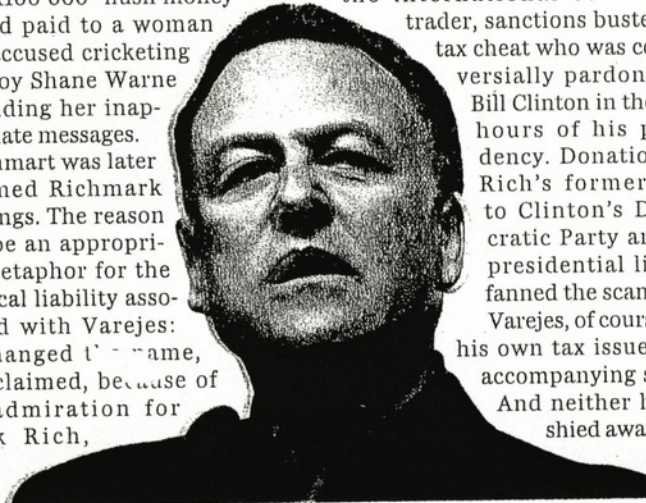
When asked about donations or sponsorships from Varejes, Leon gave the stock response: "We don't

disclose our political donations."

Asked whether the Mercedes he drove as DA leader had been donated by Varejes to the party — which, in turn, had made it available to him — he said: "Yes, correct."

Leon then admitted that Varejes had also made other donations, saying, "Gavin's support to the DA probably comes from his relationship with me."

The Mercedes was declared to Parliament — but not as coming from Varejes. As of 2001 and every subsequent year, Leon wrote under benefits: "Use of motor vehicle". The source of the benefit was always indicated as the DA.





# Free education in sharp focus

Have policy flaws led the education minister to consider free primary schooling for all?

## News analysis

David Macfarlane

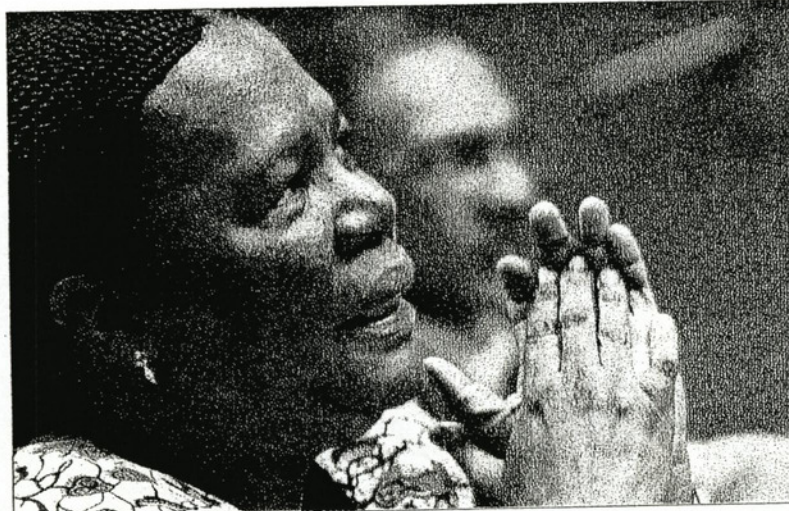
**T**he time may have arrived for South Africa to offer all children free primary education in law. This would place us in step with modern democracies worldwide."

Yes, Naledi Pandor really said this, in her budget speech in Parliament on Tuesday. Where did such a groundbreaking announcement come from?

Since 1994 the government has engaged in intricate manoeuvring and frequent sophistry to justify its refusal to abolish fees altogether. Education ministers have repeatedly argued that fee-paying is a privilege parents are reluctant to forego because it increases their sense of investment in their children's education.

There is no evidence, however, to show that parents who do not pay fees feel less concern about where and how their children are educated.

To Pandor's credit, she admitted in last year's budget speech that "fees



Minister of Education Naledi Pandor. Photograph: Nadine Hutton

discourage school attendance at both primary and secondary schools". She was explaining the necessity to introduce no-fee schools — the poorest 20% of schools last year, 40% this year.

This week, however, her focus was on what she called "reported failures in our execution of the [no-fee schools] policy". In particular, she highlighted complaints from some no-fee schools that they now have less income than before.

"It was never the intention to reduce income," she said. "Rather, beneficiary schools should receive increased funding."

Rather late in the day, but refresh-

ingly, she also admitted another policy failure — in the 60% of state schools that still charge fees. She said they admit many poor pupils and exempt them from fees in accordance with government regulations, but receive no compensatory state finance. In other words, every exemption granted is school income lost.

Why she called this "a new challenge" is unclear, as many organisations have pinpointed this policy flaw over the years. And she also remained silent on other failures in the execution of funding policies — including schools given the wrong poverty ranking, illegal misapplications of fee-exemption procedures, and late trans-

fer of funds from provinces to schools.

Her concession that it might be time to introduce free primary education was apparently within the context of policy and implementation failures. She referred to the "quintile-based policy" — the ranking of all public schools in five poverty-related categories — as "complex". That is an understatement.

All school financing depends on the correct implementation of the quintile policy, a massive undertaking involving an intricate application of census data from Statistics South Africa.

Already underperforming provincial education departments — which still struggle to get textbooks and stationery to schools on time — have to perform the task, and repeat it every year.

There was evidence elsewhere in Pandor's budget speech that she is amenable to the idea of free education, specifically her announcement of R600-million over three years for bursaries to study at further education and training colleges. These are bursaries, not the loans to be repaid which the National Student Financial Aid Scheme provides to about one-seventh of university students.

Generally plain-speaking, Pandor does sometimes play to the gallery. What has happened to her announcement last year that she was considering a new university policy that would place an upper limit on student fees? All she said this week was that "fee levels at many institutions continue

to be prohibitive".

Does her reference to free primary schooling contain the seed of one of the most significant of post-1994 education policy developments? Or was it just ministerial musing?

## Budget 2007: the facts

### Schools

- Five million pupils (40%) in no-fee schools
- R2-billion over three years for quality improvement strategy
- 40% increase in early childhood development budget

### Universities

- 13% increase, to R13,3-billion
- 44,5% increase in student loans, to R1,3-billion
- R4-billion over four years for infrastructure

### FET colleges

- R600-million over three years for new bursaries

### Overall

- New savings fund in which government will match monthly contributions parents make towards their children's future education at university or an FET college



THE MERCURY  
Friday June 1 2007

JUDGE DISMISSES APPLICATION WITH COSTS

# Transport Dept's media gag bid fails

ZELDA VENTER  
Pretoria

**T**RANSPORT Minister Jeff Radebe has failed in his attempt to gag the media on reporting on the security problems regarding the controversial new eNaTIS vehicle licensing system.

Yesterday, Pretoria High Court judge Dion Basson dismissed with costs an application by the minister to interdict the Afrikaans daily *Beeld* from divulging the content of the management report on the NaTIS (the previous system) and the eNaTIS system.

Basson said the right of the public to know about the possible security problems outweighed the concerns of the minister over the confidentiality of the report.

Basson said the media could not be prohibited from reporting this information. He said there was, in any event, nothing in the report to suggest that reporting on it would constitute a breach of national security, and that it mainly reflected failures of management.

Counsel for the minister Pat Ellis SC said that this was a draft report and that it contained information of a classified nature. He said that, if the information was to be published, it would place the

security gaps in the old and the new systems in the public domain. Department of Transport Director-General Mpumu Mpofu said that this information could be misused by criminals involved in illegally dealing in motor vehicles.

"The thrust of the applicant's contention is that information relating to weaknesses in the NaTIS security systems, in the hands of criminal elements, will lead to unauthorised persons being able to access the system and compromise the integrity of the system," she said.

## Newsworthy

Mpofu admitted that the "eNaTIS controversy was, generally speaking, newsworthy". However, she said that the confidential information contained in it about "security shortcomings" was not newsworthy.

She also admitted that R408 million had been spent on the system, but said that this was the result of increasing importation costs, exchange control fluctuations and consumer price index adjustments, and was "all provided for in the contract".

Sias Reyneke SC, arguing on behalf of *Beeld*, said that the media should not be blamed for blowing the whistle on the mal-

administration and poor governance. He said the department had known about the security problems which had led to the security gaps in the old and the new systems since at least February this year, when the report was released, and that nothing had been done to address these problems, in spite of it having been urged to do so.

Reyneke said the main reason the minister had for gagging the newspaper was "that the department is actually embarrassed to have the maladministration publicised".

"It is not a system failure, it is a management failure," Reyneke said, adding that the media would be denied its role as the eyes and the ears of the public if it could only report on officially tabled reports.

Reyneke said the minister missed the true implications of the report – which *Beeld* was entitled to report on – that the department had been warned of the failures and had done nothing to rectify or avoid them.

"These failures have already caused substantial losses to the public and continue to do so, and it remains the obligation of the press to expose this maladministration and poor governance," he said.

Mpofu said the ruling was a "minor setback" for the department, and that it would be studying the judgment.



# THE MERCURY

## Friday June 1 2007

PREVENTIVE MEASURES 'IN PLACE'

# Cabinet promises to limit strike disruption

BOYD WEBB  
POLITICAL BUREAU

**T**HE government will do its best to limit the disruption expected by today's massive public sector strike across the country, the cabinet pledged yesterday.

"A number of government offices will put measures in place to make sure that some kind of skeleton staff does exist to continue providing services to our communities," government spokesman Themba Maseko said yesterday at a post-cabinet briefing in Cape Town.

Preventative measures had also been put in place to keep classes at schools running, given that teachers across the country are expected to participate.

"A number of committees around education have been put in place to make sure that some kind of education does take place, especially in cases where some teachers will not be participating in the strike."

The committees, comprising representatives from national and provincial education departments, would be sent around the country to monitor the situation to ensure that school children were not left to loiter on the streets, thus leading to other social problems, Maseko said.

He said the government was very worried about education being interrupted.

"For the first time in a long time the majority of teachers will be going on strike. Traditionally, only teachers from black and coloured schools participated, but this year teachers from white schools are also getting involved," he said.

Large numbers of nurses

were also expected to take to the streets today, with only skeleton staff remaining to take care of critically ill patients, Maseko said.

He said the cabinet had also ordered the Department of Home Affairs to ensure that its offices remained open.

"This is a particularly tricky one," Maseko said.

Home Affairs spokesman Jacky Mashapu said that senior staff would ensure that emergency documentation was handled, but appealed for less urgent paperwork to wait until after the strike.

Maseko said that all ports of entry would be manned by specially trained police officers, but offered assurances that the country's points of entry would remain secure.

Public Service and Administration spokesman Lewis Rabkin said his department had left all the back-up plans to the individual departments.

"We sent out a letter some time ago telling them to make sure services continued, but how they did that was left to the individual departments, and judging from the feedback we are getting we are happy that they will," he said.

Congress of South African Trade Unions spokesman Patrick Craven confirmed yesterday that the strike would go ahead, and that the debate on whether essential service personnel would be allowed to strike was continuing.

Meanwhile, he responded positively to calls from the cabinet for protesters to stop personalising the strike by attacking Public Service Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and her family.

"We condemn any personal attacks," he said.



# Strike is on today after talks fail

MERCURY CORRESPONDENTS,  
SIBUSISO MBOTO & XOLISWA ZULU

**T**HE biggest public service strike in more than a decade is set to hit South Africa today, as 700 000 workers vent their anger at being offered a 6% pay raise.

There was no eleventh-hour wage settlement last night, despite Public Service Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi's earlier claim of a breakthrough.

"We have passed the point of no return," said Public Servants' Association (PSA) provincial spokesman Koos Kruger.

And National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) Provincial Secretary Suraya Jawoodeen said: "The strike is going to go ahead because all the unions have committed themselves to the action. It can't be undone."

In KwaZulu-Natal, the public sector workers' strike gained further momentum yesterday when it was announced that a provincial taxi body would strike in sympathy.

The chairman of the KwaZulu-Natal Taxi Council, Eugene Hadebe, said that the decision to stop running had been taken as a show of support for public service employees, who were also the taxi industry's lifeline.

Hadebe said workers in the private sector wishing to go to work would have to seek alternative transport as taxis affiliated to the alliance would not be operating.

"If we increase taxi fares, the people who feel the effect are public servants and, given that they have been engaged in the negotiation process for so long, we feel that theirs is a just cause and hence our support for it," said Hadebe.

Cosatu KZN Secretary Zet Luzipo said he was grateful for the taxi alliance's support as it would add more impetus to the strike.

He added that Cosatu would explore the possibility of formalising relations with the alliance beyond strike action.

With the National Professional Teachers' Association, the National

Teachers' Union and the South African Democratic Teachers' Union all downing tools, there will be little, if any, teaching at KZN schools today.

A spokesman for the Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa, Cassim Lekhoathi, said all clinic and hospital staff would be picketing.

He said: "We are mindful of the fact that we are an essential service, but we are worried that the government is dragging its feet and not resolving this. Nurses are fed-up and cannot wait any longer."

"There will be picketing in most institutions and they will deal with all emergency and critical care cases."

"We have instructed them not to take on extra duties, and no overtime. We are saying to the employer

'move with haste'.

In the past, they went on an illegal strike and nothing will stop them from doing the

same this time around. Our patience has been drawn to the limit. Expect to see disruption in all urban and rural hospitals."

Nehawu echoed Lekhoathi's sentiments, and said that all members would join the protest.

Department of Health spokeswoman Sebe Zwane said the department would be in touch with all hospitals and would ask for progress reports. There were contingency plans to ensure that services were not disrupted.

Public Servants' Association spokesman Vee Moodley said he expected 10 000 of the association's members to march in Ulundi.

All South Africa's union groups, from the Left to the Right, have united. In almost every village, town and city, workers are to picket outside their workplaces and march on government offices.

From teachers to nurses, cleaners to top officials of every colour and political persuasion, there is an unprecedented determination to force the government to up its wage increase offer of 6%, say leaders. The workers are demanding 12%.

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**NOW READ**

**THE CABINET STEPS IN  
PAGE 2**



# Man ordered to pay R840 000 for infecting woman with HIV

ZELDA VENTER

PRETORIA: A Pretoria switchboard operator is to receive nearly R840 000 in damages from her former lover, who infected her with the Aids virus.

Pretoria High Court Judge Bill Prinsloo ordered a 31-year-old man from the Western Cape to pay the sum to his 26-year-old former girlfriend. He must also pay her legal costs, including the costs of obtaining experts' reports.

The woman stated in papers before the court that she had met the defendant on a train during September 2005 and that they began a sexual relationship a month later. She had herself tested for

HIV/Aids during that month and the result was negative.

She said that she and her lover had always used condoms up to December 6 2005 – the date on which they agreed to get married.

The wedding was due to take place in April last year. From December they started to have unprotected sex.

A month before the wedding was due to take place she heard for the first time that her husband-to-be was married and that he and his wife shared a home in Wellington, in the Western Cape.

The woman said before starting a sexual relationship with the defendant she had not been involved in any sexual relationship for about

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**Today's question is:**

Do you have the right to know your partner's HIV status?

Vote on [www.lol.co.za/polls](http://www.lol.co.za/polls)

The results will be printed in tomorrow's paper.

eight months. When she entered the relationship with him she was not infected with the deadly virus. She insisted that he should go for a test after she discovered that she had tested positive.

She claimed when he began their sexual relationship he knew full well that he was infected with HIV/Aids.

"While having unprotected sex with me he acted negligently. He should have foreseen that he could infect me," she stated.

She further stated that he could have also have used condoms in order to protect her.

The woman said she had been infected with the virus as a result of having unprotected sex with her lover between December 2005 and when she established she had contracted the virus.

She said that as a result of being infected with the virus, she would incur future medical expenses,

which she estimated at R463 878.

She also claimed R500 000 in general damages, including the reduction of her prospects of getting married.

She claimed a further R75 000 for her "impaired dignity" after she had told her friends and relatives she was going to get married, while her husband-to-be was in fact already married.

A medical report stated that she was still in the early stages of the disease and it was expected that she would have a normal life for some time to come.

Until she develops full-blown Aids she will still be able to work, on condition that she receives adequate medical treatment.

## Wrangle over knighthood honour for Becks. No date set for health minister's return to work

LONDON: Officials in Britain are wrangling over whether former England football captain David Beckham should be given a knighthood, London's *Evening Standard* reported yesterday.

Civil servants have been asked to consider whether he is suitable for the top honour, awarded by Queen Elizabeth II, but some have argued that he should not be made Sir David because he is moving to play in the United States, the paper said.

"His name has been put forward, but there is a view among

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some officials that it should not be approved while there is a conflict between his future as an England player and his contract with an American club," an unnamed source told the paper.

But a spokeswoman for the cabinet office denied that such discussions had taken place and said that civil servants could not put the brakes on a nomination.

Beckham was awarded the lower OBE (Order of the British Empire) award in 2003 and could see that upgraded to a knighthood within a few months.

His wife, Victoria Beckham, who would become Lady Victoria if her husband was honoured, said: "It's just so camp, it's wonderful isn't it? Lady Victoria ... that would be quite amazing." – *Sapa-AFP*

CAPE TOWN: No deadline has been set for Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang's return to full duty, government spokesman Themba Maseko has said.

"The minister of transport (Jeff Radebe) will continue to act as minister of health until the president is satisfied that (she) is fit and well enough to come back to her office," he said.

"I can't tell you when exactly he (Radebe) will cease

acting as minister of health," Maseko told reporters at parliament yesterday after it was noted that Tshabalala-Msimang had not attended Wednesday's cabinet meeting.

Tshabalala-Msimang is still recuperating after her discharge from Johannesburg General Hospital last month after undergoing a successful liver transplant on March 14.

The minister is expected to deliver her budget vote next week. – *Political Bureau*

THE MERCURY  
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MONEY LENDERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE OVER-INDEBTED PEOPLE CREDIT EASILY

# New Act will benefit consumers

LYSE COMINS

**T**HE exploitation of consumers by unscrupulous money-lenders that have led many poor people into debt traps will become a criminal offence under the new National Credit Act, which comes into effect today.

However, consumers have been warned by the National Credit Regulator and banks that dishonest disclosure of income and expenses could result in some of their new-found protection being forfeited under the new Act.

The National Credit Act 34 of 2005 replaces the Usury Act, the Integration of Usury Laws Act 1996 and the Credit Agreements Act 1980, which have regulated the granting of credit since 1968. The Act will make it difficult for credit grantors to give loans to over-indebted consumers.

Gabriel Davel, CEO of the

National Credit Regulator, which has legislative powers under the Act similar to the Financial Services Board, said the legislation would, for the first time in history, regulate information held by credit bureaus and provide protection for consumers entering into credit agreements.

## Protection

"The new Act is a consumer protection piece of legislation. It is there to ensure that consumers are treated fairly in credit contracts," Davel said.

Davel said that credit card debt had grown by 128% during the past two years and that the latest statistics obtained by his office showed household debt had risen to R750 billion.

Credit grantors, including banks, retailers, micro-lenders and pawnbrokers who have 100 or more loan agreements or loans of R500 000 or more on their books will be required by

the Act to register with the regulator. About 4 200 credit grantors have registered.

Davel said the National Credit Register, which would list consumer debt and act as a database for credit grantors, would be ready in January 2008. Credit grantors must check credit bureaus and the register before granting credit, to ensure repayment affordability.

However, he warned that consumers who lied about existing debts when opening new accounts would forfeit some of the protection afforded by the legislation.

The Act makes provision for debt counsellors to assist over-indebted consumers who fall into the debt trap.

Credit Information Ombudsman Manie van Schalkwyk said consumers could approach debt counsellors and if it was found that the consumer was over-indebted credit grantors would not easily be

able to obtain a judgement.

"The debt counsellor can make a recommendation to the court that there has been reckless lending, and if the credit grantor is found guilty the agreement could be suspended and a fine of up to R1 million can be imposed," Van Schalkwyk said.

## Truthful

Consumers who "go into counselling" will be prohibited from obtaining further loans until the debt is repaid.

Louis Malherbe, Nedbank's home loans business analyst for the new Act, cautioned consumers to be truthful about all their debts when applying for credit.

"A mortgage originator will ask what your expenses are, including all your retail accounts, and it is vital that the consumer tells us upfront, otherwise the reckless lending provision falls away," Malherbe said.

Under the new Act it will be illegal for credit grantors to issue credit cards to consumers who have not applied for them. Costs that have been standard practice for banks, such as early settlement or administration fees, will also be illegal.

Louis von Zeuner, Group Executive Director of the Absa Group, said bank staff had been working overtime to implement new computer systems in order to comply with the Act. This had cost the bank R100 million.

Philip Wessels, Nedbank Group's chief risk officer, said Nedbank had planned a capital investment of R175 million in computer systems out of a total project cost of between R200 million and R250 million.

"Nedbank fully supports the Act, and a huge amount of work has gone into ensuring that we grant credit in a manner that upholds the principles of the National Credit Act," said Wessels.



# South Africa has misunderstood its role

*The Security Council is, or should be, an instrument for helping people, and a seat on the council should not be used as an ideological prop, writes Peter Fabricius*

**I**N HER budget speech in parliament this week, Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma made it clear she would persist with her government's often controversial performance in its first almost five months as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

As governments often do, she blamed the spin doctors for the bad press which South Africa has often attracted, for instance, by voting against a resolution condemning the human rights abuses of the Burmese military junta.

"We think the principles behind our positions should have been conveyed more robustly from the outset," she said.

It is probably true that many people don't understand those principles, which have to do, essentially, with the South African government's belief that the Security Council is not a very representative institution and should therefore not meddle so much in

global affairs. This point is not without validity. The problem is that it has become an ideology that is blinding South Africa to other considerations.

That became more evident on Wednesday, a day after Dlamini-Zuma spoke, when South Africa abstained from a resolution which would establish an international tribunal to try the murderers of the former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri, who was killed in a bomb blast in February 2005.

## Tribunal

In this horribly divided nation it is not surprising that the Lebanese politicians cannot agree among themselves on the international tribunal. Prime Minister Fouad Siniora wants it, President Emile Lahoud and the Speaker of parliament, Nabi Berri, do not.



## DIPLOMATIC BAG

And because Berri doesn't, he won't convene parliament to ratify the decision.

So the UN Security Council has decided that if the Lebanese cannot agree among themselves to the tribunal by June 10, it will impose the tribunal through its mandatory Chapter Seven powers.

South Africa's UN ambassador, Dumisani Kumalo, explained that South Africa had abstained because it "regards Lebanese ownership of the tribunal as being of paramount importance" and that the Security Council did not have "the right to bypass the

procedures required by the Lebanese constitution".

"It cannot be seen to be taking sides in internal Lebanese politics," Kumalo declared.

This was South Africa once again voting to illustrate a fine principle that becomes rather hollow and meaningless in practice. In other words, acting ideologically.

Even without understanding the complexity of Lebanese politics, it is surely plain for all to see that the country has already largely lost its sovereignty and has become the terrain of a struggle between outside forces.

Most observers believe Syria was behind the assassination of Hariri. So, when you have what are apparently Syrian proxies trying to block the courts from investigating the assassination of the country's former prime minister, does it make any sense to speak as Kumalo did, of allowing internal processes to take their course?

## Justice

How much respect for internal democratic processes is Berri showing when he refuses to convene the country's legislators?

It was surely because of this gross outside interference in the country's judicial process that the Security Council decided to act.

Its aim was surely to try to pursue justice for Hariri – and the other victims of political

assassination – by other means because of the evident failure of Lebanon's politicians to do so.

And once again, as with the Burma/Myanmar vote, South Africa is – in effect, though not in intention – using its seat on the Security Council to thwart the pursuit of human rights, this time the right to justice.

It looks as though the SA government has fundamentally misunderstood its role on the Security Council. The council chamber in New York should not be a backdrop against which South Africa will, for two years, endlessly project its tedious, unchanging message that the council should not overreach itself.

That is a sterile pursuit. With all its evident imperfections, the Security Council is, or should be, a dynamic instrument for actually helping people. Unless it realises this soon, South Africa might as well step down and give the seat to someone who will use it as more than an ideological prop.



# WHIPPING EDUCATION INTO SHAPE

I repeat again my appeal to all parents and community members to support us in creating safe and caring schools. We must do more to teach young people respect for each other, and non-violence, as well as the lessons of conflict resolution.

Once more I urge parents to assume responsibility for the future of their children, to insist on teaching and learning, and to support our young people to realise their fullest potential.

This year I call on all of us to affirm excellence and challenge mediocrity in the interest of advancing the objective of quality education for all.

I make this call to assert excellence because it is clear that all of us have to give far greater attention to achieving positive outcomes through our work. Such a focus by all of us will ensure that we give effect to our obligation to offer real learning and achievement opportunities to all our learners and students.

Furthermore, given that there are schools, principals, teachers, learners, colleges and universities that work well, we should acknowledge, replicate and reward positive performance.

I urge South Africans to affirm excellence and reject mediocrity in the interest of nation building, socioeconomic development and true liberation. The levels of under-performance in our education system are unacceptably high, and an unjust subversion of the historic promise of freedom and democracy that we've put before our people.

At the system level, in research and in protest, we have spent a great deal of time focusing on the negative; we have appeared far too tolerant of mediocrity in its many guises, and have been extremely neglectful of that which works and of those who are doing what must be done.

We seem to tolerate and assert the rights of children who are abusive, violent and disruptive. Very little is said about young achievers, emerging scientists, successful schools, and academic institutions with positive intellectual outcomes.

We have become a moaning nation rather than one that celebrates and expands success.

We tolerate parents who don't care to support their children, who don't care to support our schools, who fail in their duty as parents.

We tolerate public officials who are not up to the task of administrative or professional support, who leave work early, who fail to

and who do not yet reflect the objectives and principles of the Batho Pele campaign.

We also tolerate mediocrity in the teaching force. We tolerate too much that is unprofessional. We tolerate late-coming, little and sometimes no teaching, constant under-performance and poor academic [performance].

The defence of mediocrity is supported by unjustifiable arguments. Some cite apartheid. I acknowledge that the legacy of apartheid continues to affect us, but it no longer serves to explain continued failure on our part. Others cite inadequate resources. But this is also no longer a per-



It is also worrying that as we meet here there are thousands of children in

Khutsong who are being denied education by their own community. It is tragic indeed that the learners of Khutsong are being made sacrificial lambs and are being denied their right to education. History will judge us all harshly for what has been permitted by adult community members and those who have attempted to pretend that boycotting learning will not harm the future of those young people.

If the (Khutsong schools) boycott continues unabated, clearly the MEC must look at options that will provide schooling for the learners. They must not be victims.

suasive argument.

Our people ask: How long do we have to wait? I want to say today: We intend to intensify our efforts at ensuring that our people wait no longer.

There are positive achievements in the various phases of education that we should, and can, celebrate.

Student financial aid and widening access [to education] to poor but talented students is also an area that we are attending to. All [study] loan repayers are congratulated for their service to South Africa and its youth. Their contribution to creating new opportunities for young people

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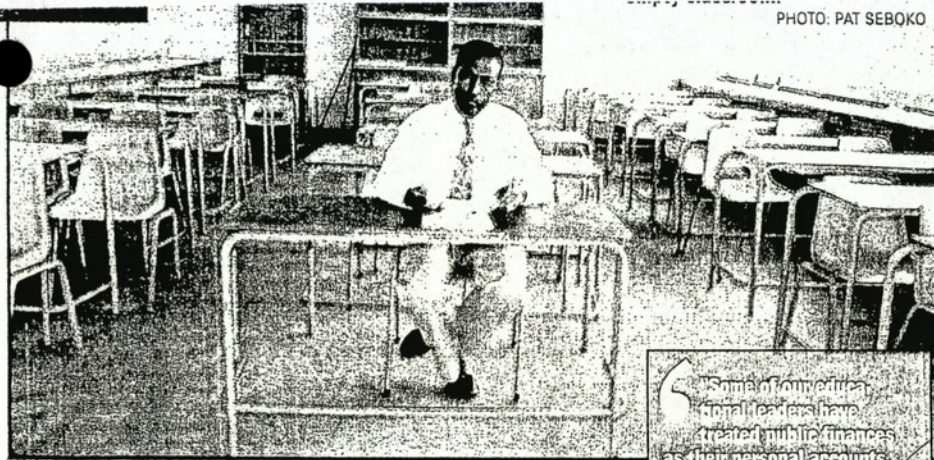
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Some of our educational leaders have treated public finances as their personal accounts. Others have failed to give institutional leadership. In some institutions, academics appear to have little pride in original intellectual work, plagiarism, and unscholarly academic practices do not enhance the profile of the sector, and HESA must act speedily to address these lapses and avoid state intrusion in academic affairs.

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their integrity as exhibited by their repayment: all this serves to confirm that we have young graduates in South Africa who fully understand each individual's responsibility for giving life to a truly developmental state.

It has to be said that not all practice in the sector is positive. The fee levels at many institutions continue to be prohibitive. I trust that the improvement in state funding will lead to a sectoral review of fees.

It has been distressing to note and act on serious, if not criminal, governance and fiduciary lapses at some of our institutions.

I have an exciting new project to announce today, a project that will assist us to widen access to further and higher education - the Fundisa Fund.

[The fund] is a public-private partnership between the department [of education] and the Association of Collective Investments. The scheme is a long-term collective investment in which the state will match the regular monthly saving a parent invests for his child's education at university or college [for further education and training].

The intention is to encourage education saving and provide state support to assist families that can put aside small amounts for future education purposes. The fund encourages long-term saving for education and it encourages access to further or university education.

The 2007 (R16 billion) budget provides R700 million for teacher bursaries over the next three years, the first R120 million of which has been fully committed for 3 000 student teachers in the Fundza Lushaka bursary programme.

The Fundza Lushaka programme gives preference to students who come from rural areas and to students who want to train in priority subjects and learning areas in which teachers are in short supply, such as mathematics, science, technology (including ICT), indigenous languages, English and teaching in the foundation phase.

The Framework for Teacher Development has been declared policy. It is designed to meet the need of developing a committed, competent core of education professionals for a democratic South Africa. It provides an overall strategy for the recruitment, retention and professional development of teachers.

Excellence has been noted in

thousands of our teachers.

The introduction of R600 million for bursaries (R100 million this year) in the further education and training college sector is a further positive development in education.

The most encouraging development this year is the mass literacy campaign, which will be implemented from 2008.

This campaign is set to infuse new energy, focus and purpose into adult education and training.

To this end, our budget is boosted by a further R850 million for a step up in our adult basic education and training programmes (R20 million of which is available this year for planning purposes).

We will not neglect our promise to address the basic foundation skills for learning: reading, writing and numeracy.

Our literacy development and reading improvement strategy continues to be a firm focus.

This year we introduced early grade reading assessment to assist teachers in supporting learning. You will have seen the bags branded with "Drop All and Read". They are part of our campaign to encourage children to read.

This year we will promote and affirm excellence. We will also actively challenge and reject mediocrity.

We will affirm excellence through performance rewards for teachers, schools, universities and colleges.

We will also act more

NEW ERA:  
Education  
Minister Naledi  
Pandor



• Pandor's full speech is available on [www.sowetan.co.za](http://www.sowetan.co.za)

2



## Mines are not human sinkholes

The wheels of politics grind slowly and nimble-footed commercial interests will often take the gap to exploit loopholes before they are closed.

And that's what is happening in Limpopo. Premier Sello Moloto, the Department of Minerals and Energy, the Department of Land Affairs and local authorities have heard from countless disaffected villagers being displaced by voracious, land-hungry platinum mines.

But hearings continue and nothing has yet changed to alleviate their plight.

Up to 10 000 people will be displaced to accommodate an expanding platinum mine outside Makopane. The trucks are at the villagers' doors, but the politicians were still talking to the community about it yesterday.

Scores of similar meetings have taken place with simmering communities for the past few years. All the people want is justice, far less than the rights spelt out for communities in the mining charter.

But nothing ever happens.

Villagers of Maandagshoek met politicians and bureaucrats last week to discuss the drilling rigs that pitched up in their front yards without so much as a "good morning" or a "by your leave ma'am".

Nothing happened.

Little wonder they destroyed three this week.

## Death penalty?

The investigation into the notorious Waterval prison outside Newcastle in northern KwaZulu-Natal is welcome.

At least six prisoners have been killed there in the past six months.

Inmates are living in fear following allegations that warders were involved in inciting violence at this jail.

One of the prisoners, Thamsanqa Dladla, was killed - on the eve of his release - during a fight between inmates while warders allegedly stood by.

What is amazing is that his family was only informed about his death seven days after the incident.

This is unacceptable.

Inspecting Judge of Prisons Nathan Erasmus should leave no stone unturned in exposing the rot that has made Waterval one of the most dangerous prisons in the country.

Prisons are expected to be places of rehabilitation for inmates - not killing fields.

Friday June 1 2007 SOWETAN

## MPs do not impress press

Editors have greeted "with caution" the decision by Parliament not to force newspapers, radio and television stations to submit their material to the South African classification body before publication or broadcast.

Members of parliament's watchdog home affairs committee yesterday agreed to ensure broadcast and print media would be exempt from pre-publication classification in a draft law, the Film and Publications Amendment Act.

But the chairman of the South African National Editor's Forum press freedom committee, Raymond Louw, was cautiously optimistic yesterday.

He told *Sowetan* the decision was a "limited victory". - *Waghied Misbach*

## Cops want to find this witness

The police are searching for a 16-year-old girl, pictured, known only as Noxolo, in connection with the murder of Virgolino Laranteiro Alexandra in February last year.

Alexandra was shot and killed by three armed men who had robbed him and two other men at a house in Johannesburg.

Noxolo is believed to have been at the house before the robbery and murder.

The police have asked anyone with information on Noxolo's whereabouts to get in touch with their nearest police station. - *Sowetan Reporter*





# Strike: What to expect

## STAFF REPORTERS AND AGENCIES

**T**he biggest public service strike in more than a decade was set to hit South Africa today, as 700 000 workers vent their anger at being offered a 6% pay raise.

Tens of thousands of people were expected to march in Johannesburg from the Civic Centre to Beyers Naudé Square.

Unionists yesterday responded angrily to Public Service and Administration Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi's claim in parliament that there had been a breakthrough in talks.

Officials of the 17 organisations said it was a deliberate lie to parliament and the public to try to drive a wedge between unions and their supporters.

Fraser-Moleketi said the negotiations were not only about a percentage increase, but about a change in the nature of the public service, where those who worked hard and had skills and experience would be recognised and rewarded.

She cautioned against short-term expediency, such as higher salaries, at the expense of long-term security and broader conditions of service.

The unions' original stance would have added R200-billion to the wage bill in the first year of implementation – more than doubling the current wage bill, Fraser-Moleketi said. "Clearly we were a long way apart."

However, over the past two days the parties were back at the bargaining chamber "to find a way of coming together".

A working document, which now had official status, was drafted and formed the basis of the new discussions, she said.

The SA Chamber of Business (Sacob) yesterday expressed its concern over today's strike action, warning it would create "unparalleled disruption" and damage to South Africa's image abroad.

Business Unity South Africa echoed these sentiments, adding

that the nationwide strike could seriously hamper the 6% economic growth rate the country was hoping to attain.

Departments expected to be worst hit by the strike are health and education.

## ■ HEALTH

Nurses at state hospitals expressed fears of violent repercussions should they report to duty as skeleton staff. While confirming that they would be at work today, public-hospital doctors expressed concern about intimidation of nurses by union members – and its consequent impact on staff numbers.

Like the majority of public hospitals, Chris Hani-Baragwanath will be shutting down wards in non-essential sections. Extra security personnel will be on site during the strike.

## ■ SCHOOLS

Committees comprising representatives from national and provincial education departments will be sent around the country to monitor the situation to ensure that schoolchildren are not left to loiter on the streets. The majority of teachers were expected to go on strike.

Buses contracted by the Gauteng Department of Education to transport children to schools will still be on the roads today, despite thousands of schoolchildren set to stay away from their institutions.

With the majority of teachers at state schools taking part in the strike action, most schools have advised parents not to send their children.

## ■ HOME AFFAIRS

Proceedings at the Home Affairs Department were expected to be exceedingly slow, with only emergency requests being processed. Immigration officers have been prevented from taking part following a court order. All the department's offices will be open. Police officers were to man the country's ports of entry and assist in processing tourists' passports and other documents.

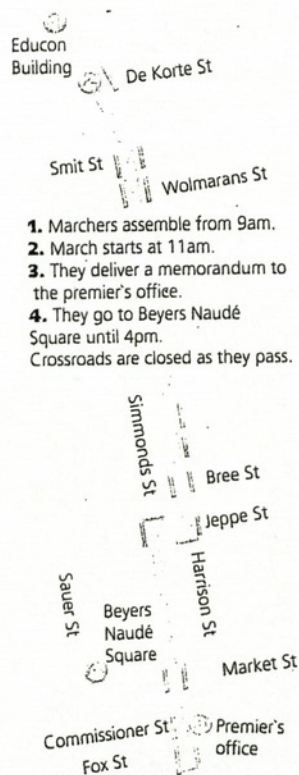
## ■ POLICE

National police spokesperson Selby Bokaba said all officers would report for duty during the strike as they were by law not allowed to participate in the mass action.

## ■ MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Municipal services were expected to proceed as normal. Key services such as refuse removal, water and electricity maintenance, emergency services, clinics, libraries and policing were to continue as normal – although some facilities such as clinics could expect a high demand if provincial and national facilities are not coping.

■ Are you a striking public servant? Tell us your grievances by e-mail or SMS.



Selected SMSs will be published in Monday's paper on PAGE 2



# Mbeki mediates Selebi stand-off

BY MOSHOESHOE MONARE,  
JOVIAL RANTAO, ANGELA QUINTAL  
AND BEAUREGARD TROMP

President Thabo Mbeki has intervened in another potentially dangerous stand-off between the Scorpions and National Police Commissioner Jackie Selebi.

Mbeki was brought in after Selebi refused the elite unit access to files and documents held by the SA Police Service's Crime Intelligence Unit.

This is a second stand-off between the two law enforcement agencies, after the police's VIP Protection Unit tried to prevent the Scorpions from raiding the premises of ANC deputy president Jacob Zuma in the spring of 2005 – an incident that nearly ended up in a shootout.

Independent Newspapers was told by at least four sources in the security community that Selebi's aides warned the Scorpions "there would be war" if they entered the crime intelligence offices. A special police unit was placed on standby to block the Scorpions.

The Scorpions wanted documents in relation to criminal activities that, according to one source in the SAPS, could incriminate the police commissioner and his



ASKED  
TO ASSIST:  
National  
police chief  
Jackie Selebi

PICTURE:  
LIZA VAN  
DEVENTER

friend and murder suspect Glenn Agliotti.

Some of the crime intelligence officers even threatened to use force if the Scorpions were to enter their premises.

In frustration, National Director of Public Prosecutions Vusi Pikoli wrote to Mbeki, urging him to intervene, saying he would have to go to court to obtain an interdict to search and seize documents in his investigations of police senior management.

He pointed out to the president that an interdict would mean the matter would have to go to court, where some of the information would eventually leak out.

Mbeki then convened a mediation meeting between Pikoli and Selebi in which the president asked the police chief to co-operate and

allow the Scorpions to carry out their duties.

The meeting, according to sources, took place on May 10.

The Scorpions were then allowed to have access, as opposed to search and seizure, to documents and electronic files without any dramatic raid taking place.

National Prosecuting Authority spokesperson Panyaza Lesufi refused to comment this week, while presidential spokesperson Mukoni Ratshitanga said he was not aware of the meeting.

Scorpions head Leonard McCarthy would neither confirm nor deny the meeting.

Selebi's spokesperson, Director Sally de Beer, could not be reached yesterday.

Another police source said the Scorpions didn't discover what they wanted "in their endeavour to find anything on the commissioner".

The Star is also aware that top SAPS investigators have in their possession dockets containing serious allegations against some members of the Scorpions.

The ongoing battle for control is playing out in the justice, peace and security cabinet cluster, which is looking at proposed changes to the National Prosecuting Authority Act.



# Blair drums up SA support for G8 push

Meeting with Mbeki to get Africa plan on track

BY PETER FABRICIUS  
Foreign Editor

**B**ritish Prime Minister Tony Blair says he has come to South Africa to stoke up support for the efforts he will make next week to press his fellow G8 leaders to keep their outstanding promises to Africa at their summit.

Nelson Mandela praised Blair as "a very good friend of Africa" when they met at his foundation in Houghton, Johannesburg, yesterday.

But the real business of Blair's trip was due to happen today, when he meets President Thabo Mbeki to try to find ways of improving the implementation of the Africa plan, which the G8 and African leaders agreed to at the 2005 summit at Gleneagles, Scotland, which Blair hosted.

Mbeki will attend the summit as one of a group of five emerging-nation leaders.

Delivering a keynote speech at Unisa's Midrand business school yesterday, Blair said both sides had made progress, but both still had much to do.

The G8 countries should set out a path to show how they would keep their promise to

double aid to Africa by 2010. Blair hinted that this year's summit host, Germany, would announce increased aid over the next few days.

Africa was also not on track to achieve its goal of universal primary education, Blair said. For this, African governments had to develop sustainable funding plans, and donor countries had to make long-term financing commitments.

The G8 also had to find funds to aid African plans to achieve universal access to Aids treatment and to replenish the United Nations' Global Fund on Aids.

But African leaders also had to keep their promise to hold other African governments to account, he added, in a clear reference to Zimbabwe.

Blair welcomed the Mbeki-led Southern African Development Community mediation in Zimbabwe, but stressed the urgency of bringing about change before the elections expected by March next year.

African governments also had to keep their promises to consolidate democracy, build the capacity of government institutions to deliver essential services, redouble efforts to

stamp out corruption and encourage the private sector to grow.

Although it has been widely criticised, Blair insisted that the G8 had kept many of its Gleneagles promises, including some increase in aid.

The G8 had also delivered \$38-billion (about R269-billion) in debt relief, from which 18 African countries had benefited. It had raised \$1-billion towards a \$4-billion target over 10 years to vaccinate more than 500 people and save 10-million lives.

There had also been a ten-fold increase in people on anti-retrovirals in sub-Saharan Africa, now totalling more than 1-million - or 23% of all of those needing treatment. And the G8 had also raised the funds to put over 3-million more children in school over the next year.

Blair added that trade negotiators battling in the World Trade Organisation to nail down a global trade pact that would open the markets of rich countries to African agricultural exports were "only a few percent and few billion from a deal that would lift millions out of poverty".



# Mbeki eases fears over review of provinces

President tells MPs that the process will be people-centred

BY ANGELA QUINTAL  
Group Political Editor

**T**he cabinet-mandated review of the provincial and local government system was not aimed at gerrymandering, nor was there already a decision to reduce the number of provinces.

This was stated in parliament yesterday by President Thabo Mbeki.

His comments follow those of several of his senior cabinet ministers, including Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota and Provincial and Local Government Minister Sydney Mufamadi, who have publicly suggested the nine provinces should be reduced.

Former Eastern Cape premier Makhenkesi Stofile was the first to publicly raise the issue, and Western Cape Premier Ebrahim Rasool more recently said merging these two provinces would be good for development.

The Afrikanerbond and the Young Communist League are among those who support a rethink on the issue, while the Democratic Alliance has suggested that any merging of the Eastern and Western Cape was aimed at keeping the DA out of power in the latter province.

Mufamadi was tasked last year by the cabinet to review provincial and local governments in the light of concerns about the state's administrative capacity and ability to deliver.

A discussion document was drafted last year and has been "circulated in the government,

while the ANC's own draft has also been published ahead of its policy conference this month.

Both set out several options. The government document, titled "Towards a discussion on the division of powers and functions between the three spheres of government", for example, moots a four- or five-province option.

Replying to a question by the DA's new leader of the opposition, Sandra Botha, Mbeki emphasised that South Africa was "one sovereign, democratic state".

"Let me state categorically that our government has not taken any decision to reduce the number of provinces. Neither are we 'considering rationalising the number of provinces', as the honourable member puts it."

The review was in line with what he had said in his state of the nation address – that, leading up to 2009, "the issue of the organisation and capacity of the state will remain high on our agenda" – Mbeki said.

Mufamadi said the manner in which the review of the current system would be undertaken, as well as the relevant processes to be followed, would be announced in his budget speech on Wednesday.

Mbeki pledged that the process would be people-centred and people-driven.

On the DA's claims, Mbeki said "the fantastic suggestion that this nonexistent decision to rationalise the number of provinces, to gerrymander the system of governance, is



REVERENCE: Democratic Alliance leader of the opposition Sandra Botha greets President Thabo Mbeki yesterday before asking him the first question in the National Assembly.

PICTURE: ANDREW INGRAM

driven by a hunger for power intended to promote the objectives of the political incumbents in the national and provincial spheres" was "pure fiction".

"In this regard I would like

to advise against seeking partisan political advantage by misrepresenting government positions, thus also undermining the possibility for rational discussion of important questions facing our country."

In apparent reference to the violent protests by residents of Khutsong, about their incorporation into North West from Gauteng, he said there was a "grossly erroneous idea harboured by some in our society

that residing in one or other part of our country determines whether one gets better or worse access to the rights, privileges, benefits and responsibilities to which citizenship equally entitles each citizen".



# Walk-out drama at Msinga

**'Most unfortunate day for democracy' — DA**

BHEKI MBANJWA

**A**CCUSATIONS and counter-accusations between Speaker of the legislature Willies Mchunu and the Inkatha Freedom Party culminated in the party walking out of the provincial legislature sitting at Msinga yesterday.

The IFP was unhappy with what it called "the Speaker's bias" towards the ruling ANC.

Since Monday, the first day of Taking Parliament to the People, tensions between the IFP and the ANC threatened to spoil the proceedings.

On Monday, the mayor of the IFP-led uMzinyathi District Municipality, Mangaliso Yengwa, said he has been undermined and was forbidden to sit in an area designated for VIPs, after some officials allegedly mistook him for an ordinary citizen.

On Tuesday, Mchunu said he received information that IFP leaders in the district tried to prevent people from attending.

The IFP, meanwhile, alleged that buses were only provided to ferry ANC members to the event, and added that its councillors were snubbed and were not timeously consulted.

On Wednesday, an IFP councillor at Msinga, Sthembiso Mdladla, was briefly arrested after he allegedly threatened a person who questioned the roll-out of services in his ward.

Three other IFP councillors had to be removed as the Speaker found they were causing a disturbance. IFP members accused the Speaker of trying to muzzle freedom of expression.

Mchunu also slammed as cheap politicking IFP media statements that questioned Premier S'bu Ndebele's absence from the opening day of the outreach session.

Yesterday, disgruntled members of the IFP — joined by the DA — walked out of the proceedings when they did not get a chance to table their motions, after the Speaker indicated that the time allocated for motions and preliminaries had lapsed.

## Hamba! Speaker tells DA members

The DA members returned to the sitting after a few minutes but were ordered out by the Speaker.

"Mr [Radley] Keys, you are again disturbing the order in the House. You cannot rise when you are out of the House. Sergeant at Arms, please take him out ... Nawe Margaret [Ambler Moore], Hamba (You, Margaret, also leave). You do not even need to bow as you leave, hamba," Mchunu told the DA members.

He later explained that while the DA exercised its democratic right to leave the proceedings, the party should have informed him of their decision to return to the House.

Speaking to *The Witness*, Keys said: "This was a most unfortunate day for democracy in the province. I stood up to say we had returned, but the Speaker did not want to hear it."

He said there is no rule that any party must write to the Speaker notifying him of the return to the House after a walk-out.

"The walk-out had been temporary, we had to come back to discuss our motion on crime."

Blessed Gwala of the IFP said the party will consider moving for a vote of no confidence in the Speaker.

"We are considering this and we will be engaging other parties on this, as the Speaker is clearly biased."

Mchunu said the walk-out was an "outdated political manoeuvre designed to create a situation similar to anarchy in the province".

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## Little action on Agric after audit — IFP

BHEKI MBANJWA

THE Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) says the damning internal audit report that exposed gross mismanagement in the KZN Agriculture Department has done little, if anything, to cure the department's ills.

"By all accounts, some of the past misconduct continues. Agricultural development in Msinga, for one, continues to be managed as a personal fiefdom of the local ANC councillor," said IFP MPL Lindani Mncwango. She said she discovered that seedlings and equipment from the department are made available only to a few individuals linked to the ANC. "[ANC] councillor [Phikamanga] Dlamini has also been known to charge for the use of tractors that were given to the community to use free of charge."

Responding to some of the questions, MEC Mtholephi Mthimkhulu said he will investigate Mncwango's claims. But, he said, there are some IFP councillors deliberately obstructing the delivery of services and the roll-out of government programmes to Msinga, and promised to deal with these people he dubbed "goalkeepers".



# Local schools' strike plans

**SANDILE WAKA-ZAMISA**

SCHOOLS will be disrupted today as government employees begin their strike.

Schools reported that the majority of teachers will be participating. In an attempt to strike a balance between the rights of teachers to engage in a strike and the rights of pupils, principals of Pietermaritzburg schools are applying different strategies to the situation.

## Primaries worried about safety

Primary school principals are most concerned about the safety of the younger pupils, hence the decision of some principals to close the schools today.

Ridge Junior Primary principal Maggie Odell said she has sent letters to parents informing them of the school closure. "We have informed parents that school will be closed from tomorrow until Tuesday. I have pupils as young as six in my school and their safety is of the most concern. We have taken great care to ensure that these young kids are not exposed to any danger," she said.

## Some high schools to close

High school principals have released themselves from the responsibility of making final decisions about today. Some consulted with School Governing Bodies (SGB) and others asked parents to decide for themselves when to send their children back to school.

Voortrekker High principal

Jan Nel said the strike will affect learning. He consulted with the SGB, who made a decision to close the school tomorrow. "School will be disrupted and the SGB decided that there should be no school today, but we will open on Monday," said Nel.

Raisethorpe will be shut, principal Dharam Bridgemohun told *The Witness*.

"Most of our teachers will be supporting their respective unions and that will disrupt learning. We have sent letters to parents informing them that there is no school tomorrow and we also said they should monitor the press for developments on the strike," said Bridgemohun.

## Monitor press

Heather Secondary also informed parents to follow media reports and make decisions on when to send their children back to school.

Russell Girls' High principal Jean Rose said the strike coincides with internal examinations. "We have exams today and we have arranged that pupils should start writing a little bit earlier so that teachers can leave after the exams to join the strike," said Rose.

She said teachers will stay at the school for the duration of the exams. "On Monday, I will be at school to access the situation," she said.

Alexandra High School will not close, deputy principal Pam Mathfield said.

"We will be carrying on with school as normal, we will be at school and pupils will be taken care of," said Mathfield.

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# e-Natis a hacker's dream

**National licensing system can be entered without a password**

ADRIAAN BASSON  
and COBUS COETZEE

**Y**OU don't even need a password to hack into e-Natis. That was one of the shock findings by the Auditor-General (A-G) that Transport Minister Jeff Radebe wanted to sweep under the carpet.

The Pretoria High Court yesterday rejected the efforts of Radebe and his department to gag *Beeld* newspaper, ruling that freedom of the press takes precedence over Radebe's right to keep the A-G's report secret.

*Beeld* was thus enabled to reveal the conclusions of the report, which is the second of three audits compiled by the A-G:

- It is easy to hack into e-Natis.
- Documents on e-Natis cannot be secured, and
- e-Natis files can be circulated without any problem.

The department still refused to reply to inquiries by *Beeld*, and would not say if the shortcomings identified on February 21 this year by the A-G and conveyed to the director-general of Transport, Mpuumi Mpofo, still exist.

The report also shows that Mpofo knew about e-Natis's serious flaws on February 23, yet still went ahead with the implementation of the system in April.

The department previously denied that Radebe or the D-G had seen the report before *Beeld* revealed the first one, in which the A-G said the system would not cope if launched all at once, as was then done.

## 'System should be frozen immediately'

Professor Basie von Solms, head of the University of Johannesburg's academy for information technology, warned yesterday that e-Natis should immediately be frozen to prevent criminals from hacking into it.

According to Von Solms, it could even be illegal to keep a system going, with so many manifest shortcomings.

"It's shocking to think that although the department was warned two months earlier about e-Natis's shortcomings, it appears that they continued to implement the system, regardless of the findings," Von

Solms said.

"These serious breaches could already have led to hackers gaining access to e-Natis, to commit sabotage, fraud and conduct all sorts of other unauthorised transactions.

"It's not just irresponsible, but possibly also criminal to keep operating a system with so many shortcomings," he said.

Von Solms said such management gaps are at odds with international IT practice.

"My first-year students could tell you that the deficiencies that were pointed out were some of the first that you would address, and they should have been ironed out two months before implementation," he said.

Von Solms said that if the security

breaches still exist, the department should immediately switch off e-Natis and sort out these security aspects, before it could be used again.

"It's an open invitation for a crime syndicate to crack into e-Natis and it is plainly irresponsible if the department allows it to continue to function," Von Solms said.

Werner Koekemoer, project manager of e-Natis, just laughed when he was asked if the security inadequacies pointed out by the A-G have been rectified.

Mpofo answered the question, saying: "As far as I know, yes".

The department declined to elaborate on steps it may have taken to rectify the problems.

## Editors hail judge's ruling on report

JOHANNESBURG — The SA National Editors' Forum (Saneef) welcomed the Pretoria High Court's judgment preventing censorship of *Beeld* newspaper by the Transport Department over an article on the e-Natis system.

The forum further noted that taxpayers will have to foot the bill for the department having lost the case because costs were awarded against the state.

"Saneef protested when the department applied to the high court to interdict *Beeld* from publishing the contents of an Auditor-General's report on the e-Natis electronic licensing system," read a statement.

Saneef said it was "an unacceptable censorship in breach of the Constitution".

The statement went on to say it applauds the manner in which the judgment upheld the essentiality of the freedom of the press in the affairs of a nation and the importance of the public being kept informed, especially about state conduct that affects them directly. The court found that the public's right to know about possible security problems with e-Natis outweighs confidentiality concerns.

Judge Dion Basson dismissed the arguments of Radebe's counsel, Pat Ellis SC, that by publishing the story *Beeld* would put confidential information on security gaps in the old Natis and the new e-Natis into the public domain.

—Sapa.



NALINI NAIDOO

## Indiza's troubled history with the KZN Education Department

THERE was controversy shortly after Jabulani Mabaso's company, Indiza, was awarded a R350 million contract by the KZN Education Department to distribute stationery.

The first to cry foul was the Inkatha Freedom Party, which in a press statement earlier this year alleged that Indiza was granted the government tender without being registered for VAT in 2005.

The company then became embroiled in a dispute with the

department on the withholding of payment.

In January this year, Education

MEC Ina Cronjé issued a statement saying her department awarded the contract as a joint venture to a com-

pany called Indiza Motswedi. However, the invoices that the department received for payment only reflected one entity of the joint venture, namely Indiza, which is a different legal entity.

Cronjé said that if they paid on these invoices, the department would be rendering itself liable to claims and would also be in breach of the Public Finance Management Act and Treasury regulations.

Cronjé added that the matter is with the department's attorneys and said "we regret the fact that Indiza

has chosen to put pressure on us through the media as this now forces us to respond through the media to set the record straight".

The Witness also learnt yesterday that Mabaso failed to pay tax since he received the contract in 2005, and only registered for VAT last year.

National Prosecuting Authority's spokesman Tlali Tlali would not confirm or deny the claims, saying the matter is *sub judice*.

The Department of Education was unavailable for comment.

### Who is Jabulani Mabaso?

VERY little is known about Jabulani Mabaso and *The Witness* was not able to find a profile on him on the Internet, despite the fact that the 38-year-old is listed in the Companies Register as an active director of 14 companies. These include Household Logistics Services, Indiza Sports and Entertainment, Indiza Communications, Indiza Investment Holdings, Brand Jabulani Corporation, Sisukakude Investments and Twilight Logistics.



## Durban traders angry over by-laws and rent

SNE MAKHANYA

TENSIONS are brewing between eThekweni Metro officials and street traders over the "sudden" increase in rent, the implementation of street trading policies without consultation and the city's "harsh" bylaws and enforcement.

Yesterday, two separate meetings were held: one at Albert Park where informal trade leaders addressed over 600 traders, and another at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli ICC where city manager Mike Sutcliffe addressed others.

Sutcliffe was responding to a memorandum that street traders submitted last Wednesday when over 2 000 of them marched.

Sutcliffe told those attending his meeting to select representatives to attend a workshop on Monday where their problems

can be addressed.

According to Themba Duma, deputy president of the Informal Management Board that represents over 40 street trading committees around Durban, the informal trade leadership was not told about the meeting.

"They [the municipality] are creating a war among vendors and they should watch out ... because the next thing that's going to happen is people will kill each other," he said.

The traders are planning a five-day strike and a march to Premier S'bu Ndebele's offices, as their pleas to the municipality "have fallen on deaf ears".

Traders have refused to pay the proposed annual rent of R420 (increased from R273).

Sutcliffe said the municipality has spent over R800 million on infrastructure upgrades.



Photo: SBU MFEKA

eThekweni street vendors marched in Durban yesterday complaining that they are abused by the Metro Police and criticised the council's increased annual stall rentals, which will be charged from today.

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ISOLEZWÉ, ULWESIHLANU, JUNI 1, 2007

## I-SACP izomashela abasemapulazini

CHARLES KHUZWAYO

INHLANGANO yamaKhomanisi esifundeni saseMgungundlovu izomashela esiteshini samaphoyisa aseHowick kusasa ukudlulisa ukukhalaza kwayo ngokuhlukunyezwa kwezisebenzi zasemapulazini.

UNobhala weSouth African Communist Party kulesi sifunda, uMnuz Mathews Ndlovu, uthe banqume ukumasha ngemuva kokuzwa izikhalazo zalaba basebenzi emhlanganweni akade benawo ngempelasonto.

"Kulo mhlango kuvele ukuthi basahlukumezeka kakhulu abasebenzi basemapulazini kangangoba abavumelekile ukuba bavakashelwe yizihlobo zabo ezingahlali kulelo pulazi. Basanqatshelwa ukungcwaba amalungu emindeni yabo ngaphakathi epulazini," kusho uNdlovu.

Uthe kubashaqisile ukuthola ukuthi kusenabasebenzi abasahola u-R450 ngenyanga esikhundleni sika-R900 ogunyazwe nguHulumeni wakuleli.

"Izingane zabasebenzi uma sezineminyaka engu-16 ziyaphoqwa ukuba zisebenze nabazali bazo epulazini. Uma zinqaba ziyaxoshwa kuthiwe aziyohlala kwenye indawo. Abanye abanikazi bala mapulazi baqashe izinkampani zonogada abahlala behlome beyizingovolo. Bangena lapho kuhlala khona abasebenzi ngesankahlu, lokho okwenza izingane zihlukumezeke emiqondweni."

Eqhuba uNdlovu uthe le mashi izobe iholwa ngabaholi baleli qembu ezingeni likazwelonke nalesi sifundazwe.

"Imashi iyosukela ezinkundleni zemidlalo eMathenisini ngo-9 ekuseni," kusho uNdlovu.



# Abamatekisi baseka isiteleka sabakaHulumeni

## MHLENGI SHANGASE

ABANTU abasebenzisa amatekisi KwaZulu-Natal kufanele babheke ezinye izinto zokuhamba njengoba osomatekisi bethe amatekisi azobe engabonwa.

Lokhu kulandela ukuthi inhlangothi yamatekisi i-KwaZulu-Natal Taxi Alliance (KZNTA) ithi izokweseka izisebenzi zikaHulumeni abazobe beyigxoba namhlanje emuva kokufekela kwezingxoxo zamaholo noHulumeni.

Esithangamini sabezindaba eThekwini izolo, uSihlalo wale nhlangothi, uMnuz Eugene Hadebe, uthe abagibeli kufanele bafune ezinye izinto zokuhamba ngoba azobe engekho amatekisi.

"Njengoba amakhasimende ethu ezobe etelekile ngeke sithwale amagundane bebe abanye betelekile. Laba abangasebenzeli uHulumeni kuzofanele bathole ezinye izinto zokuhamba," usho kanje.

UNobhala weCosatu esifundazweni, uMnuz Zet Luzipho, uthe bacele ukuthi ibaseke le

nhlangothi ngokuthi bangenele isiteleka abangazi ukuthi sizodonsa isikhathi esingakanani.

Uthe basasho namanje ukuthi asikho isidingo sesiteleka, kodwa nguHulumeni obaphoqe ukuthi basingenele. Uthe sizokhubeka nangesonto elizayo uma singekho isivumelwano okufinyelelwa kusona.

"Sinxusa bonke abasebenzi abahlabe ikhefu ukuthi nabo basijoyine esitelekeni ngoba uHulumeni usewaqambe kakhulu amanga ethi uyayinyusa imali, kodwa izingxoxo ziphinde

zibhuntshe. Ayikho imali esithi sizoyithatha ngaphandle kuka-12% esiwufunayo, hhayi ngaphansi kwawo," usho kanje.

Uthe ezinye izinhlobo ezibasekayo yi-ANCYL, YCL ne-SACP kanti uma kungukuthi siyaqhubeka lesi siteleka bazoyicela iKZNTA ukuthi iqhubeke noku-beseka.

UMnuz Mzameni Mthiyane, weDurban South Region Taxi Association edlelana neSantaco, uthe bona bayasebenza namhlanje njengoba bebengazi ngalesi siteleka.

# Kukhalwa ngo'nesi weGenerations'

## NDUKU BUTHELEZI

**U**ZOTHATHELWA izinyathelo ezingala umhlengikazi ongosomaghuzu wasesibhedlela iSt Benedictine, KwaNongoma, enyakatho yeKwaZulu Natal. Lo nesi usolwa ngomkhuba omubi wokubuka izindaba neGenerations kwi-TV nethimba elisebenza

ngaphansi kwakhe, bashiye dengwane iziguli.

Lesi sinqumo silandela isikhalo ngalo Sister, esifakwe esinye isiguli ebesilaliswe kulesi sibhedlela. Izikhulu zalesi sibhedlela kuthiwa azisifihlanga leso sikhalo kodwa zisidlulisele ekoMkhulu loMnyango eMgungundlovu.

Umthombo ongaphakathi waleli phepha uthe ngemuva

kokuthola lesi sikhalo, izikhulu zakhapha abathile ukuthola ubuqiniso bazo, nempela yatholakala inzika yokuthi kukhona okungahambi kahle.

Emasontweni amathathu edlule kufe esinye isiguli nokuthiwa samemeza kwasha izwi, sicela usizo, singalutholi. Owazibonela le nkanankana, nohlabe umkhosi ngalesi sisenzo, uthe

ngenkathi lesi siguli simemeza amanesi ayesabuka izindaba kwalandela iGenerations. Ngemuva kwamahora amathathu kuthiwa omunye wonesi wazijuba weza ezozwa ukuthi leso siguli besikhala ngani.

Okhulumela uMnyango wezeMpilo KwaZulu Natal, uNksz Sebe Zwane, ukuqinisekile ukuthi kuphenywa ngokungaziphathi kahle

kwalo somaghuzu kanesi.

"Sesisitholile isikhalo esinjalo nesithunyelwe ngabaphethe kulesiya sibhedlela, iSt Benedictine. Esesikulindle manje ukuthi sithole umbiko oqondile ngemuva kophenyo lwangaphakathi, bese sithatha izinyathelo. Kunzima okwamanje ukugagula ukuthi zinyathelo zini azothathelwa zona lo Sister ngoba asikezwa

konke ngokwenzekile nokuthi kuyiqiniso yini," kuchaza uZwane.

Uphinde waqinisekisa ukuthi lo Sister nethimba lakhe basolwa ngokulibala umabonakude kunomsebenzi.

Isolezwe liphinde lahogela ngesinye sezikhulu kulesi sibhedlela ukuthi sekuqalile kakade ukuqondiswa kwezigwegwe kulo Sister ngaphakathi.

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# Ummeli kaZuma uthi badudula impi enzima

ABAMELI bakasekela-mengameli we-ANC, u-Mnuz Jacob Zuma nabenkampani yakwaThint, bathi iwukulahlala amandla imizamo yoFezela yokuthola amaphepha enkampani yakwaThint ashaqwe eMauritius, kubika uSAPA noFRASER MTSHALI

OFezela bathi yikulo mhlango lapho kuhlanganiswe inkulamo yokugwazela uMsholozzi ngoR500 000 ngonyaka.

UMnuz Shaik, owayengumeluleki kaMnuz Zuma kwezezimali, udonisa isigwebo seminyaka eli-15 e-Westville eThekwini ngamacala enkohlakalo amabili nelokukhwabanisa.

**"KUBALULEKILE**  
engikwenzayo.  
Lena akusiyona impi  
phakathi kwabantu  
abalinganayo.  
Lena yimpi  
kawafa-wafa.  
Uma ukuvimba  
amaphepha kuzoba  
nomthelela  
wokusiza  
engimbele,  
kufanele  
ngikwenze lokho  
ngoba  
kungumsebenzi  
wami."

UJaji Hugo ukhweshe u-Advocate Kemp wathi uma uMnuz Zuma emsolwa kungani befaka isicelo esigonde ukuvimba ukulandwa kwamaphepha eMauritius.

Ephendula u-Advocate Kemp uthi: "Kubalulekile engikwenzayo. Lena akusiyona impi phakathi kwabantu abalinganayo."

"Lena yimpi kawafa-wafa. Uma ukuvimba amaphepha kuzoba nomthelela wokusiza engimbele, kufanele ngikwenze lokho ngoba kungumsebenzi wami."

U-Advocate Downer uthi umbuso unelungelo lokuqoqa ubufakazi uma kuphenywa ukuze unqume ukuthi sikhona yini isidingo sokushushiswa komuntu noma kasikho.

"Kakuphikiwe ukuthi kukhona uphenyo."

"Siyazi futhi ukuthi (amaphepha aseMauritius) abalulekile kulolu phenyo," kusho u-Advocate Downer.

Ukugcizelele ukuthi alikho icala ababhekene nalo uMnuz Zuma nenkampani yakwaThint.

"Njengamanje basengabasolwa. Inkantolo ingakuvuma yini ukuthi umsolwa avimbele ukwenzeka kophenyo?" ubuze kanje u-Advocate Downer.

Uthi indaba yokuthi ukuphenywa kukaMnuz Zuma yingenxa yokuba khona kwetulo lokumvimba ukuba abambe iqhaza kwezepolitiki yinto engenabo ubufakazi.

"Lena yindlela yabo yokuza ma ukusivimba ekusebenziseni lobu bufakazi obuqandula ikhanda. Siyawafuna la maphepha," kusho u-Advocate Downer.

OFezela bayazi yonke into equkethwe ngamaphepha aseMauritius.

Banamakhophi ayo yonke into, okuyiwo abawasebenzise

ekushushiseni ngempumelelo u-Mnuz Shaik.

Isizathu sokufuna ungqo wamaphepha wukwesabela ukuthi uma bethwesa abantu amacala bephethe amakhophi, abameli bazofaka isicelo sokuthi achithwe ngesizathu sokuthi kungenzeka kube yinto engumkhoshosho.



Emva kokushaqwa kwala maphepha eMauritius ngo-2000 iThint ifake isicelo enkantolo yakhona sokuba angedluliselwa eNingizimu Afrika, kodwa avelwe emahhovisi kamshushisi omkhulu wakhona.

U-Advocate Downer ufike kuleli namakhophi awo.

Ukuba khona kwala makhophi ezandleni zoFezela kuyindaba enkulu emininigwaneni efungelwe uMnuz Zuma nommeli wakhe abalwa ngayo noFezela.

Kule mininingwane, ebhalwe ngu-Advocate Kemp, kuthiwa oFezela baqhuba uphenyo ngamakhophi atholakale eMauritius ngendlela engekho emithethweni.



**U**MA inkantolo ivuma isicelo sokuba kuyolandwa amaphepha ashaqwe emahhovisi enkampani yakwaThint eMauritius, oFezela abathi anobufakazi bokuhlanganiswa kwenkulumo yokugwazela usekela-mengameli we-ANC, uMnuz Jacob Zuma, lokho kuyobe kungukulahla amandla kabili.

Lokhu kushiwo ngummeli kaMnuz Zuma, u-Advocate Kemp J Kemp nowenkampani yakwaThint, uMnuz Nirmal Singh, betshela uJaji Jan Hugo eNkantolo eNkulu yaseThekwini kuleli sonto.

Bebephikisa isicelo sabameli boFezela abaholwa ngu-Advocate Billy Downer abasenze kuJaji Hugo ngomSombuluko lapho befuna ukuthi isebenze incwadi uJaji Philip Levinsohn avume ukuyibhala emva kokuba oFezela benze isicelo sayo ngo-April.

Emva kwalokhu, abameli bakaMnuz Zuma nabenkampani yakwaThint bafake isicelo sokuledlulisa icala. Sivunyiwe nguJaji Levinsohn.

Kubekwe uSeptember 21 nonyaka ukuba iNkantolo ePhakeme yokweDlulisa amaCala eBloemfontein idingide isicelo esiphikisa isinqumo sokukhishwa kwale ncwadi.

U-Advocate Kemp uthi ukulahla amandla kuzokwenzeka ngesikhathi ethi eselandiwe lawo maphepha, mhlawumbe ibachithe oFezela iNkantolo ePhakeme yokweDlulisa amaCala.

Uthi uJaji Hugo makasengabe isicelo soFezela, kulindwe umphumela wokuhlala kweNkantolo ePhakeme yokweDlulisa amaCala.

U-Advocate Singh uthi kuyobe kungukulahla amandla ukuvunywa kwesicelo soFezela ngoba, noma kanjani inkampani yakwaThint izoya enkantolo yaseMauritius iyolwa nokuba la maphepha adedelwe eze eNingizimu Afrika.

Incwadi efunwe ngoFezela, wabavuna uJaji Levinsohn ngo-April icela iMauritius idedele amaphepha ashaqwe emahhovisi enkampani yakwaThint kuleliya lizwe ngo-2000.

OFezela bathi la maphepha anobufakazi ababudingayo ophenyweni abalwenzayo okuzothathelwa kulo isinqumo sokuthi uMnuz Zuma neThint bayethweswa yini ngamacala.

Ngokwesicelo sangomSombuluko, oFezela bathi la maphepha mawalandwe eMauritius yize kusazodingidwa ukwedluliswa kwecala ngoSeptember.

U-Advocate Downer uthi uma la maphepha elandwa, uzimisele ukuthi kuleli avelwe endaweni ephephile, angathintwa muncu kuze kube nomphumela wokudingidwa kokwedluliswa kwecala ngoSeptember.

Uthi uma la maphepha elandwa emva kuka-September, uma kungukuthi inkantolo yaseBloemfontein iyabachitha abameli bakaMsholozini nabakwaThint, kuzobe sekumosheke izinyanga ezine eku-

Uthi uma la maphepha elandwa emva kuka-September, uma kungukuthi inkantolo yaseBloemfontein iyabachitha abameli bakaMsholozini nabakwaThint, kuzobe sekumosheke izinyanga ezine eku-

Amaphepha afunwa ngoFezela angamaqoqo ali-14. Kuwona kukhona ne-diary kaMnuz Alain Thetard, owayeyiChief Executive Officer (CEO) yakwaThint, eneminingwane okuthiwa ngeyomhlangano obungoMarch 2000 okwakukhona kuwo uMnuz Zuma, uMnuz Thetard noMnuz Schabir Shaik.

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# Usyayaqala umthetho olawula izikweletu

**U**SYAQALA ukusebenza namuhla, ngolwesiHlanu, umthetho obhekene nokulawula nokunciphisa izikweletu kuleli. INational Credit Act (NCA), ilandela ukucutshungulwa kwamaqhaku ezikweletu ngabeNational Credit Regulator (NCR), kwatholala ukuthi baningi abavele ngesicelo ezikweletini.

Inkinga yokucwila kwabantu ezikweletini kuleli iholele ekuvulweni wehhovisi le-Credit Information Ombud ngo-2004.

Banengi asebesizakele, abebekade xcwile ezikweletini. Leli hhovisi enganyelwe nguMnuz Manie Van Schalkwyk obizwa nge-Ombudsman.

Umbiko wophenyo ngezikweletu izeze ukuthi ilinganiselwa ku-*750-billion* imali ebolekisiwe nuva nje.

Yizinkulungwane zasebengene enabhekisiwe angcolile (Credit Bureau) ngenxa yokuthamba komthetho wokubolekisa ngezimali nokuhenga ngesikweletu. Lo mthetho okukade kubikezelwa ngawo, uhlole ukwethula umthwalo kwabaningi abangena ngokunyunyelwa yizinkampani nezitolo ezithengisa ngesikweletu.

Kuningi okuzoguquka kwababolekisa ngezimali njengoba zithi twebale mthetho namuhla.

I-NCA izolawula kwasani ethintala nokubolekisa ngemali noma u-

**IZIKHANGISI** zezinkampani ezibolekisa ngemali noma zithengise ngesikweletu "ngaphandle koku-bheka umlando" wbolekayo seziphelile yisikhathe ngokomthetho oqala namuhla. **UZANELE MTHETHWA** uyayizeka

kuthengisa ngesikweletu ngisho ezinkampanini ezincane imbala. Sekuzophela nokuthi nokungebani kutshalekise ngemali ngoba zonke izinkampani sekufanele zibhalise ngokusemthethweni kwiNCR.

Akubona bonke futhi abazovunyelwa ukubolekisa ngezimali ngoba izicelo zizocutshungulwa, kubhekwe neminingwane ethize.

Ngaphambi kokusebenza kwalo mthetho bekulula kakhulu ukungenisa esikweletini, kungabhekwa nokuthi ofaka isicelo uyasebenza yini. Bekungacutshungulwa nokuthi umholo wakhe uyamvumela yini ukuthi akhokhe kahle zonke izikweletu ngaphandle kokuklanyeka eku-fezeni ezinye izidingo zempilo.

Konke lokhu sekuzophela ngokusebenza kwalo mthetho.

Izindaba ezimnandi kwabasotakwini lwezikweletu, asebenzene nasemabhukwini angcolile wukuthi kusukela namuhla bazokwesulwa.

Nokho akubona bonke abazokwehlelwa yile nhlanhla.

Kubhekelwe abanezikweletu e-

zingaphansi kukaR500. Nabangene kulamabhuku ngephutha, bengaziswanga noma ingabhekisiswanga imininingwane yabo, bazokwesulwa.

Nabashaya ngezigaxa zoR50 000 bazokwesulwa uma bethembisa ukuthi kuzoshaya uSeptember 1 no nyaka sebesigojele isikweletu.

Okubalulekile ngalokhu wukuthi ukususwa komuntu kula mabhuku akusho ukuthi usephunyukile ngoba isikweletu kufanele sikhokhwe.

**Nakhu okunye okufanele ukwazi ngalo mthetho:**

☛ Zonke izinkampani ezisebenza ngokubolekisa noma ukuthengisa ngesikweletu sekufanele zibhaliswe.

Uma utshalekisa ngemali ungabhalisile, lo mthetho awuyingeni uma okweletayo engasakukhokheli.

☛ Kufanele kuvunyelwane ngaphambi kokuthi umuntu abolekwe noma athenge ngesikweletu.

Isivumelwano masenzeke emahhovisi noma endaweni ethize yokusebenzela, hhayi emgwangweni.

☛ Ikhazimende linelungelo lokucaciseleka ngolimi lwalo ngaphambi kokusayina ukungenisa esikweletini.

☛ Ikhazimende linelungelo lokugququla umqondo ezinsukwini ezinhlanu zokusebenza kuvunyelwene uma kukhona okungalicaceli kahle.

☛ Uma uboleka imali noma unfuna ukuthenga ngesikweletu kodwa isicelo singamukeleki, unelungelo lokwazi isizathu.

☛ Oshade ngaphansi komthetho ohlanganisa amafa, angeke esakwazi ukufaka isicelo sokuthenga ngesikweletu noma sokubokela imali ngaphandle kwencwadi esayinwe wumlingani wakhe, emnikeza igunya.

☛ Kazisavumelekile izikhangisi zababolekisa ngemali ezizwayele ukusetshenziselwa ukuheha amakhasimende ngendlela eluthayo.

Iphelile indaba yokubona izikhangisi ezithi: "Asibheki umlando wakho wezikweletu", "Thenga ngesikweletu mahhala", "Ukubolekwa imali kuqinisekisiwe" nezinye ezinza amakhasimende aye egijima echibini lezikweletu.

☛ Akufanele unikezwe imalimbaleko noma ikhadi lokuthenga ngesikweletu ungasifakanga isicelo.

☛ Sekuyicala ukwandisa imali yokuthenga ngesikweletu ikhasimende lingacelanga.

☛ Kufanele kubhekwe ezinye izikweletu nomholo ngaphambi kokuthi ikhasimende li-

UMAFRIKA

June 1-7, 2007

☛ Akufanele unikezwe imalimbaleko noma ikhadi lokuthenga ngesikweletu ungasifakanga isicelo.

☛ Sekuyicala ukwandisa imali yokuthenga ngesikweletu ikhasimende lingacelanga.

☛ Kufanele kubhekwe ezinye izikweletu nomholo ngaphambi kokuthi ikhasimende libolekwe imali.

☛ Ukungena kwekhasimende emabhukwini angcolile makungasetshenziswa ukulengabela ukuthola umsebenzi ngaphandle uma lowo msebenzi uhambisana nokuphathwa kwezimali.

Ngeminye imininingwane ngalo mthetho ungashayela kwethi: 086 166 2837 noma athumele i-e-mail kwelithi: ombud@creditombud.org.za.



**"SIKHISHWE  
noma sesixolisile!  
Ngokunjani nje  
lokhu?" kusho  
uNks Vumo Zondi  
kwesokudla,  
oyikhansela le-IFP  
eMsinga. Umi  
noNks Alzinah  
Shezi naye  
oyikhansela le-IFP  
eMsinga abakhish-  
we naye emh-  
langanweni  
wesiShayamthetho  
eMsinga izolo**

Isithombe: Makhosi Dube



## Badube isiShayamthetho ebe-IFP

FRASER MTSHALI

**I**NKATHA Freedom Party (IFP) neDemocratic Alliance (DA) badube umhlango wesiShayamthetho eMsinga, izolo ekuseni bekhala ngokuthi uSomlomo, uMnuz Willie Mchunu, ucheme ne-ANC. Bathi akawaniki amanye amaqembu ithuba lokuzwakalisa uvo.

UMnuz Blessed Gwala we-IFP, osabambe isikhundla sokuba ngumholi weqembu eliphikisayo endaweni kaDkt Lionel Mtshali oseMozambique ngokomsebenzi wesiShayamthetho, uthi ukungeneliseki kweqembu, nokuholele ekudubeni kwalo, kuqale ngesikhathi uSomlomo "ekhwela edilika kulo".

UMnuz Gwala uthi usuku lwayizolo bekungolwamaqembu ukuba ethule iziphakamiso zawo. "Kodwa uSpeaker uchithe isikhathi eside ekhwela ezelela kwi-IFP. Ngokudonsa kwakhe isikhathi eside ngisukumile ngasebenzisa isigaba semithetho ovumela iqembu ukuba liyishiye indlu uma lifuna ukuzwakalisa ukukhononda kwalo.

"Ngikwenzile lokhu neqembu lami, yisilandela iDA," kusho uMnuz Gwala.

Uthe uSomlomo ngumuntu okufanele angachemi ukuze emukeleke kuwona wonke amaqembu.

UMnuz Johan Krog weDA uthi baphume balandela i-IFP ngoba bebona ukuthi uSomlomo ucheme ne-ANC futhi udle isikhathi obekufanele sisetshenziselwe ukwethula iziphakamiso zamaqembu ehlu-

kene. Uthi uSomlomo ubasole ngokuthi kameza ukuhlala kwesiShayamthetho ngokuthi kukhona abalokhu bephuma bengenani.

"Sinalo ilungelo lokuphuma singene emhlanganweni," kusho uMnuz Krog. Uthe okwenzekile kakuyisizi inkambiso yombuso wentando yeningi eqinisekise wuMthetho-sisekelo weZwe.

UMAFRIKA ungakusho ukuthi uhlwayi luqale ngolwesiBili ntambama kuzwakala amazwi abantu abebheleli engxenyeni yomphakathi bekhuluma sakuthikameza ngesikhathi esifanayo obekubhubeka ngaso inkulumbo esemthethweni yamalunga esiShayamthetho.

Kutholakele ukuthi abebekhuluma, ngamakhansela amabili e-IFP aseMsinga, uNks Vumo Zondi noNks Alzinah Shezi. Bagcine bekhishelwe ngaphandle ngomyalelo kaSomlomo.

Owesithathu, uNks Zano Ngcobo, naye oyikhansela le-IFP eMsinga, ufe ngamvunye. Ubelokhu ekhale enjalo ethi yena akazange athi vu.

"Ngokuzayo ngeke ngisazithoba emhlanganweni, sengiyoba wuhlanguhlangu ngoba ngenziwe isisulu ngakhishwa ngingazange ngithikameze ndlu, bengizithulele," usho kanje uNks Ngcobo.

UNks Zondi uthi: "Bekungasafanele sikhishwe ngoba phela bese sixolisile: Kodwa ngenxa yokuthi uCele uthi masiphume, uSomlomo uvume intando yakhe."

La makhansela akhishwe emva kokuba uMnuz Bheki Cele, uNgqongqoshe wezo-

kuThutha, ukuPhepha koMphakathi nokuXhumana ethe uSomlomo makawakhiphe ngoba ayathikameza, ngale kwalokho kuzophuma amalunga esiShayamthetho ku-sale wona la makhansela.

UMnuz Gwala noMnuz Krog bathe bacabanga ukuphakamisa ivoti lokungamethembi uSomlomo ekuhlaleni kwesiShayamthetho okuzayo ngolwesiNe oluzayo.

Isitatimende esikhishwe yiHhovisi likaSomlomo izolo ntambama sithi okwenziwe yi-IFP neDA kungumdlalo wepolitiki osuwedlulelwe yisikhathi onjongo yawo kungukwakha isimo sokungabuseki kwe-sifundazwe.

"Ngiyakhathazeka ngokuthi la maqembu aphokophelele ukukhinyabeza imizamo yethu yokuhlonipha uMthetho-sisekelo wethu ohlose ukugxilisa izimpande zombuso wentando yeningi esifundazweni."

UMnuz Mchunu kulesi sitatimende uthi ukuduba umhlango kwe-IFP kulandele isinqumo sakhe esithe ukwethulwa kweziphakamiso sekuzokwenziwa ekuhlaleni okuzayo kwesiShayamthetho ngoba ngokwemithetho ebusa isiShayamthetho lolu hlelo selwedlulelwe yisikhathi.

"Ngicele amalunga afuna ukwenza iziphakamiso ukuba aziveze ukuze anikwe ithuba ekuhlaleni okulandelayo.

"Esikhundleni sokwenze njalo, i-IFP neDA banqume ukuduba umhlango bekhazela amakhansela akhishwe esiShayamthethweni ngenxa yokwehlisa isithunzi sendlu," kusho uMacingwana.



# Bafuna luchaywe olwejaji noSexwale

IDEMOCRATIC Alliance isiluphonse ezithebeni ze-shayamthetho udaba lwamasheya kaR6.9-million okuthiwa anikezwe ngo "hewa" kuMengameli wamaJaji KwaZulu-Natal, uMnuz Vuka Tshabalala, kubika uFRASER MTSHALI



UJAJI Vuka Tshabalala

phawula ukuthi inkampani yakwa-Oasis (eCape Town) ikhokhele uMengameli wamaJaji waseWestern Cape, uJaji (John) Hlophe, uR10 000 ngenyanga; sibe sinolwazi oluthi uMengameli wamaJaji eWes-

tern Cape (uJaji Hlophe) useke wawula odabeni oluthinta leyo nkampani, iDA ihlaba ikhwelo koyi-Nhloko yamaJaji (Jaji Pius Langa) neJSC esingethe ukusebenza kwamajaji, ukuba baqinisekise ngokusebenza ngokuzimela kwendima yobulungiswa.

Imibiko yamaphephandaba ngempelasonto iveze ukuthi uJaji Tshabalala ungomunye wabathole amasheya enkampanini kaMnuz Sexwale iBatho Bonke Consortium ngaphansi kohlelo lokufukulwa kwabamnyama kwezomnotho (Black Economic Empowerment).

Kule mibiko kuvela namagama ezintatheli ezifana noSophie Mokoena, ongumhleli osabambile wezepolitiki enhlanganweni yokusakaza kuleli, iSouth African Broadcasting Corporation, uMnuz Thami Mazwai ongumshicileli ozimele wamaphephabhuku noDkt Xolela Mangcu ongumhlaziyi kwezepolitiki ovame ukubhala imibono ephephandabeni iBusiness Day.

Embalweni wakamuva uDkt Mangcu ufanise uMnuz Sexwale no-

Mnuz JF Kennedy ongasekho owayengumengameli wase-United States of America (USA).

UMnuz Kennedy wayehlonishwa ngokuba nozwelo ngodaba lwamalungelo abacindezelwe, nokuba nogazi.

UJaji Tshabalala uvumile emibikweni yangempelasonto ukuthi unamasheya kaR6.9-million enkampanini kaMnuz Sexwale.

Uphikile ukuthi la masheya angu "hewa" wathi uzowakhokhela.

Esitatimendeni seCongress of South African Trade Unions esiphume kuleli sonto ngokhulumela le nhlangano KwaZulu-Natal, uMnuz Zet Luzipo, ikuhlalile ukuba namasheya kukaJaji Tshabalala enkampanini kaMnuz Sexwale.

Ikuncomile ukuphumela kwakhe

obala ngawo kodwa yathi iyadumala ngokungaboni kwakhe ukuthi lokhu kungaba nomthelela wokushayisana nomsebenzi wakhe endimeni yobulungiswa.

Okhulumela iJSC, u-Advocate Marumo Moerane, ucashunwe ethi avunyelwe amajaji ukuba namasheya ezinkampanini. Uthe okungavunyiwe wukwenza umsebenzi osengxenywe ozowanika inzuzo.

USolwazi Pierre de Vos wase-University of the Western Cape ubikwe ethi kawukho umthetho olawula ukuthi yini engatholwa kumbe engetholwe ngamajaji.

Uthi kodwa kulokhu kukhona umthelela ongemuhle emva kwemibiko ethi uMnuz Sexwale ungomunye wabagaqele isikhundla sokuba ngumengameli we-ANC engqu-ngqutheleni yeqembu ngoDecember.

"Lona ngumphathi wamaJaji oqoke ijaji ebeliphethe icala likaMnuz Zuma. Nguye futhi okuzodingeka anqume ukuthi yiliphi ijaji elizophatha icala likaMnuz Zuma uma ephinde ethweswa ngecala," usho kanje uSolwazi de Vos.

## Isikhulu enkantolo ngezigid zentela

ISIKHULU senkampani eyanikwa inkunzimalanga ye-tender kaR350-million yokusabalalisa izincwadi ezikoleni zaKwaZulu-Natal, i-Indiza Infrastructure Solutions, sivele enkantolo kamantshi eThekwini izolo, ngolwesiNe, mayelana nokungakhokhi iValue-Added Tax kaR43-million.

UMnuz Jabulani Mabaso (37), udedelwe ngesexwayiso, wanxuswa nokuthi anikeze abaphenyi i-passport emva kokubela enkantolo.

Akakwazanga ngisho ukukhokha ibheyili ngoba wonke ama-account akhe avaliw.

Kusolakala ukuthi lesi sikweletu sisukela ngo-2005.

UMnuz Mabaso uboshwe ekuseni izolo eThekwini. Izimpahla zenani likaR90-million zishaqwe ngabaphenyi beSouth African Revenue Service nabeNational Prosecuting Authority.

Uvela futhi enkantolo ngoJune 27.

- Sapa



# Ningawuhlanekezeleli umlando we-IFP kuleli

**K**UYISHWA ukuthi uMnuz Siyanda Mhlongo, emkhankasweni wakhe wokuzifunela ukugqama njengoba i-ANC ibheke engqungqutheleni eLimpopo ngoDecember, ubona ukuthi kakwenele ukugibela ekhanda lephini likamengameli we-ANC uMnuz Jacob Zuma, okungcono kagibele naphezu kwelikamengameli weQembu leNkatha YeNkululeko, u-mNtwana waKwaPhindangene.

Kalikho icala nxa umuntu enza imizamo yokuzigqamisa. Kepha engikwenyanyayo yimizamo yakhe eshibhile nenokuchwensa okunokusibuyisela emuva eminyakeni yokungqubuzana eyaba yishwa.

UMnuz Mhlongo unelungelo lokungamthandi u-mNtwana. Kepha kanalo ilungelo lokusukela ilumbo aphendukezele nomlando ngoba nje eqhutshwa yinzondo.

Ukuba kayikho ingozi yokuba lo mbhobe kaMnuz Mhlongo ufundwe yizingane ezisafuna ulwazi, bengizomziba nje ngoba sengafunda ukuthi kungukuchitha isikhathi ukuzama ukusiza iziguli zombusazwe ezibulawa yidliso lasekhaya kwi-ANC.

Engifuna ukukusho nje yikuthi izimpumpelana zombusazwe ezinjengoMnuz Mhlongo nabanye bohlobo lwakhe abakwi-ANC baphonsela inselelo abaholi abaphusile nabadala kwi-ANC ukuba baphumele obala ngendawo abemi kuyo mayelana nathi njengamalungu e-IFP nome ngameli wethu.

Sekuyisikhathi sokuba batshele izwe ukuthi basithatha njengabafo wabo nodadewabo noma ingxenye yesitha noma-ke ababeyingxenye yesitha.

Ngikusho lokhu ngoba ukuthula kwabo kunika ukuhlonipheka kulobuthi obuphalazwa ngosomathuba abangoMnuz Mhlongo nabanye, okuyinto esingekke siyemukele!

Laba baholi abadala kwi-ANC bayazi ukuthi uMnuz Mhlongo uyisixhwalu sombusazwe esiguliswa wushevu awudla ku-ANC isesekudingisweni.

Bazi kahle ukuthi emva kokungavumelani neNkatha emhlanganweni owawuseLondon ngo-1979, yibo abaqala umkhankaso wokupenda u-mNtwana njengempimpi nomdayisi womzabalazo nenyoka okwakumele ichotshozwe ikhanda.

Kuyaziwa ukuthi uDkt Zamindlela Chonco waze wabhala ezwakalisa ukukhathazeka ngemizamo ye-ANC yokwehlukana inhloko nomzimba - okungukuthi i-ANC yayisemkhankasweni wokwehlukana u-mNtwana neNkatha ngenhloso yokuhunga abalandeli bakhe.

Nxa-ke abaholi be-ANC bengenasibindi sokutshela izwe iqiniso njengoba linjalo, sisengozini yokuba uxolo nokubuyisana phakathi kwalezi zinhlangano kube yiphupho uqobo.

Kule ntimbothi yakhe uMnuz Mhlongo uzeseke ngencwadi kaMnuz Oliver Tambo nekaMnuz Daliso Luthuli.

Kuyamangaza ukuba afunde uMnuz Tambo noMnuz Luthuli kuphela bese ezitshela ukuthi usethole lonke iqiniso ngobudlelwane bethu ne-ANC.

Kungani engafundi okubhalwe yithi njengeNkatha lapho siziphendulela kulezi zinhlanga? Kungani engafundi nabanye ababhali?

Umuntu ohluzile ekhanda nxa efuna iqiniso lodaba kabheki uhlangathi olulodwa; ulalela lobeka icala nobekwa icala.

Nxa ubheka le ncwadi akhuluma ngayo uMnuz Mhlongo uzobona u-

Nxa ubheka le ncwadi akhuluma ngayo uMnuz Mhlongo uzobona ukuthi inezinkulumo zakhe zeminyaka yawo-1980.

Umfundi womlando uyazi ukuthi isikhathi ayekhuluma ngaso uMnuz Tambo kwakungesobumnyama lapho kwakufiwa nxa zonke phakathi kwe-ANC ne-IFP.

Wawungalindela ukuba abeke isimo njengoba sinjalo, ikakhulu nxa wayethula umbiko engqungqutheleni ye-ANC?

Ingani nguye kanye uMnuz Tambo owayekade ebikele uSolwazi Herb-



# Ningawuhlanekezeli umlando we-IFP kuleli

KWELANGOMAY 18-24, 2007, uMnuz Siyanda Mhlongo ubhale ngaphansi kwesihloko esithi "Kawumuhle umlando kaDkt Buthelezi". UMnuz Mbongeleni Joshua Mazibuko ubeka uvo egadla kuNjomane

ert Vilakazi noSolwazi Magubane ngokuphela kweminyaka yawo-1970 ukuthi wayenengcindezi eyayivela kwayebabiza nga "bafana baka-1976" ababethi akabugede ubudlelwano nomNtwana nokuba amthathe njengesitha.

## Omathayabhuqe

Ubani ongebone ukuthi wayese-khuluma kanjena nje ngabo-1980 yingoba yayisimgojele leyo mpi eyayingamfuni nokumbona uDkt Buthelezi, esecula iculo layo?

OkukaMadlanduna-ke angifuni ukuphawula kakhulu ngakho. UMadlanduna wayenguncukumbili wezombusazwe, owayekade eyi-ANC, wagcogcoma waba yi-IFP.

Wabanesandla ezehlakalweni zodlame. Wayebambe iqhaza elimqoka kulabo uMnuz Mhlongo ababiza ngomashayabhuqe ababeqeqeshwe eCaprivi. Kwathi kamuva nxa indlala isimbulala ngenxa yokuthi i-IFP kayinayo imali njenge-ANC, wabuyela emuva kwi-ANC. Yini ongayilindela kumuntu walolo hlobo?

Kodwa-ke futhi nxa uMnuz Mhlongo efuna sizehlise siyihlaziye yonke le ncwadi kaMadlanduna, singakwenza lokho.

Ukusiza izingane ezingase zeduswe nguMnuz Mhlongo, kumele ngichaze ukuthi kwaya kanjani ukuba i-

Nkatha isebenze kuhulumeni wa-KwaZulu.

Yiqiniso lomlando ukuthi abaholi be-ANC, iNkosi Albert Luthuli noMnuz Tambo, bathuma uMnuz Cleopas Ntsibande ayocela umNtwana uMorgina ongudadewabo womNtwana waKwaPhindangene edlulisele kumNtwana izincomo zabobokuba umNtwana asebenze ohlakeni lukahulumeni waKwaZulu, lona kanye lolu olwalungolunye lwezinhlelo zikahulumeni wamaBhunu ayefuna ngazo ukwephuca abomdabu ubuzwe baleli lizwe.

Babekwenzelani lokho labaholi? Kwakuyingoba umNtwana wayengucrade wabo ababazi ukuthi wayezokwazi ukusebenzisa lolu hlelo ukuqhuba umzabalazo wokuchitha ubandlululo.

Naye uMnuz Tambo uqobo kuyo le ncwadi akhuluma ngayo uMnuz Mhlongo, uyalivuma lelo qiniso.

Ukuze nibone nje ukuthi akazi lutho impela uMnuz Mhlongo, ubuza ukuthi kwaya ngani ukuba amaphoyisa aKwaZulu aphathwe nguJenene Jac Buchner.

Yingoba iKwaZulu yayiyinxenye yeNingizimu Afrika, yayingesiyezimele-geqe, njengoTranskei, Bophuthatswana njalo njalo.

Ngakho-ke iKwaZulu yayibuswa yiyo le mithetho eyayibusabonke ababeyinxenye yaleli lizwe futhi be-

cindezelwe.

Kwakuyinqubo kahulumeni wama-National ukuthumela izikhulu kohulumeni bezabelo, okwakuthiwa zazisuke zizofundisa izisebenzi zalabo hulumeni.

UJenene Buchner-ke wayeyinxenye yalolo hlelo.

Kasizange thina njengeNkatha sikufihle ukukholelwa kwethu eqhingeni lokusebenzisa izinhlaka zesitha, ubandlululo, ukuqhuba umzabalazo wenkululeko.

Yilo mqondo esasisebenza ngawo kuhulumeni waKwaZulu. Yiwo kanye futhi lo mqondo owawuthume abaholi be-ANC kumNtwana uMorgina.

Yiwo lo mqondo owesekelwa nguMnuz Nelson Mandela noMnuz Walter Sisulu njengoba becashunwa nguSolwazi Vilakazi ngo-April 26, 2007 ekhuluma ngobudlelwano phakathi kwe-ANC ne-IFP.

## Kuningi okungasolwa

UMnuz Mandela uthi: "Amagembu alwa nobandlululo aphakathi kwemibutho engaphakathi ezweni eqhubekayo nokudalula ububi bokugqilazwa ngokwebala futhi kulezo zindawo akuzo avala igebe elavuleka ngenkathi sidudulelwa ngaphansi komhlaba noma ekudingisweni."

"Kungaba kuningi okungasolwa emigomeni namaqhinga eDemocratic Party yaseTransvaal, iSeoposengwe Party yaseBophuthatswana neColoured Labour Party..."

"Singakwenza ukupenda amagembu alwa nobandlululo njengalawa ngokuthi ayizincelebane ngoba nje

## KASIZANGE

thina njengeNkatha sikufihle ukukholelwa kwethu eqhingeni lokusebenzisa izinhlaka zesitha, ubandlululo, ukuqhuba umzabalazo wenkululeko

amaqhinga awo ehlukile kwawethu?"

UMnuz Sisulu ubeka kanje: "Elinye lamaphutha amakhulu kunawo wonke yikubona kulowo nalowo wesilisa nowesifazane osebenza ngaphakathi kwezinhlelo zobandlululo isitha somzabalazo."

Cishe uMnuz Mhlongo uthi hhiya bayabheda nje laba baholi!

Kasizange thina sibe ngabazenzisi njenge-United Democratic Front (UDF) nabanye kwi-ANC ababesithuka ngokusebenza kuhulumeni waKwaZulu kodwa bona beshendenza nezinhlaka zikahulumeni waKwaNgwane uholwa nguMnuz Enos Mabuza ongasekho, nowase-Transkei uholwa nguJenene Bantu Holomisa.

Angithi yiyo abaze bathi uMnuz Mabuza wayengumholi wesabelo onomehluko?

Kasizange sikushendeze ukusebenza kuhulumeni waKwaZulu nje-

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# Ningawuhlanekezeli umlando we-IFP kuleli

ngabantu abafana noMhuz Mhlongo ababezalelwa, bahlale, bafunde, besebenze baze bangcwatswe kuyo le Ningizimu Afrika yobandlululo, bekwenza lokhu ngaphansi kwayo kanye imithetho yobandlululo.

Ngumbhedo uqobo ukuthi kukhona umuntu owayekuleli lizwe "owayengangcolisiwe" ngukusebenza ngaphansi kohlelo!

Uhulumeni waKwaZulu, wawu-nomthwalo wokuvikela izakhamizi zaKwaZulu, phakathi kokunye.

Wayengeke-ke uhulumeni awuzibele mthwalo izinswelaboya ze-UDF zihamba zitshala udlame emiphakathini.

Kungumlendo ukuthi udlame lokugala KwaZulu-Natal lwafika ne-UDF.

Ziyaziwa iziga ezazigilwa yiJoint Rent Action Committee (Jorac) eyayiholwa nguMfu Mcebisi Xundu e-Lamontville.

Luyaziwa udlame lwe-UDF, kushiswa imizi, izitolo nempahla ngenkathi kubulawe uNkk Victoria Mxenge ababethi wayebulewe yiNkatha.

Ngingomunye owaphunyuka nge-mbobo yenaliti eChesterville emngcwabeni wensizwa yakwaBhe-ngu owawuholwa nguye uMfu Xundu, okuyilapho uMnuz W Sabelo ongasekho alinyazwa khona yi-UDF.

## Isibopho sokuzivikela

Ngumlendo ongephikwe ukuthi izihonga ze-UDF ngokuthunywanga ngu-Khongolose zaphaka impi yokubulala abantu zayiletha kithi esasindezelwe zayeka abacindezeli.

Yibo kanye ababephuzisa abantu amafutha okupheka aluhlaza, bebahambisa ngunu emigwaqeni emini kwabha, bebashisa ngamathayi anopetrol.

Yilezi zimo ezaphoqa uhulumeni waKwaZulu ukuba asebenzise isibopho sobuhulumeni sokuvikela abantu nempahla okwakucekelwa phansi zige-bengu ze-UDF.

Njengoba-ke uhulumeni waKwaZulu wayeyingxenywe yeNingizimu Afrika, wayenelungelo lokufuna usizo lokubhekana nale mpi yobumnyama yezigilamkhuba ezazibhuqbhuqa abantu bakithi nempahla yabo.

Ingani phela ngokwenqaba kwethu uzimele-geqe sasengqaba kona ukuphucwa ilungelo lokuba yizakhamizi zaleli lizwe, okwakumele zihlinzekwe ngezidingo zokuphila futhi zivikelwe nguhulumeni.

Yingakho-ke kwabakhona izinsizwa nezintombi ezaqeqeshwa e-Capri.

Ngifisa kucace ukuthi iNkatha yayingakaze ithume uhulumeni ukuba asivikele kubafowethu nodadewethu emzabalazweni!

Sasikwazi ukuzivikela nxa kuliwa izimpi zombusazwe, njengoba ngenza nje namanje kule mpi kaMnuz Mhlongo.

Akekho kuleli lizwe ongazi ukuthi umholi wethu ukwazi kangakanani ukuzivikela kwezombusazwe!

Uhulumeni waKwaZulu wayefuna ukuba kuvikelwe impilo nempahla yabantu ezinswelaboyeni zombusazwe ezaziqonde ukusibhuqa nya!

Angaphika yini uMnuz Mhlongo ukuthi nabo abe-UDF babegijimela emaphoyiseni, ezinkantolo nakubameli bayo leyo Ningizimu Afrika yobandlululo nxa benezinkinga ezinhlobo-nhlobo; engingakusoli phela ngoba babeyizakhamizi zalo leli lizwe.

Mhlawumbe wayengakazalwa uMnuz Mhlongo ngenkathi owayengunobhala jikelele wethu, uDkt

Mhlawumbe wayengakazalwa uMnuz Mhlongo ngenkathi owayengunobhala jikelele wethu, uDkt Oscar Dhlomo, exwayisa i-ANC ngokuthi nxa yayingakuyeki ukusithela ngoyaba lwempi, sasizophoqeka ukuba siwubeke eceleni umzabalazo sibhekane nempi ababeyiletha kithi.

Yikho kanye lokho esasikwenza. Sasingeke silibale wukukikiza i-UDF ne-ANC besibulala!

Yebo, izehlo zaleso sikhathi zaba yishwa elibi emlandweni womzaba-

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(4)

# Ningawuhlanekezeli umlando we-IFP kuleli



OWAYENGUMENGAMELI kuleli, uMnu Nelson Mandela



UMHOLI we-IFP, iNkosi Mangosuthu Buthelezi

lazo, kodwa ziyiqiniso esingelibalekele.

UMnuz Mhlongo ubuza ukuthi kungani umNtwana ayengazange aboshwe.

Bengingazi ukuthi usakhona umuntu osabuzo lo mbuzo oswaphuma kudala emfashinini, owawubuzwa zingane zesikole.

Ukumsiza kumele ngisho izinto ezingase zingehli kahle kwabanye.

UmNtwana kaboshwanga ngoba wayengusomahinga ochwepheshihle, owayemqonda kahle uMao Tse Tung uma ethi umgomo wempi ngukuzivikela kodwa ucekele phansi isitha sakho, hhayi ukuba isitha sikududule siye sikuphonse ejele, ethuneni noma ngaphandle kwemingecele yezwe.

Akekho ongazi ukuthi kawukho umbutho womzabalazo owawusungulelwe ukuthi umgomo wawo kwakuyoba ngukuboshwa, ukudingiswa noma ukufa.

Wonke umbutho wawusungulelwa ukughuba umzabalazo ngempumelelo uze uwunqobe.

UMnuz Donald Woods, owayengumngani kaMnuz Steve Biko, wake

wabikela umNtwana ukuthi bona njengentsha base benqume ukuthi babezofa ngezinkulungwane.

Wabuza usomahinga ukuthi nxa sebefile-ke kwakuyobe sekwenzekani. Kwacaca ukuthi babengazi nabo ukuthi kwakuyobe sekwenzekani.

Yilokho-ke engikubiza ngobuphukuphuku bombusazwe. Ukuboshwa, ukudingiswa nokufa, kwakungamashwa ehlela izimpi zethu zomzabalazo.

**NXA ethi**  
uMnuz Mhlongo thina sasisebenza namaBhunu, uthi uMnuz Mandela wayenzani evuma amaBhunu amsuse kwabanye o-comrade bakhe eRobben Island ayomhlalisa endlini entofontofo?

jazo. Akusikho ukuhlabana!

Ngeke neze siziqhayise ngakho ngoba kusho ukuhlehliswa yimpi yesitha ikugudluze kokungumgomo wokusungulwa kombutho.

Esikhundleni sokuziqhayisa sidinga ukufikelwa wusizi njalo nxa sibabanga lezi zehlo.

Eqinisweni ababesekudingisweni nasemajele badinga ukubonga banconcoze kithi esasilapha ngaphakathi ezweni ngoba ukuba saphela amandla sangawughuba umzabalazo emva kokuba impi ibahlehlisile, babeyofela emajele nasemazweni angaphandle.

Kangiliphiki iqhaza elabanjwa ngababesekudingisweni. Kepha ngithi inkundla nehliziyi yomzabalazo eyalawula ukuhamba kwawo yayilapha ezweni.

## Ophusile ekhanda

Yilapha okwakuphathwa khona amapasi nezipeshele! Yilapha lapho esasivuswa khona ngama "Black-Jack" ebusuku ezosihlukumeza!

Yilapha lapha sasibizwa khona ngamabhoyi namageli, hhayi e-England, e-United States of America, eHolland, eSweden, eZambia, eTanzania njalo-njalo.

Ngeke nje umuntu ophusile ekhanda acabange ukuthi umuntu owayeboshiwe nowayesekudingisweni ungcono kunowayeshiswa ngumhlalo lapha ezweni.

Umzabalazo kuleli lizwe walawulwa wuquqaba lwabesilisa nabesifazane ababawa bevuka lapha ngaphakathi beshiswa ngumhlalo nsukuzonke ezimbonini, emasontweni, emakhaya abamhlophe besebenza, ezikoleni njalo-njalo!

Nxa ethi uMnuz Mhlongo thina sasisebenza namaBhunu, uthi uMnuz Mandela wayenzani evuma amaBhunu amsuse kwabanye o-comrade bakhe eRobben Island ayomhlalisa endlini entofontofo?

Uthi uMnuz Mhlongo i-ANC yayenzani ishendezana namaNational kusukela ngaphambi kweCongress for a Democratic South Africa baze bayogana?

Njengoba kwaziwa ukuthi nxa owesifazane egana ushiya ikubo, ka-

njalo kayisekho iNational Party (NP), uMnuz Marthinus van Schalkwyk usengungqongoshe we-ANC!

Kubi uma kuyithi neDemocratic Alliance, kuhle uma kuyibo neNP! Uthi uMnuz Mhlongo iTruth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) yaveza ukuthi uMnuz Philip Powell noJenene Buchner babetshaliwe.

Angimbonge uNjomane ngokuthi ngokukholwa yilo mbiko weTRC, okungenani likhona iqiniso alivumayo mayelana nomlando wethu wokulwa namaBhunu.

Ngokuveza lolu lwazi uqonde ukuvuma iqiniso elithi iNP yayiyiqonda ingozi iNkatha eyayiyiyo kuyo yikho yayitshala izincelebane zayo kuyo nje.

Yiqiniso phela ukuthi ngeke utshale izimpimpi kubantu obethembayo abangumndeni wakho; lokho ukwenzeka ezitheni zakho.

Kodwa-ke mangisho ukuthi uJenene Buchner wayeyisisebenzi sikahulumeni esasithunyelwe KwaZulu nguhulumeni weNP, njengoba sengichazile.

Wayengesilo ilunga leNkatha, futhi-ke ubukhona bakhe phakathi kwethu babungalawulwa yihi.

UMnuz Powell wayeyilunga le-IFP. Nokho-ke sasingazi ukuthi wayetshaliwe, uma wayetshaliwe.

Nokho-ke angimsize uMnuz Mhlongo ngisho ukuthi kwakungesibo labo bodwa, nxa babetshaliwe nge-mpela.

Babekhona nabanye njengoba babekhona nakwi-ANC. Abanye sasibasola kepha singenabufakazi.

Ngeshwa-ke thina sasingenayo i-Nkambu yaseQuatro lapho esasingabahlukumeza khona ukuze bakhipe iqiniso.

Okumqoka yikuthi isitha sasibathshale ngoba thina sasingumbutho olwa nobandlululo, njengayo i-ANC! Ngizazi ukuthi anginakumsiza uMnuz Mhlongo kulesi sifo esimphele.

Lokhu engikubhalile sengenzela izingane nje ukuze zingeduswa ngomangangashiywa onguMnuz Mhlongo.

**Mbongeleni Joshua Mazibuko  
PIETERMARITZBURG**