

DAILY NEWS : MAY 30, 2011

# ANC and NFP form coalition

## IFP rattled over municipality move

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and SLINDILE MALULEKA

**T**HE ANC and the National Freedom Party have agreed to form a coalition to govern the 19 hung municipalities spread across KwaZulu-Natal.

The deal, expected to be formally announced in Durban today, will result in the once mighty IFP being reduced to an opposition party in municipalities it once overwhelmingly controlled.

The ANC, led by provincial chairman Zweli Mkhize, was expected to sign a memorandum of understanding with NFP leader Zanele kaMagwaza-Msibi at the Hilton Hotel in Durban today, when the terms and conditions of the alliance were to be outlined.

At stake for the two parties is who would be the mayors of the 19 municipalities.

The ANC won 39 of the 61 KZN municipalities outright in the local government elections



ZWELI MKHIZE

of May 18, while the IFP won Ulundi and Msinga. The NFP won the eDumbe Municipality in Paulpietersburg, leaving 19 municipalities without a clear winner.

The 19 hung municipalities were all under IFP control before the elections.

While the IFP has a majority in four of the hung municipalities, it would need to form a coalition to govern there.

It is believed that the NFP was eyeing the mayoral seat in the hung municipality of Nongoma - a former bastion of the IFP - while several quid pro quo deals were struck for the other hung municipalities.

Today's coalition deal comes after more than a week of negotiations by the ANC and the IFP, which both courted the NFP to form coalitions.

The NFP, led by kaMagwaza-Msibi, the former IFP chairwoman, was established by a group of disgruntled IFP members who split from the party earlier this year over a leadership squabble.

Since the party's launch, Inkatha leaders have repeatedly accused the three-month-old party of being funded by the ANC as a means of destroying the IFP - a charge denied.

Coalition talks between the NFP and the IFP did not materialise last week after the IFP failed to issue a public apology to the NFP over statements

that the new party was being funded by the ANC.

All councils are obliged by law to hold their first meetings within 14 days after the official proclamation of the election results by the Independent Electoral Commission.

IFP national treasurer, Narend Singh, said he could not comment on what the two parties had agreed to do. "But as far as I know, the ANC said they were not ready to co-govern with the IFP. Discussions between the NFP and the IFP could not go further because of un-

reasonable demands," he said.

Meanwhile, eThekweni mayor-elect, James Nxumalo, has promised to crack down on councillors who breach the law when doing business with the city, saying that was unacceptable.

Nxumalo, who was officially announced as Durban's mayoral candidate yesterday, said this was one of the major issues he wanted to tackle after he was sworn in as mayor. He said one of the mechanisms that he was putting in place was for councillors to sign forms declaring their interests.



ZANELE  
KAMAGWAZA-  
MSIBI