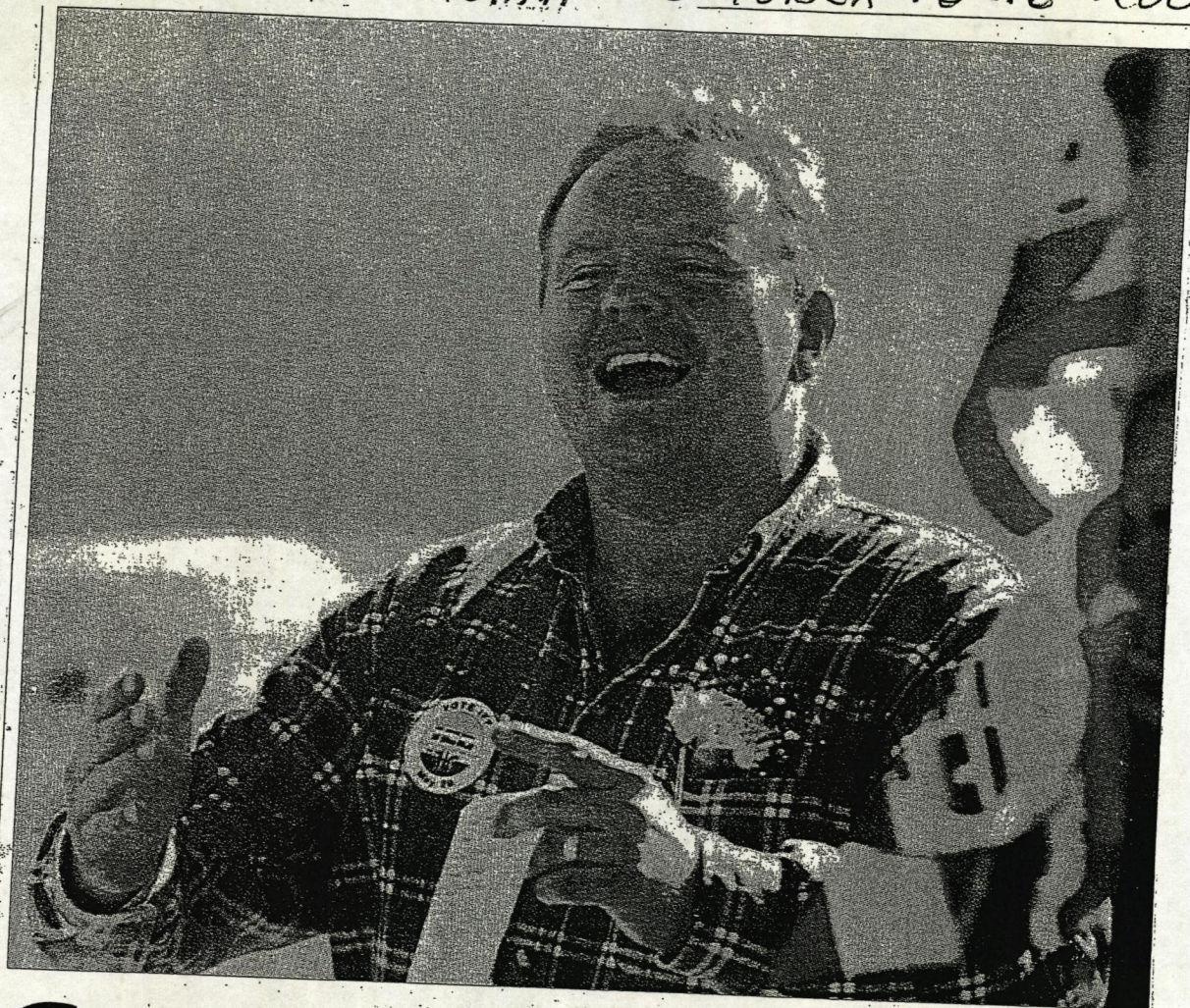


# Scorpions hunt for Inkatha's arsenal

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**Mail  
& Guardian**





# Scorpions hunt for Inkatha's guns

The unit is searching for evidence to prove whether the IFP's Phillip Powell was involved in gun-running

**Jaspreet Kindra**

The Scorpions investigative unit is searching for tons of armaments that former Inkatha Freedom Party warlord Phillip Powell smuggled into KwaZulu-Natal in the early 1990s.

Advocate Lungisa Dyosi, legal adviser to Scorpion head Bulelani Ngcuka, confirmed that the unit is in search of the arms, "which we believe are in the KwaZulu-Natal area". He said the search was part of investigations related to a warrant for Powell's arrest issued in early 2000, which

involved gun-running.

In the past few weeks the Scorpions are known to have questioned former senior IFP officials, including a previously close associate of Powell, Walter Felgate, who they suspect may have knowledge of the whereabouts of the weapons. Dyosi refused to confirm that the Scorpions had indicated to the IFP officials that they were looking for as much as 27 tons of armaments.

He also refused to give reasons for the new impetus behind the investigation, simply insisting that it was "ongoing". However, Powell's case is bound to resurface next year, when the National Directorate of Public Prosecutions is expected to move on human-rights violators identified in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report.

Dyosi said Powell's case was being independently pursued by the state, as was the case with the apartheid

regime's head of chemical warfare, Wouter Bousson.

In any event, the missing weapons have long been of concern in KwaZulu-Natal, which witnessed the deaths of several thousands in political violence during the late 1980s and early 1990s. With the balance of power evenly poised between the African National Congress and the IFP in KwaZulu-Natal, ahead of the 2004 elections that are now only months away, some observers fear the possibility of a resurgence of violence, despite the province having been relatively stable for years. Comments ANC KwaZulu-Natal chairperson Sbu Ndebele: "Even today, if there is a by-election, the guns come out."

In May 1999 Powell led investigators to six to seven tons of weapons buried in Nqutu, 50km from Ulundi. It was the largest weapons cache ever uncovered in South Africa. Soon



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# Isigcwagcwa kuMbeki

**A**BANTU baKwaZulu-Natal abamthandisisi uMengameli Thabo Mbeki.

Ucwaningo lwakamuva lwabakwa-Research Surveys luveza ukuthi wu 38% kuphela wabantu balapha abachazekayo yindlela umengameli asebenza ngayo.

Nokho abaseFree States ababoni kanjalo njengoba kuvela ukuthi yiyo abamthanda kakhulu.

Lolu cwaningo lwango-August nonyaka luveza ukuthi u55% wabantu bakulesi sifundazwe ubona ukuthi umengameli uyibambe ngakho.

Kubantu abangu 3 500 abaneminyaka yobudala engaphezu kwa 18 ababuziwe ngendlela uMnuz Mbeki aphethe ngayo, u46% ugculisekile kanti u43% awuboni kahle.

U57% walaba ngabahlala emadolo-

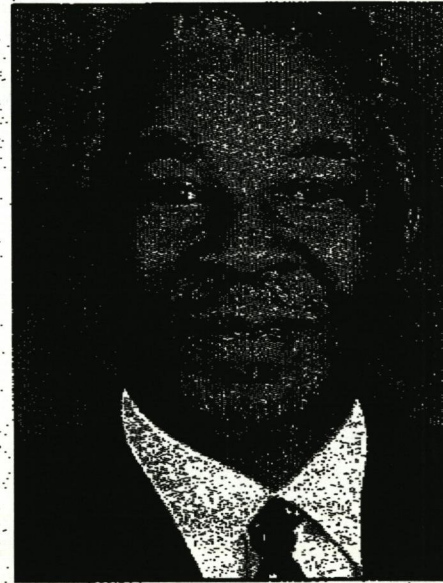
bheni amakhulu, u25% ngabahlala ezindaweni zasemakhaya kuthi u-18% kube ngabasemadolobheni amancane.

Kubikwa ukuthi isibalo sasemadolobheni amakhulu sesenyukile nje ngoba ngoFebruary nyakenye bekuwu 27% kuphela obugculisekile.

Ngokweminyaka yobudala, kubikwa ukuthi uMengameli akamuhle kahle entsheni ephakathi kuka 18 no 24 weminyaka yobudala, kanti akacosi phansi kwabano 50 kuya phezu.

Ngasohlangothini lobuhlanga, u-54% wabamnyama no 26% wama-Khaladi uyahambisana nendlela okaMzizi aphethe ngayo, kanti kwabamhlophe namaNdiya wu 20% kuphela ochazekayo.

- Sapa



UMENGAMELI Thabo Mbeki