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SOWETAN Monday February 4 2002

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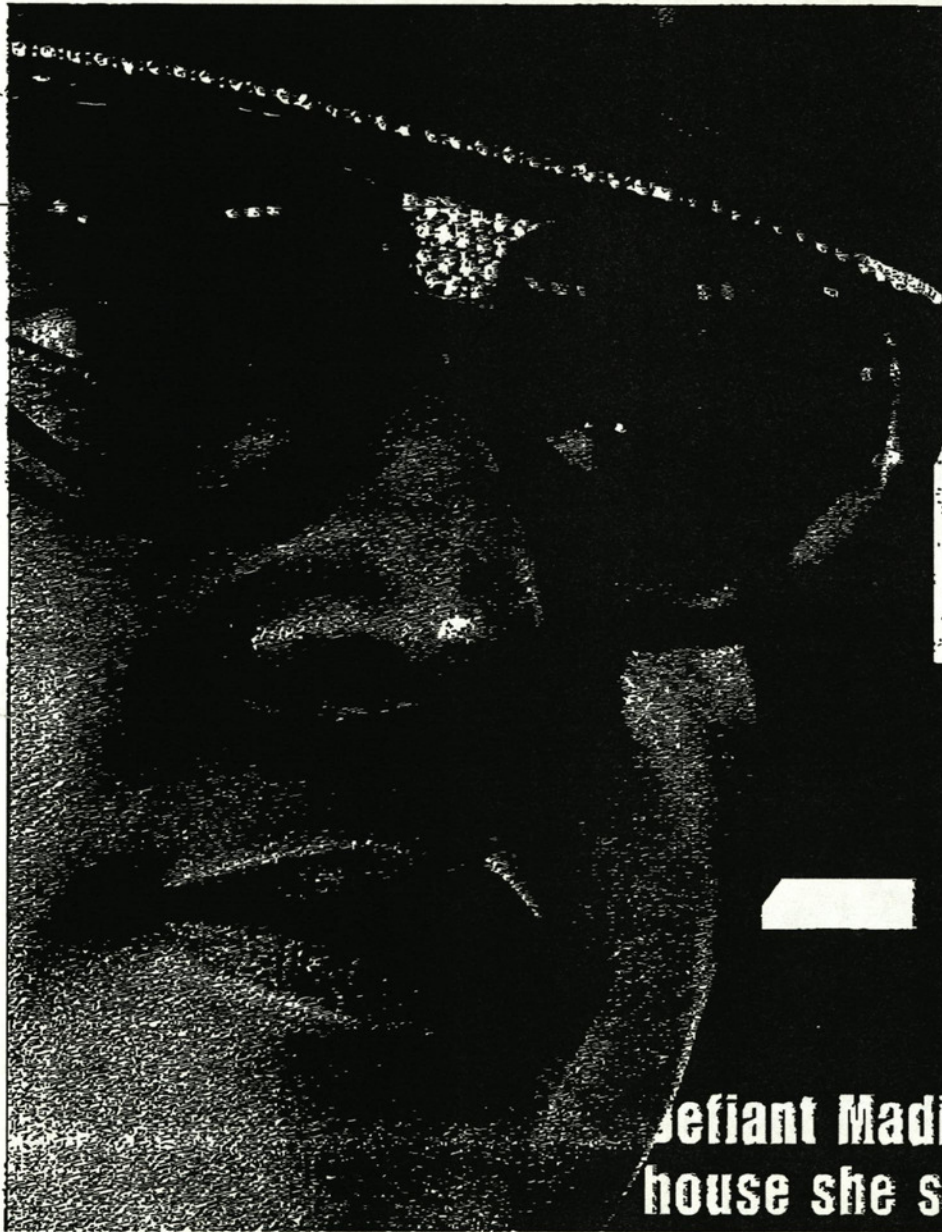
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Sowetan

Power Your Future



I'm not moving - Winnie

**Defiant Madikizela-Mandela will fight for the
house she shared with Nelson Mandela** Pages 2&3

"I will remove any stumbling blocks and whoever is in my way"

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By Nkxolo Kweza

AFRICAN National Congress Women's League president Winnie Madikizela-Mandela will not hand over her Orlando West house to the Soweto Heritage Foundation without a fight.

That, despite a court ruling last week ordering her to hand the house back to the foundation.

Instead, she will go as far as the Appeal Court if it comes to a push, one of her

lawyers Solani Gudluza said yesterday.

Gudluza was responding to the judgment issued by a Johannesburg High Court judge Pieter Pauw last Tuesday.

Pauw ordered Madikizela-Mandela to hand over control and ownership of the house, which is used as a museum, to the foundation.

The foundation was given the house as a donation by former president Nelson Mandela in 1998. The judge also instructed her to pay the legal costs.

However, Gudluza said she's not paying anything.

He said the order had no legal basis because the decision by the council to hand over the property to Nelson Mandela was "irregular".

He said Madikizela-Mandela was the sole owner of the house as the couple were married out of community or property.

"The house was repossessed by the council during the time that Madikizela-Mandela was in Brandfort. When she returned, she reclaimed the house and it was registered under her stepson Makgatho Mandela's name. At

the time, women were not allowed to own houses," he said.

Gudluza said when Mandela was released from prison, he went to the council and changed ownership of the house and then gave it to the foundation.

However, Mandela's lawyer Ismael Ayob denied that the property was ever registered in Mandela Makgatho's name.

He also denied that the property was ever repossessed.

"The council tried but we fought the action. Madiba has been a tenant at the house since 1944 and he bought it in 1996 from the council before handing it over to the Soweto Heritage Company in 1997."

Reliable sources said the file on the house has since disappeared without trace from the council. Spokesman for Johannesburg Mayor, Kgotsi Chikane said they were not aware of the allegations about the file.

Chikane said: "That's news to me. That's strange. Files don't just go missing."

However, he promised to comment on the matter today as the information was not readily available yesterday.

4-02-20

Winnie defiant

← on p.2

3 of 5

Residents of Orlando West near the Mandela house unanimously disapproved of a court ruling ordering Winnie Madikizela-Mandela to vacate the house that was her base for resistance against apartheid while her former husband Nelson Mandela was still in jail.

Lebogang Malepa



"The house has more meaning for Winnie as it is where she brought up their children. Without her, the house is something else."

Madoda Msibi



"Madiba and Winnie should have negotiated about their marital home before washing their dirty linen in public."

Tony Maimane



"Our culture has been compromised because when a man deserts his wife, the house should be left in her hands."

↑ on p.2.

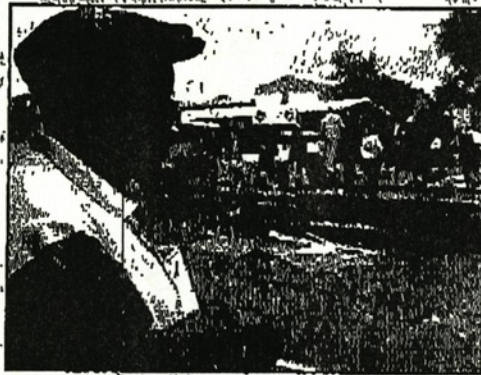
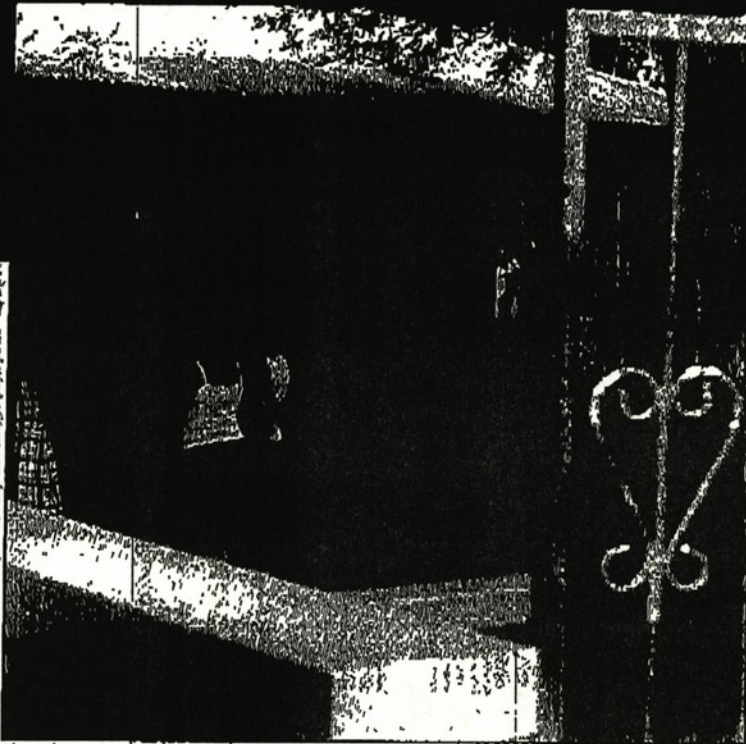
Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's comments to Sowetan reporter Zandile Nkuta on the High Court's decision ordering her to hand over the house she shared with former president Nelson Mandela to the Soweto Heritage Foundation:

● "No one is taking my house. Anyone who says that is insane. I didn't defeat the boers for nothing."

● "The Soweto Heritage Foundation is the Mandela family (which lived) in that house."

● "I am the African Heritage - that is why I remained there when they trekked out to the suburbs."

● "I will remove any stumbling blocks and whoever is in my way."



Above: Tourists visiting Soweto Heritage Foundation.
 Left: Council workers demolish Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's small business in Soweto last October.

PHOTOS: VELI NHLAPO

Factfile on house No. 1815 Vilakazi Street

1944: Nelson Mandela and his first wife, Evelyn, move into the house. The couple later divorces.

1958: Mandela's second wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, moves into the house. Their first daughter, Zenani, is born.

1960: The couple's second daughter, Zinzi, is born.

1961: Mandela arrested visiting his wife and daughters at the house.

1962: Mandela jailed for sedition.

1977: Madikizela-Mandela leaves the house after being banished to Brandfort.

1986: Madikizela-Mandela defies the banning order and returns to Soweto. She forms the Winnie Mandela Football Club, using the house as its headquarters. The club unleashes a reign of terror against those Madikizela-Mandela regards as apartheid collaborators. Child activist Stompie Seipei is a victim.

1995: Mandela and Madikizela-Mandela's divorce is finalised.

1996: Mandela buys the house from the city council.

1997: Mandela hands the house over to the Soweto Heritage Company. The house is declared a museum and visitors are charged a R20 entrance fee. Madikizela-Mandela sells bottled soil from its garden.

1998: The Soweto Heritage Company applies for an order to evict Madikizela-Mandela. In turn, Madikizela-Mandela applies for a counter-interdict and calls for the court to set aside the city council's decision to transfer the property to the Soweto Heritage Company.

2001: Madikizela-Mandela's action dismissed.

2002: The court grants the Soweto Heritage Company's eviction order.

Mpho Ntsoelengoe



"Winnie has been a mother to us. We will miss her because we love her."

Siphelele Phuthi



"Winnie has been with us through thick and thin and in addition to treating us well, she has created jobs for us."

Winnie tells media to keep out of way

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By Zandile Nkuta

WINNIE Madikizela-Mandela yesterday warned the media not to abuse its power and said it should not interfere in the fight to take back land from colonisers.

"We do not want you to stand in our way in fighting to take our land," she said.

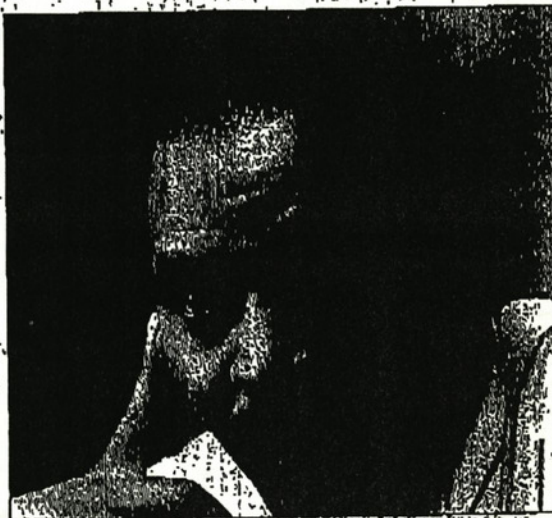
Threatening the media, she said: "You don't want us to turn our rod on you."

Madikizela-Mandela was speaking in Johannesburg at the end of the South African Reparations Movement congress which affirmed its support for Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's land redistribution programme.

It called on the British government to keep its original promise "to give money to its farming community in Zimbabwe so they can go back home".

Madikizela-Mandela chanted the slogan "Izwe lethu" (the land is ours) and said: "We were here when they came to colonise us."

"We will fight to the last drop of our blood for our land. Millions of our people are entitled to reparation."



PAC general secretary Thami Ka Plaatjie

Led by the Pan Africanist Congress, the Socialist Organisation of the People of Azania and the Azanian People's Organisation, the reparation movement seeks to launch a legal battle against Britain for the effects of colonising South Africa and the region.

Also present were the national chairman of the House of Traditional Leaders Mpiyezintombi Mzimela and PAC general secretary Thami Ka Plaatjie. In a statement

released at the congress the movement supported Mugabe, saying "it is only under his able government that the land redistribution programme can be taken to its logical conclusion".

"We are calling on other heads of state and governments in the region to emulate the progressive example of the authentic leadership of President Robert Mugabe to address the land issue with the urgency it deserves before it is too late," it said.

Tutu speaks out on Mugabe

N Peace laureate Desmond Tutu condemned the violence in Zimbabwe, where militants linked to the ruling party of president Robert Mugabe have violently seized and occupied white-owned farms.

"It's horrible," Tutu said during a press conference at the World Economic Forum on Saturday. "What's happening there is totally unacceptable."

Tutu also criticised Mugabe, who has tacitly supported the militants' actions. The violence, which broke out in March 2000, has left more than 100 people dead, including nine white farmers.

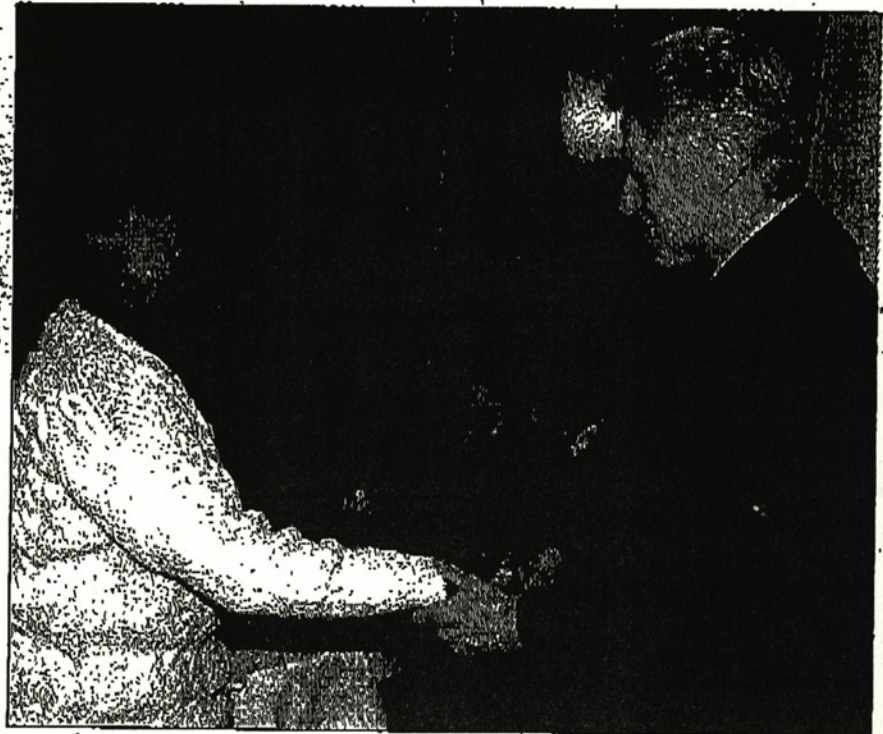
"If anything can be done to pull him back from the brink, let it be done," Tutu said, urging "quiet diplomacy" to help Mugabe "mend his ways". He asked other leaders, especially in Southern African countries, to be "more forthright" with Mugabe.

The retired South African Anglican archbishop said that when Mugabe was younger, he was an exemplary leader.

"Robert Mugabe was, for a very long time, one of the brightest stars in our firmament. He was outstanding as an African leader."

Tutu remembered that after Mugabe's first election victory in 1980, following Zimbabwe's independence from Britain, "when people were expecting retribution and revenge, he remarkably spoke about and promoted reconciliation and reconstruction. I don't know what's gone wrong," he said.

Tutu did not comment specifically on the Zimbabwean government's programme to seize some 4 500 white-owned farms - 95



Archbishop Desmond Tutu greets former US president Bill Clinton at the start of a panel discussion at the World Economic Forum in New York at the weekend.

PHOTO: AP

percent of the land owned by whites - and carve them up for landless blacks.

About 60 000 whites live among 13 million blacks in Zimbabwe. Some 4 000 white farmers own a third of the nation's land.

Tutu said that the violence in Zimbabwe

hurt the image of all of Africa.

"We live in a racist society globally. Something that happens in Zimbabwe is seen as reflecting badly on all African countries. If something happens in Bosnia, for some odd reason it doesn't reflect on Eng-

Sowetan Comment

Winnie loses Mandela home

ORLANDO West, Soweto, has a number of landmarks that are an important part of the living history of South Africa.

Among these are the houses which were owned by political leaders Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Zephania Mothopeng and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Save for the last, all these houses are built in the old largish four-roomed, red-brick apartheid style that tried to distinguish them from the rest of the matchbox houses in Soweto.

Before he was caught as the famous 'Black Scarlet Pimpernel' in the late 1960s, Nelson Mandela was a distinguished resident, with Winnie Madikizela-Mandela as his wife, of Number 1815 Orlando West.

This house has weathered the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. After Madiba was sent to Robben Island, his family living in the house became the constant target of apartheid policemen.

Winnie courageously fought the police who tried every trick in the book to disgrace or destroy her.

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela has now lost a four-year battle over the historic house.

Justice Peter Pauw ordered her to vacate the house, now the property of the Soweto Heritage Foundation.

Govt burying its head

HEALTH minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang has again defied logic in refusing to change her stance on the provision of anti-aids drugs to pregnant mothers with HIV.

This comes after a two-day consultation meeting with the health MECs, after which it was hoped she would take advantage of the positive expectations of society and have a change of heart.

It is hard to imagine how, in the face of sharp criticism and strong public appeals for the Government to consider the plight of pregnant HIV mothers, the Government can bury its head in the sand and pretend there is no crisis.

In its stoic approach the Government has ignored the voices of some of South Africa's greatest icons, including former president Nelson Mandela, Nobel peace laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane.

Tutu paralleled the fight against Aids with the struggle against apartheid, saying we are not doing enough to combat Aids, adding: "We should see it as the new apartheid and evoke the same spirit we had when we fought against that vicious system."

His words are poignant and should act as a prod to Tshabalala-Msimang and her colleagues in the Government.

The Government should guard against forcing its supporters to equate it with the hated apartheid regime by refusing to take good counsel from the people.

Cleric says all political parties in Zim 'involved in violence'

WHILE the South African Government waits for feedback from a team it has sent to Zimbabwe to assess whether free and fair elections are possible in that country, a senior local cleric has shied away from pronouncing directly on the issue.

He also says the violence plaguing Zimbabwe involves those for and against the ruling Zanu-PF, including the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

Speaking on SABC's *NewsMaker* programme yesterday, presiding bishop of the Methodist Church in Southern Africa, Mvume Dandala, said it was crucial the March 9 and 10 elections were free and fair. But he would not say whether he thought this would be the case.

Dandala recently returned from a fact-finding mission to Zimbabwe, where he was briefed by church leaders on the run-up to the polls. He admitted the situation was creating concern among the clergy that the election would not be free and fair.

That is why the churches wrote a letter to the government of that country. They felt there was a potential the elections would not be free and fair, he said.

Dandala said it appeared that all "political players" were involved in the violence, including the MDC.

"But... the churches did say quite clearly that... there is no doubt in their minds that Zanu-PF and those who are in power at the moment seem to be more involved."

Asked what he thought needed to be done, Dandala said the churches were stressing the



Bishop Mvume Dandala

need for effective monitoring of the elections.

He said all the people they met in Zimbabwe are concerned at what they see as foreign intervention that might undermine the value of their vote. He said there was concern among Zimbabwe's opposition voters that a vote against President Robert Mugabe might be perceived "as a British vote".

Asked if he thought the Southern African Development Community was capable of playing an observer role, Dandala said: "If the SADC ensures that in the teams they send they do not just send government representatives ... this would carry a lot of merit".

Last Friday, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad said a task team had been sent to Zimbabwe to study the political climate and to make recommendations which would be submitted today. — *Sapa*

By Charity Bhengu

HE IS fit and energetic. There is nothing about this man that indicates that he is HIV-positive. Matthew Damane (25) tells how his condition improved after taking anti-retroviral drugs.

He says his girlfriend died of Aids. She was not on anti-retrovirals.

Damane was introduced to the treatment programme in Khayelitsha, Western Cape, last June when his CD4 cell count, which reflects the strength of the immune system, was 138. The CD4 cell count for a healthy person is normally above 1 000.

His viral load was 95 000 and his immune system was compromised by increasing opportunistic diseases and showed a great need for dedicated care.

Damane tells how a strict drug regimen saved his life. "I joined the treatment programme at Khayelitsha HIV Clinics last year."

Probe starts into prison scandals

By Thabo Thulo

MUCH prison dirty linen is expected to be washed in public when the Jali Commission of Inquiry into the Department of Correctional Services starts hearings in Durban today.

The commission, established by President Thabo Mbeki, will investigate corruption, maladministration, violence and intimidation in the department. It is expected to lift the lid off a series of prison scandals that include murder, corruption and blackmail.

One of the prisons that will come under the spotlight is Ncome prison near Vryheid.

Prisoners there allege that warders opened fire on some prisoners who resisted being manipulated into taking part in a prison uprising in 1996.

Prisoner Siphamandla Zwane told *Sowetan* in September last year that warders were unhappy at being given increased workloads, so they used prison gangs to make the prison "ungovernable".

Two prisoners died and a number were injured in the ensuing mayhem.

In a subsequent cover-up, families of the dead prisoners were told they had "escaped".

Zwane said he tried to lay charges against the warders for intimidation and incitement, but was denied access to the police.

Another prison that will be investigated is Durban-Westville, which has been plagued with allegations of prisoners walking free and enjoying benefits in exchange for money.

There have also been killings, some of which have not been investigated.

The commission will visit prisons and hear evidence from prisoners and high-ranking officers.

After five weeks the commission will move to Eastern Cape.

Commission secretary Mr Charles Frank has appealed to people wanting to give evidence to contact him on the toll-free number 0800 60 66 60.

The clinics were established by Medicines Sans Frontières (MSF) and the University of Cape Town's school of public and primary healthcare in Khayelitsha.

"I was so sick, I couldn't work or do anything for myself," he says.

After being on a triple treatment of AZT, 3TC and Nevirapine for some time, he started showing some improvement. He recorded an impressive weight gain and returned to work.

Damane is one of 54 patients who are on anti-retrovirals treatment and 68 percent of them have tuberculosis. Most of them started on AZT-3TC-Nevirapine or Efavirenz instead of Nevirapine if on TB treatment.

He says: "I experienced side effects in the beginning of the treatment but they lasted about two months. I was dizzy on the first day, nauseous, had diarrhoea and developed a skin rash.

"I am well now. When I was tested last September, my CD4 cell count was 254 and the viral load was undetectable in my blood."

The patented drugs are expensive at R37,44 for triple therapy a day, instead of R18,14 a day for generic drugs made by a Brazilian company.

With plans to extend the programme, MSF went to Brazil to negotiate for cheaper generic drugs.

second shipment arrived in December. MSF Brazil bought them from the Brazilian government and sold them to MSF-SA.

Founder of the Khayelitsha project Dr Eric Goemaere says South Africa could learn valuable lessons from Brazil.

"Brazil has implemented a policy of providing anti-retroviral treatment to HIV-positive people. This has been achieved through the manufacture of generic medicines whose price has dropped by 82 percent. Of 597 000 people with HIV-Aids, about 98 000 people are on treatment and HIV-Aids deaths had been reduced by 50 percent in June 2001.

"Brazil did this by setting up a pharmaceutical company called Farmanguinhos which conducts research into producing the raw materials of medical drugs," says Goemaere.

After receiving the consignment of generic copies of five anti-retroviral drugs from Brazil, MSF

obtained permission from the Medicines Control Council to treat the infected, Goemaere says. "We will demonstrate that it is possible and affordable."

Of South Africa's four million infected people, the World Health Organisation estimates 200 000 will die this year of HIV-related diseases.

"We are going to select 15 people with a CD4 cell count of below 200 and at clinical stage three or four (with severe infections and about to develop full-blown Aids) to start the generic anti-retroviral treatment for five years," says Goemaere.

The patients should be residents of Khayelitsha, have disclosed their status to at least one family member and be prepared to attend the clinic regularly. The priority is mother and child. Most patients under 13 years are infected from their mothers.

"We have accepted people even with a zero CD4 cell count - people who would die within two days if they

get a cold. Those we have managed to save now have a CD4 cell count of 200. But we have lost some," Goemaere says.

MSF started with the first group last May and boasts excellent results, with some people having regained about 10 kilograms and their CD4 cell count increased by 90 percent, says Goemaere.

"The quality of the generic drugs is guaranteed and does not induce any additional side effects other than nausea; dizziness, headache and fatigue which last about one and a half months and our patients have accepted the change from patent drugs to generic drugs," he said.

The MSF programme was first established in April 2000 as part of an agreement with the Western Cape to pilot integrated care for those with HIV. This followed the introduction of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme.

The aim is to prolong the lives of some of 40 000 HIV-infected adults of about 350 000 people in Khayelitsha.

How the disease progresses:

● STAGE ONE.

There are no symptoms.

● STAGE TWO.

The immune system starts showing signs that it is not functioning properly. You should watch weight loss, minor skin problems, shingles and recurrence of head or chest colds.

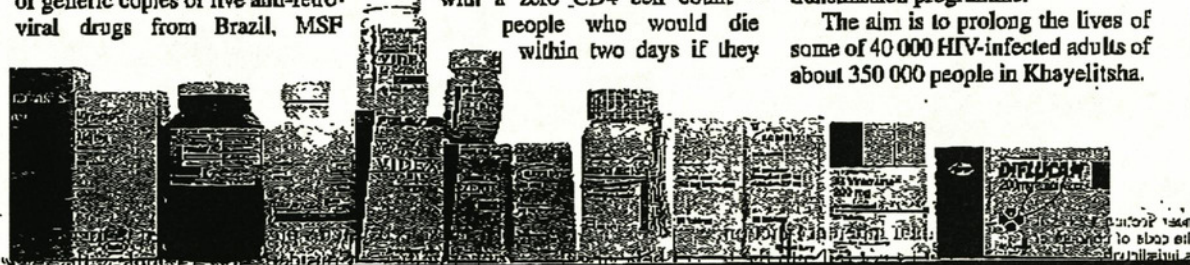
● STAGE THREE.

Weight loss tends to be more profound. There is a chronic diarrhoea and fevers. Should start taking cotrimoxazole. The other problems are thrush, TB and vaginal infection.

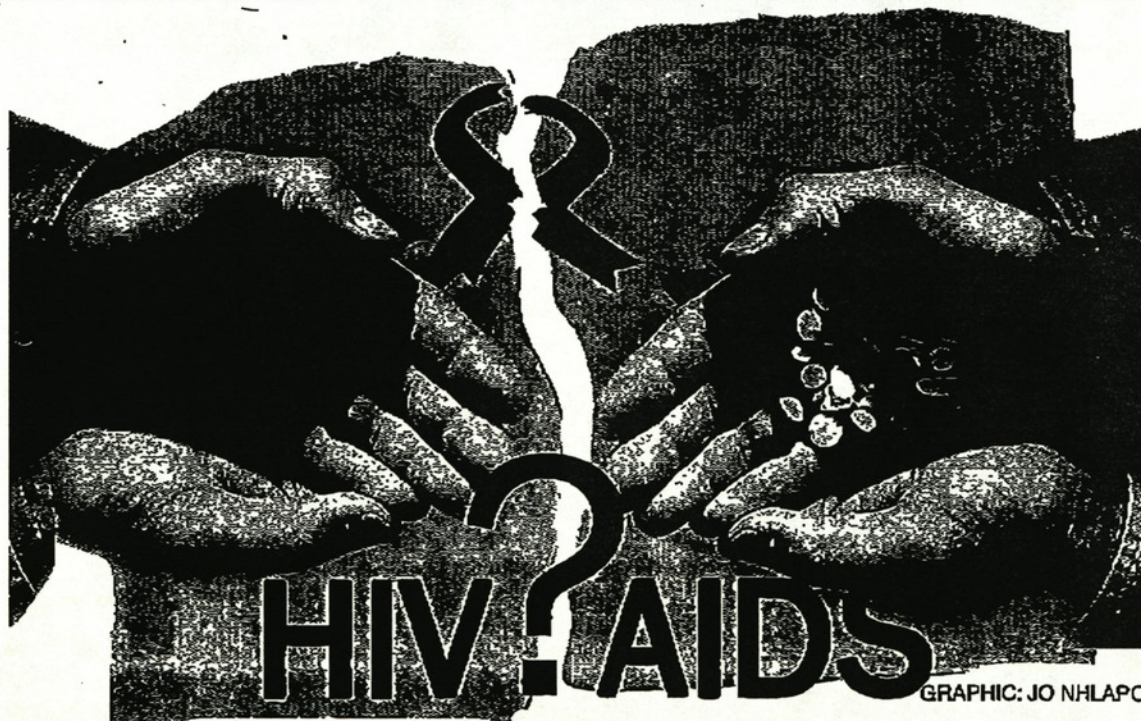
● STAGE FOUR.

HIV-positive people are usually not well enough to work or care for themselves. Their problems include weight loss, severe lung infections, PCP pneumonia, brain infections, cancer. It is vital to continue taking cotrimoxazole.

Information provided by the Treatment Action Campaign.



Anti-retrovirals save life of HIV-positive man (25)



GRAPHIC: JO NHLAPO

These are the kinds of infections that may occur in HIV-infected people:

● **TUBERCULOSIS (TB).**

Treatment is highly effective but has to be taken for six months to ensure complete recovery.

● **PNEUMOCYSTIS CARINI PNEUMONIA (PCP).**

This is a life-threatening lung disease. Symptoms include dry cough and difficulty in breathing. PCP can be prevented by taking cotrimoxazole.

● **TOXOPLASMOSIS.**

It affects the brain, infects lungs and eyes and can cause a coma. It is treated with a six-week course of drugs or prevented by cotrimoxazole.

● **CRYPTOCOCCAL MENINGITIS.** An infection of the brain and spinal cord, which is caused by a fungus which is breathed in. Can be treated with fluconazole and patients remain on it for life.

● **ORAL CANDIDIASIS (THRUSH).** It appears in the mouth and throat. It can cause sore throat, pain when swallowing, nausea and loss of appetite. It is treated with a mouth wash or lozenges.

Respect this gift of nature

ON SATURDAY, South Africans joined in the global celebration of World Wetlands Day. This day marked the birth in 1971 of a unique instrument of international law, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Ecology cynics will say there is little reason to celebrate those muddy and smelly landscapes where water accumulates for extended periods.

However, since South Africa is preparing to host the World Summit on Sustainable Development later this year, Wetlands Day is a valuable opportunity to look at the link between wetlands and issues that will come under the spotlight at the summit.

The core subject matter of this event will be the relationship between the environment, development and poverty.

Wetlands traditionally have been perceived as a nature conservation or wildlife issue rather than as a natural resource asset able to contribute to sustainable development and the wellbeing of our people.

The challenge before the country is to draw a link between wetlands and the factors that underpin the sustainability of development, poverty alleviation and economic growth in South Africa.

As soon as one starts to examine the various functions, products and attributes of wetlands, the vital link emerges: wetlands are water and water is wetlands.

The ecosystems that sustain the water resource, and which in turn rely on it, are inseparable. Anything that affects one side of the equation affects the other side too.

We thus cannot continue to pollute wetlands, drain them, starve them of water and exploit them unsustainably for food and shortsighted economic development without expecting to pay a heavy price in the long-term.

South Africa has particular reason to appreciate its water resources as its national rainfall is below the global average.

By 2025 South Africa will be one of 14 African countries classified as subject to water scarcity, which is defined as being less than 1 000 cubic metres a person a year.

In 1994, just 35 percent of rural South Africans had access to clean water. The country clearly needs to manage its water and associated ecosystems with this reality in mind.

Wetlands supply and purify water, they regulate water flow, supply food and provide focal points for economic development. They are a key part of the solution to the problem.

Unlike other water resources that require interventions and investment to produce benefits, the major benefit from wetlands is derived from their inherent function.

Let us not fall into the trap of believing that

South Africa's wetlands are not just an ecological wonder but also a key contributor to alleviating poverty, writes **Rejoice Mabudafhasi**



Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Dr Ben Ngubane at the opening of a craft market at St Lucia's Wetland Park last year.

PHOTO: ENOS MHLONGO

the answer to South Africa's looming water crisis lies solely in complex and expensive engineering solutions. Nature has provided robust and free technology, which we must recognise, respect and protect.

In a country such as ours, wetlands should be taking their rightful place on the national agenda as a foundation for achieving sustainable water management.

Another link between wetlands and sustainable development can be found in the rich diversity of plant and animal species and habitats found in these ecosystems, and the economic value of this biodiversity.

The number of species of plants and animals found within our borders is the third highest of any country in the world.

Furthermore, South Africa contains the only floral kingdom found entirely within one country. The smallest of the world's six floral regions, the Cape Floral Kingdom, better known as the fynbos biome, is home to 9 000 plant species, of which 6 000 are found nowhere else on earth. This is truly a global asset worthy of the utmost care.

Many species have adapted to life in wetlands to the point that they are not able to survive anywhere else, and are thus entirely dependent on wetlands for their survival. A great number of these species are used for food, crafts, medicine, building material and fuel — both in subsistence and commercial terms.

These ecosystems present a myriad of opportunities for economic development.

Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, perhaps South Africa's flagship wetland area which was recently proclaimed a World Heritage Site.

The Government has a duty to conserve and promote the sustainable use of this biological wealth, not only for its intrinsic value, but also for economic growth and sustainable development and to alleviate poverty.

We are making strides in wetland conservation in South Africa. The inclusion of a wetland conservation theme in the Environment Initiative of New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad) shows that wetlands' value has been recognised at the highest political level.

"Working for Wetlands", a newly formed public-private partnership with a budget of R30 million a year, links the rehabilitation of degraded wetlands to the provision of jobs, skills and opportunities to disadvantaged people. Within a few years, South Africa will have a detailed inventory describing the extent, distribution and diversity of its wetlands.

Despite these accomplishments, many challenges remain. Key decision-makers, especially in water resource management, still view wetlands as competing "users" of water. Responsibility for wetland conservation and management is divided between government departments and is often fragmented and uncoordinated.

Key players such as the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism will take these challenges into account in giving effect to the Ramsar Convention's aim.

Its mission to conserve and wisely use wetlands by national action and international cooperation so as to achieve sustainable development is even more relevant today than it was when the convention was set up 31 years ago.

As a founding member of the convention and host of the summit, South Africa must ensure that with respect to wetlands, a strong message is sent to the world leaders who will gather in Johannesburg in August.

South Africa must focus on the importance of wetlands to the sustainability of the planet's ecosystems and for people's well-being.

Wetlands also can play a role in refreshing and re-focusing the agenda for sustainable development.

The World Wetlands Day celebrations give us — and especially the ecology cynics — a chance to reflect on these messages.

(Mabudafhasi is Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism)

THE MERCURY, Monday February 4, 2002

APPEAL FOR COMMUNITY TO CO-OPERATE

Extra security for KZN to fight crime

LEE RONDGANGER

MORE than 1 500 police officers, soldiers and traffic inspectors will be deployed in KwaZulu-Natal over the next month in an effort to stabilise crime.

This was in response to President Mbeki's call that February should be the month of safety and security.

According to police extra security personnel would be brought in from other provinces to beef up the operation.

Last week, the nationwide Operation

Tsipi began in KwaZulu-Natal with the deployment of extra law enforcement agents. The operation would focus on major national and provincial roads where there would be a concentration of security forces at roadblocks and visible checkpoints, according to police.

Police spokesman, Dir Bala Naidoo, said more than 100 roadblocks had been conducted in KZN alone last week.

"In its first week of operation 6 598 vehicles and 12 536 passengers were searched, resulting in 192 prosecutions

for serious crimes and traffic violations.

"Thirty-three stolen vehicles, 13 firearms, 95 rounds of ammunition and 60kg of dagga were seized," he said.

The operation was expected to continue until the end of the month.

Provincial police commissioner Moses Khanyile appealed to motorists and members of the community to co-operate with security forces.

"Crime in this province can only be addressed through the co-operation of the community," he said.

CHARTER FLIGHTS MAY BE USED

UK mayors to help province tourism drive

PATRICK LEEMAN

THE provincial tourist body, Tourism KwaZulu-Natal, is making a concerted effort to bring thousands of British tourists to the region from next year in a series of charter flights.

The chief executive officer of KZN Tourism, Mr Gareth Coleman, said the organisation was in discussion with two British charter companies to clinch the deal and an announcement was expected soon.

Speaking during the visit to Durban yesterday of eight lord mayors from the United Kingdom, he said KZN Tourism was trying to broaden the tourism base of British visitors to the province. Traditionally, British tourists had come to KZN to visit friends and family, but a major effort was now being made to woo the affluent British middle-class, especially with the present highly favourable exchange rate.

He said it was possible that the charter flights would leave from Manchester in the north of the UK or Gatwick near London.

Mr Coleman said KZN Tourism had been pleased with the success

of the charter flights from Hungary, a project inaugurated last year.

There had been a 52% increase in the volume of tourist traffic from Hungary for the current year, compared with 2001.

Some of the charter flights had linked up with a service incorporating Mombasa, giving the Hungarian visitors a taste of East Africa and South Africa, he said.

In addition to attempts to boost tourism from UK and Europe, trade and investment opportunities in Western Europe and the UK by trade and investment partners in KZN were to be accelerated in the next two years.

The managing director of South African Tourism in the UK, Ireland and the Nordic Countries, Mr Willem Eksteen, said the eight British mayors had enjoyed their visits to Durban, Johannesburg, and Cape Town. The visit was organised in conjunction with SAA.

The mayors, who visited Durban and the North Coast at the weekend, were from Westminster (London), Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool, Portsmouth, Swansea and York.

Parents 'turn blind eye to pupil abuse'

MOSHOESHOE MONARE

JOHANNESBURG - A high number of unreported statutory rapes of pupils by teachers happened under the nose of parents who turned a blind eye for the sake of financial support from the educators.

It is likely that most of the teachers who committed sexual abuses, as suggested by the Medical Research Council and Human Rights Watch in recent reports, are still in the profession.

The South African Council of Educators, a professional and disciplinary body which registers the country's 360 000 teachers, has confirmed that it received only 34 sexual abuse complaints since 1999.

Concerned about the low num-

ber of reports of abuse, the council said Unicef had donated more than R1 million to raise awareness, and that a national school-to-school probe was under way.

"We are going to have a summit in six months' time which might culminate in a national plan to go to each and every school to investigate this," said Mr Reg Brijraj, the council's chief executive officer.

Mr Thami Mseleku, director-general in the department of education, said yesterday that teachers fell in love with under-age girls or even paid lobola without parents reporting the matter.

Any complaints about teachers' misconduct should be reported to SACE, Private Bag X127, Centurion, 0046 or Tel: (012) 663 9517 and Fax: (012) 663 9238.

Armbands for Aids

A "BLACK Armband Campaign" to draw attention to HIV/Aids was launched by the Junior Doctors' Association (Judasa) in Durban on Saturday.

The association's chairman, Dr Karl le Roux, said the band, which was endorsed by the Treatment Action Campaign, signified the mourning for patients lost to HIV/Aids and showed solidarity with those who were HIV-positive.

"The band also signifies that there is an urgent need to fight Aids," he said. - Sapa

THE MERCURY, Monday February 4, 2002

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Tutu calls for action over Zimbabwe

JOHN BATTERSBY
GROUP POLITICAL EDITOR

NEW YORK – The time had come to replace "quiet diplomacy" towards Zimbabwe with something more forthright, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said at a media briefing on minority rights at the World Economic Forum.

Sharing a platform with Sinn Féin leader Jerry Adams and United Nations human rights commissioner Mary Robinson, Archbishop Tutu said that the situation in Zimbabwe required tougher action by his peers "for the sake of Zimbabwe and other countries in the region."

"What is happening reflects very badly on all African countries," he said. Archbishop Tutu said President Robert Mugabe had once been admired as one of Africa's brightest leaders.

"He was one of the brightest stars in our firmament who preached reconciliation and reconstruction. I don't know what has gone wrong, but what is happening there is totally unacceptable," Archbishop Tutu said.

"If anything can be done to pull him back from the brink – let it be done," he said.

KZN WILDLIFE LAYS DOWN RULES

Tour guide back on the beach

CHRIS JENKINS

A St Lucia tour operator who was denied access to the beach in his 4x4s at Cape Vidal last month has been allowed back on the sand again, subject to strict conditions laid down by KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife.

Mr Kian Barker said the KZN Wildlife head office at St Lucia Estuary had agreed to allow him to drive on the beach – but only until March 1.

He intends challenging the legality of this decision, insisting the new National Environmental

Management Act regulations, which came into effect on January 21, allow a period of grace until December this year after which special permits need to be applied for.

Mr Barker, owner of St Lucia Leisure, whose company was refused access to the beach on three occasions while driving overseas visitors through the world heritage site, was relieved to be able to take clients on educational trips along the beaches of St Lucia and Cape Vidal again.

Access, he said, was allowed only

if the permit holder undertook a tour with guests who were not allowed to fish or extract marine organisms. He said KZN Wildlife had reminded him that "only the highest conservation ethics and behaviour will be acceptable".

"Our gripe is that the permit is valid only until March 1 and renewable monthly, which we have a problem with in terms of the new law and which we will get legal advice on."

Meanwhile a St

Lucia fishing guide, Mr Jeff Asherwood, said the beach ban

had effectively put him out of business and he would probably have to leave town if he was not allowed back on the beach.

"I have not had a single booking since the new regulations came into effect. The general impression is that they want to shut down St Lucia Estuary," said the 40-year-old resident who is married with four children.

Mr Asherwood said he had applied for a coastal zone permit but did not hold out much hope of being able to continue with his angling and flyfishing tours.

NOW READ

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THE MERCURY

FOUNDED IN 1852

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Water Price

THE national department of water affairs has a duty to intervene to save Durban from a high increase in charges for bulk water supplies.

The impending increase – the amount of which seems to be in dispute – is caused by factors which have little or nothing to do with the council or the ratepayers and consumers it serves.

The immediate problem stems back to last year, when Umgeni Water transferred a rural water scheme to the unicity council. Apparently, Umgeni Water incurred about R400 million in capital costs on these schemes, and now municipalities like Durban are likely to be unfairly burdened with this.

Provision of reticulated water to deprived rural communities is a laudable objective of national government. But this is a national programme, in which Umgeni Water has acted as an agent of the department of water affairs. The high cost of financing this infrastructure should be charged to the national government. It is not the responsibility of local government.

The national government has made only R120 million available towards these costs. When it comes to Durban, there is apparently a feeling in national circles that the unicity should stand on its own feet in this regard because it is financially strong.

The eThekweni council is right to fight this additional burdening of its budget with capital costs incurred by Umgeni Water.

Local water consumers have already suffered unacceptably high tariff increases in recent years – something which drew the ire of Reserve Bank Governor Tito Mboweni about a year ago. He stressed that those responsible for the pricing of water in KwaZulu-Natal should take heed of the country's inflation guidelines.

Another high water tariff increase would also hurt household and industrial consumers, undermining the city's ability to attract industry and to create jobs.

Virginity Testing

WHAT'S good for the goose is good for the gander! That will be the reaction of some women to news that KwaZulu-Natal traditionalists are reverting to the practice of encouraging boys to also undergo virginity testing.

This practice has stirred up a range of public emotions, being described on the one hand as "traditional and ethical" but dismissed on the other as "medieval and unscientific".

Whatever one's view, one thing seems sure. The "dark knee test" – such knees apparently are regarded as an indication of lost virginity – should encourage boys to keep their trousers on.

Task team wants action on child rape

CHRISTELLE TERREBLANCHE
PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

PARLIAMENT'S newly formed task team on child abuse and rape is considering calling the Law Commission to public hearings to explain progress with compiling comprehensive child care legislation.

This follows criticism last year by both the minister of social development, Mr Zola Skweyiya, and parliament's social development committee that the Law Commission was apparently dragging its heels with drafting of the new legislation.

The task team was announced last month after an outcry against an escalation in baby rapes across the country.

The leader of the child abuse taskteam, Mr Cas Saloojee, said the 14-member group would be finally constituted today and hearings were planned for the end of the month.

Concern

Mr Saloojee, who also heads up the committee on social development, recently expressed his concern that the Law Commission was far from finished with drafting the bills on child care.

This was despite efforts by the MPs to fast-track the process by calling a conference late last year with the law writers, which led to the publication of a discussion paper on envisaged legislation.

The task team would this week advertise and send invitations to non-governmental and civil society organisations involved in child care to make written or oral submissions regarding the ongoing problem of child abuse, sexual abuse of pupils and rape of young children and babies, like Upington's Baby Tshepang.

The task team hoped also to look into child pornography and wants to invite the film and publications board to the hearings to explain why legislation in this regard was also delayed.

African ministers in bid to tackle hunger crisis

CAIRO - African ministers were due here this week to tackle the problems that create hunger on the continent amid preparations for a world food summit in June staged by the UN food agency, officials said yesterday.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation wants to use its summit, along with the regional run-up meetings, to revive the goal set by the 1996 summit to halve the number of undernourished people by 2015 to 400 million.

"It's a winnable war," Mr Michael Hage, an FAO spokesman, said after arriving in the Egyptian capital for the African regional meeting from Monday until Friday.

He also said the FAO was urging wealthy governments around the world to make greater efforts to raise funds to help poor countries grow their own food.

These funds could be distributed through any government or international relief agency. "We're not recommending it be channelled through us," he said.

The African regional conference will review efforts to maintain arable land and fresh water as well as cope with wars, natural disasters, pests and Aids.

They would also discuss plans to involve women more in rural development.

Ministers of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development from 52 African countries are expected in Cairo for the plenary session on Thursday and Friday.

Technical meetings of experts will be held from Monday until Wednesday. Non-government organisations started arriving last Friday to conduct their own meetings, and are co-operating with African governments.

The world food summit was originally scheduled for November 5-9 but was delayed in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

The Africa meeting is the first of regional meetings, with others scheduled over the next few months for the Middle East, Asia-Pacific and Latin America. - Sapa-AFP

THE MERCURY, Monday February 4, 2002

Winnie digs in over house debacle

JOHANNESBURG - ANC Women's League president Winnie Madikizela-Mandela is expected to appeal against a high court ruling that she be evicted from the Mandela family home in Orlando West, Soweto.

"It is the intention of Madikizela-Mandela to instruct her lawyer to continue action in this matter," her spokesman, Mr Alan Reynolds, said yesterday.

The Johannesburg high court ruled on Tuesday that former president Nelson Mandela's ex-wife be evicted from the house which she apparently has been using as a

museum. She was also ordered to cover the legal costs.

Mr Mandela gave the house, in Vilakazi Street, to the Soweto Heritage Trust in 1998, but Mrs Madikizela-Mandela refused to vacate the property.

A lengthy legal battle over the ownership of the four-roomed house - the birthplace of the Mandela children - followed and came to conclusion this week.

But she said yesterday that nobody had the "moral right to deprive the Mandela children of their heritage". - Sapa

Govt must live up to its electoral rhetoric

WITH reference to ANC spokesman Mtholephi Mthimkhulu's call for parents and others to question errant youngsters not at school during school hours (The Mercury, January 30).

The notion is commendable, but idealistic and symptomatic of the vast lacunae that exist between the haves and the have-nots.

For example, we had a visit from a woman who used to work in our area as a maid. Her employers

emigrated and, despite a severance package and other help, life soon returned to normal in rural Maphumulo where she has a small holding.

As a single mother now, living quite literally off the land and with no electricity or running water, she has no access to cash. Her children have been attending the local school, but this year, despite her selling the odd chicken to buy makeshift uniforms for them, she has been told by the

headmaster that he requires R30 in fees from each pupil.

She cannot afford it. R30 is a huge amount of money when you have none. Besides being let down by a government that promised free education at this woman's children's level, they will not be allowed into class until they have paid the fees.

The scenario that follows goes like this: Mr Mthimkhulu: "Why are you not at school?"

Children: "We can't afford the

fees." Ruling party Interrogator: "But school is free at your age."

Children: "No, it's not, otherwise we'd be there."

Forget the backing that Mr Mthimkhulu has received from anyone following his call; all the government needs to do is live up to its electoral rhetoric.

An uneducated, unhealthy society is doomed.

MICHEL PEARCE

Durban North

Cholera toll climbs

A 38-YEAR-OLD man from the Matiwaneskop area near Ladysmith died of cholera in the Ladysmith provincial hospital at the weekend, bringing the death toll from cholera in KwaZulu-Natal to 259 in the past 18 months.

In the past 48 hours 225 new cholera cases have been reported, taking the total number in KZN to 112 994 since August 2000.

Forging a sense of common patriotism

The challenge facing all South Africans is to find a sense of national identity in a diverse and multiethnic society.



**DEVI
RAJAB**
DEVI'S DIARY

America came forth in every hue.

THE black blended with the white to form a common identity that echoed the sentiment "My country, right or wrong".

Unlike South Africans today, Americans seem to wear their nationalism on their sleeves.

Their brand of nationalism transcends ethnicity, race, religion and politics. Even fresh immigrants so grateful for their green cards forsake their countries of origin and immerse themselves in the ethos

of the red, white and blue.

Growing up in SA, the disenfranchised rarely felt a sense of patriotism under the old regime. Living within the country one harboured treasonable thoughts and prayed for the demise of the government.

Many learnt to secretly sing the anthem of protest and remained tight-lipped when *Die Stem* was sung in Afrikaans or English.

Many South Africans battle to forge a common identity and are fragmented and splintered in their allegiance.

Despite the political vision expressed in our constitution and epitomised by three core concepts: reconciliation, non-racialism and nation-building, South Africans still struggle to forge a national identity.

We are currently undergoing a crisis of confidence which is rapidly eroding the rand and making a mockery of our strong infrastructure and relatively solid fiscal state.

On the domestic scene, the crime rate affects all South Africans equally.

Yet there seems little hope of a collective cohesiveness or a consciousness that we all go down together. Instead, race and class dictate every aspect of our functioning.

White fingers point to an incompetent black government and blacks point to racist whites.

Indians and coloureds are sandwiched somewhere in between and can choose which side of the bread they would like to be on.

Ms Christine Qunta, a columnist for *Business Day*, expressed some strong sentiments on this issue when she accused one section of the population of bad-mouthing South Africa outside its borders. "The biggest threat to this country's economy and social stability, and thus peace, is not outside its borders, but within. It is constituted by a small but very powerful and vocal group of people."

AS IT fights for survival in the global arena, nation-building is going to be South Africa's biggest challenge. Social scientists warn that nation-building in multi-ethnic societies may be a futile exercise at best, or at worst a totalitarian attempt to suppress minorities.

It is difficult to mobilise the myth of common ancestry in a nation comprised of people of different origins and visions of self-determination. A case in point is Zulu cultural revivalism and the Afrikaner dream of a volkstaat in an interdependent economy.

The question arises as to how South Africans, despite their racially divisive legacies, can hope to achieve a common patriotism.

This should be the challenge that should engage every South African at all levels, from government to parastatals, in places of worship, in the schools and universities, and in the portals of our homes.

South Africa has its soul. We just have to find it.

Devi Rajab is a columnist. She writes in her own capacity.

OUR cane-wielding roving minister of Education, Prof Kader Asmal, gave us much to think about recently when he chastised teachers for not knowing the words of our national anthem *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika* in three languages. In doing so, he raised some very fundamental questions of patriotism and nationalism.

If he chose to extend his authority from schools to homes, he may be shocked to discover that patriotism is virtually non-existent in sport and politics. It takes only a soccer match or a cricket pitch to bring out the divisions that lurk within the South African psyche.

Patriotism results from pride in belonging to a common state in which citizens actively practise their civil rights in a democratic culture with equal opportunities.

That is why immigrant and slave societies such as those in the US are no less loyal to and proud of their country despite their position in its hierarchy of privilege.

In short, constitutional or civic patriotism leaves people free to define and celebrate their multiple identities as they see fit.

I recall a time when, sitting in a coffee shop in the Middle East, we listened to the complaints of some black Panthers. They were the radical segment of disenchanted Moroccan Jews.

We were young social science researchers eager to collect data on racism. Forgetting our professional role, one of the researchers lapsed into sentimentality and a passionately passionate sense of justice. Then why don't you leave

In Malaysia, both Hindus and Muslims are united under their flag, as is the case with many other countries with diverse ethnic populations.

All of us watched as the September 11 tragedy elicited a force of unity among Americans. They unfurled their flags on buildings, in windows, on rooftops, and on lawns. The Stars and Stripes had become more than a symbol. In places of worship, as well as in the streets, the people of