

# Probe demanded into 'amended' Bill

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — The ANC demanded yesterday that the KwaZulu-Natal legislature investigate claims that IFP hardliners Walter Felgate and Mario Ambrosini rewrote a Bill drafted by local government MEC Peter Miller without his permission.

ANC provincial executive committee member and KwaZulu-Natal health MEC Zweli Mkhize said Felgate and Ambrosini had acted "illegally".

"It is quite clear that these persons cannot determine where a party mandate starts and where government responsibility begins," Mkhize said.

ANC local government head Mike Sutcliffe said the ANC would demand in the legislature tomorrow that a multiparty committee be appointed to investigate the allegations.

DP KwaZulu-Natal leader Roger Burrows said the incident raised questions about security measures at MECs' offices. The DP would ask in the legislature whether any individual could gain access to confidential information without authorisation.

Felgate said he would welcome an investigation because the allegations were "absurd". He and Ambrosini had merely gone to Miller's office to fetch a copy of the Bill. It was on a computer disk and while they were waiting for Miller to arrive an official had "offered" them a computer to work on.

Felgate said it was the democratic right of "any man in the street" to request information from an MEC.

Sutcliffe said the Bill was "out of the

hands" of Miller. It had been gazetted and Felgate and Ambrosini should have made submissions to the local government portfolio committee.

Felgate and Ambrosini have been putting pressure on Miller to amend the Bill. They want to strip the provincial government of many of its powers and to place these in the hands of regional councils. Miller was resisting their proposal.

An IFP source said the differences would be referred to the IFP national council later this month for a ruling.

Felgate and Ambrosini's proposal would ensure that even if the IFP lost future provincial elections, the party would wield enormous influence in the province through regional councils.

The IFP wants all 270 traditional leaders in KwaZulu-Natal to serve on the councils.

In another development, the IFP held back on plans to pass a Bill re-enacting the Ingonyama Trust Act through the traditional affairs portfolio committee yesterday.

Committee acting chairman David Ntombela said doubts had been raised about the legality of the Bill. It was therefore decided to convene another meeting of the committee tomorrow. Traditional affairs MEC Nyanga Ngubane and his legal advisors would be asked to be present to answer questions from opposition MPs.

Observers pointed out that the Bill had been drafted by Ambrosini several months ago. Ngubane became aware of it only when journalists showed him a copy leaked to them.

## 'Truth commission a tribunal against IFP'

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — Very few IFP members would give evidence to the truth commission because it was a "political tribunal" against the IFP, IFP senator Ruth Rabinowitz said last night.

IFP national MP Harriet Ngubane was a "token" on the panel which presented a short list of candidates to President Nelson Mandela to serve on the commission, Rabinowitz said.

Rabinowitz, at a meeting organised by the Institute for Multiparty Democracy, said there were no IFP sympathisers on the short list.

IFP sympathisers were not regarded as "politically correct".

Allaying her fears, ANC KwaZulu-Natal MP John Jeffery said Mandela would appoint commissioners in consultation with the IFP and NP in the government of national unity.

The intention of the commission was to "unify" South Africans and to "draw them together", Jeffery said.

Rabinowitz said only IFP members who believed that they would benefit from "ratting" against their leaders would co-operate with the commission.

If IFP supporters were to give evidence to the commission, they would have to point fingers at ANC ministers.

They could not be expected to give evidence when violence was continuing in KwaZulu-Natal, Rabinowitz said.

The commission would be a "political tribunal" which would further "slant the truth".

It would decide who the angels and villains were, she said. The IFP would be lumped among the villains.

She said there would be "very little in the way of" following up evidence presented to the commission. This evidence would come from two categories of people — those who sought amnesty and those who sought reparation.

Rabinowitz said the commission would cause "harm", but it will be reversed in time.

A "struggle" was still being waged in SA, and particularly in KwaZulu-Natal.

She said peace and reconciliation would come about in SA through the adoption of a constitution for KwaZulu-Natal and the ANC honouring the agreement on international mediation.



# Slow and painful trek

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expanding social and economic justice for the black majority through the ambitious Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP).

Having quickly abandoned early plans for nationalising major sectors of the economy, the ANC's aim clearly has been to reassure South Africa and the world that it is a reasonable, responsible middle-of-the-road social democratic party.

But the ANC is not travelling well. Its Ministers seem increasingly engaged in frantic activity that often seems to lack purpose or priority.

The Government has tried, so far without apparent success, to address this problem by appointing a special so-called "super committee" of Cabinet to pull things together.

But there seems little overall policy co-ordination.

Almost daily a new report or ministerial statement proclaims a new, and usually vague, direction — on economic policy, taxation, trade, industrial relations, crime, abortion, gender equality, etc, etc.

Ministers push personal enthusiasms unaware that the store of domestic and international patience for the ANC is not infinite, and that there are expectations of visible progress towards reform.

Rather than take decisions, the Government has developed a penchant for endless consulting with mushrooming civic organisations and setting up boards, commissions, committees and inquiries.

Increasingly the ANC looks like a party that was dedicated to winning power, but that has little notion of how to exercise it effectively. Day-to-day manage-



**THREAT:** Chief Buthelezi poses a threat to stability.

ment of the country mystifies outside observers.

President Mandela acts mostly as a ceremonial leader pursuing his broad and obviously essential reconciliation agenda.

He appears to delegate political trouble-shooting and big-picture administration to his first deputy president, Mr Thabo Mbeki, who is regarded as his heir-apparent.

Ironically, this leaves the daily nuts-and-bolts administration of the country in the hands of former President F. W. De Klerk, now the second Deputy President and leader of the minority National Party.

With the GNU due to end in 1999, and with Mr De Klerk seeking to establish the NP as the mainstream conservative opposition to the ANC, it is hard to see what political interest Mr De Klerk has in making the Government work effectively.

The snail's pace of change in South Africa has prompted some cynics to observe that the country has had revolution without change.

In one sense this is true: wealth and economic power is still overwhelmingly concentrated in the hands of a minority of the white minority who live in indecent opulence behind barbed wire and electrified fences only kilometres from the squalor of black townships.

The mechanics of apartheid — brutish bureaucrats and thuggish policemen — are still a brooding presence in the structure of government, their jobs guaranteed by the ANC.

Nothing seems different to most individuals.

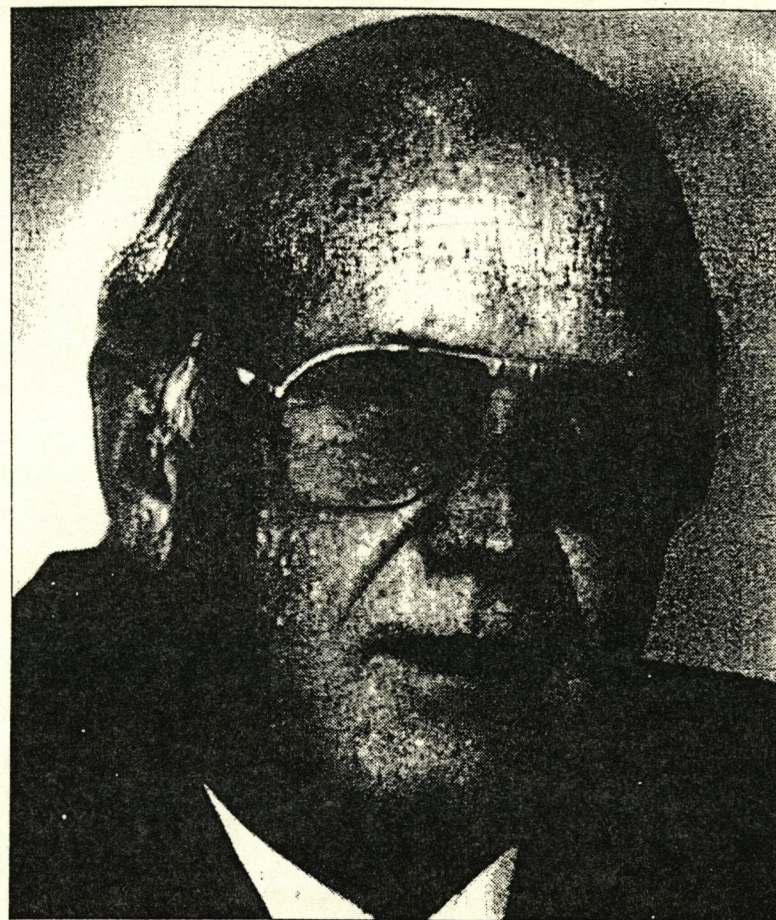
But in another sense, everything has changed.

South Africa has rejoined many worlds from which it had been excluded — the worlds of personal and media freedom, of open political debate, of international diplomacy, finance, trade, investment, sport, and even banal entertainment.

The so-called "new South Africa" is an evolving and challenging reality.

For the ANC the over-arching challenge is how to balance the expectations of the black majority with the fears of the white minority, whose wealth and skills still drive the national economy, and how to achieve both growth and equity, efficiency and fairness.

Anxious to demonstrate fiscal



**STRONG HAND:** Second Deputy President F.W. De Klerk

rectitude; the GNU has moved slowly towards implementing the RDP.

This year's Budget, the first wholly prepared by the GNU, limited the deficit to 5.8 per cent of GDP.

It provided only 2.5 billion rand for the RDP, which is conservatively estimated to cost R37.5 billion rand over five years.

So far, despite glowing promises, the RDP has delivered little in terms of housing, water, electricity, telecommunications — and the Gov-

ernment is looking to the first local government elections on new non-racial boundaries, which were held on November 1, to set up municipal authorities through which RDP programs will be delivered.

Perhaps the new bureaucracies will help — but the Government's track record so far suggests the patience of South Africans will continue to be tested for years to come.



BUSINESS DAY, TUESDAY, 28 NOV.  
1995

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DURBAN — A special electoral court judge criticised KwaZulu-Natal political parties yesterday for "playing games", and urged them to compromise on boundary disputes so local government elections could take place in the province on March 27.

Local government MEC Peter Miller told the court he would consider the appeal but that it was impossible to hold elections on March 27. Disagreeing, court chairman Judge J Smalberger said: "If there is a will, there is a way."

Miller said wards would have to be demarcated within the next week if elections were to be held on the scheduled date. Ten weeks were needed, and elections could be held in May.

The court began a two-day hearing to re-

## Parties 'playing games' over the local election

solve a dispute over the outer and inner boundaries of the Durban transitional metropolitan council and of six transitional local councils.

The court dealt yesterday with the dispute over 14 tribal areas which the ANC and the board want included in the Durban council. Miller and the IFP said they opposed this.

Miller conceded two tribal areas — Folweni and Umlazi CC — qualified for inclusion in the Durban council. Both were proclaimed townships, and had high-density populations. But the inclusion could not take place immediately because of "technical reasons". The approval of traditional leaders was

also needed, Miller said.

Judge M Nafsa said the parties seemed to be "playing games". He said consensus could have been reached on the incorporation of densely populated tribal areas, while the others could have been excluded.

Smalberger said every endeavour should be made to hold the election on March 27. The court would rule this morning on the Durban dispute. Parties should then negotiate to settle disputes in the other councils.

The court also heard evidence on the Durban metropolitan substructures boundaries' dispute. Smalberger asked the parties to enter negotiations and to report to the court this afternoon.



# Buthelezi lashes out at Ramaphosa over Constitutional Assembly appeal

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday he saw no purpose in meeting Constitutional Assembly chairman Cyril Ramaphosa to discuss the IFP's return to the assembly or the draft of the constitution.

However, he could not refuse Ramaphosa's request for a meeting.

As far as he was concerned Ramaphosa was using him "in a public relations exercise to put me in a bad light. Frankly, I cannot see the purpose

of the meeting."

Buthelezi had not read the draft document released last week, but judging by what others who had read it had said, it was "not worth the paper it is written on". Given the "holes" in the document, particularly in relation to provincial powers, "now is the appropriate time to proceed with international mediation", he said.

Ramaphosa, at the launch of the document last week, said he wanted to meet Buthelezi as soon as possible to give him a copy of the document and

brief him on the process. He appealed to the IFP to return to the assembly, saying it was in the interests of the IFP and SA that the party ended its boycott over international mediation.

A spokesman in Ramaphosa's office said yesterday the ANC leader was away, but would be back next week.

Buthelezi accused Ramaphosa of being responsible for scuppering international mediation on outstanding constitutional issues. Ramaphosa had shown him only "disdain". He blamed Ramaphosa for ruining any hopes of

mediation earlier this year when the ANC leader took over from Deputy President Thabo Mbeki the leadership of an ANC team of senior negotiators dealing with the IFP. He claimed Ramaphosa's intervention quashed hopes of discussions between the ANC, NP and IFP on mediation. Ramaphosa was interested only in discussing the IFP's constitutional proposals — with which he was familiar — not international mediation, as agreed between then president FW de Klerk, ANC leader Nelson Mandela and himself be-

fore last year's general election.

Buthelezi said he was "insulted" that Ramaphosa was acting as if the IFP's decision to return to the constitutional process was solely that of its leader. The IFP worked on the basis of "collegial leadership" and there was nothing he could say to Ramaphosa on the draft constitution or a return to the assembly. "I am not a dictator ... I am only a simple Zulu peasant."

A shift in IFP policy could be made only by the party's national council or an IFP general conference.

# Business Day