

THE MERCURY
Monday, September 8 2003

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SABC to meet KZN legislature

XOLANI MBANJWA

THE SABC in KwaZulu-Natal will meet the provincial legislature this week to discuss the suspension of a public outreach radio programme which reported on the workings of the legislature and service delivery of the provincial government.

The programme, *uHulumeni uza kubantu* - "government comes to the people" - was suspended by the national public broadcaster following accusations that the SABC and in particular the programme was "biased in favour of a certain political party".

Listenership

The programme, which was suspended two weeks ago, used to be aired on a Sunday night by uKhozi FM, which has a listenership of more than five million.

SABC spokesman Paul Setsetse said the programme was "put on hold" because of accusations of bias against the SABC by the ANC and the IFP.

Setsetse said a few weeks ago that the IFP had accused the SABC of favouring the ANC and the ANC had also accused the SABC of bias towards the IFP.

The SABC wanted to put the interests of the public first because they were being affected by the accusations.

It was important that the issue

be resolved "amicably because at the end of the day the public needs to get access to the workings of the legislature and how various government programmes work".

The ANC said the SABC management's decision to suspend the programme was "irrational" and "unilateral".

"The programme has nothing to do with party political issues. It educates listeners on how parliament operates and also explains the latest legislation. The programme was negotiated by the KZN legislature with Ukhozi FM. Detailed guidelines were agreed upon as to how the programme would be conducted.

"The station's management has never raised any concern with the KZN legislature about any party political bias in the programme," said ANC spokesman Mtholephi Mthimkhulu.

IFP provincial MP Velaphi Ndlovu, berated the broadcaster for its decision and said he hoped there would be a meeting.

Ndlovu said that on Wednesday "the legislature was informed of the decision through a letter that was only a paragraph long and no valid explanation was given by the SABC".

He denied that there was political bias in the programme.

"Now, because some lunatic says there's bias, they suspend it without consultation," said Ndlovu.

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ZAMBIA'S Cherise Makabale, the winner of the first *Big Brother Africa*, embraces her sister Charlotte outside the BBA House in Randburg last night

Makabale crowned queen of reality TV

JOHANNESBURG: A young Zambian woman won the African version of the reality TV show *Big Brother* yesterday, the programme that has proved far more popular with the public than with outraged politicians and church leaders.

Cherise Makabale, 24, burst into tears after a phone-in vote from across Africa confirmed her as the winner of the contest, making her \$100 000 (about R730 000) richer.

Spritely Makabale, a procure-

ment officer, was the last person to walk out of the *Big Brother* house in Johannesburg, where 12 contestants have been living for the past 106 days. Mwisho Mwampamba, a 22-year-old man from Tanzania, was the runner-up.

An estimated 30 million people in 46 countries tuned in every day to watch the contestants in the *Big Brother Africa* home, where every move - including the moderately raunchy "shower hour" - was

broadcast live via a satellite pay-per-view channel, as well as on free channels in at least nine countries.

Makabale was too overcome by emotion to speak directly after she learned eager viewers in Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia had crowned her African queen of reality TV.

But, despite the huge number of viewers, *Big Brother Africa* came in for sharp criticism from the political and

religious elite on the continent.

In Malawi, politicians yanked the daytime broadcast. Nigerian and Namibian officials threatened action and church leaders in Zambia started a petition demanding the "immoral" show be taken off the air.

Asked during the competition what she would do with the money if she won, Cherise had told housemates she wanted to buy her father a house. - *Sapa-AFP*

ISOLEZWE, UMSOMBULUKO, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

UNgcuka ufuna amademeshe

S'KHUMBUZO MIYA

UMQONDISI wezokushushisa kuteli obuye engamele uphiko loFozela, u-Adv Bulelani Ngcuka, uthi uzothathele izinyathelo zomthetho abashicilela "amanga" okuthi wayeyimpimpi ngesikhathi sikahulumeni wobandlululo. Embikweni wephaphandaba laseGoli eliphuma ngeSonto, kuthiwa ngeminyaka yo-1990 uphiko lwezinhlozi kwi-ANC eyayisekudingisweni, yenza uphenyo olwathola kodwa okungaqinisekiswa ukuthi uNgcuka (osesithombeni) wayeyimpimpi yamaphoyisa obandlululo.

Kuphuma lo mbiko nje kunokushayisana okukhulu phakathi kwehlovi likaNgcuka nePhini likaMongameli wakuleli, uMnuz Jacob Zuma,

kulandela ukuphenywa kukaZuma yiHhovisi likaNgcuka ngezinsolo zokuthinteka kwakhe (uZuma) emkhononyweni wokuthengwa kwezikhali ezibiza izigidigidi zamarandi nguhulumeni wakuleli.

Ngenkathi uphiko lwezobandlululo lwe-ANC lwenza lolu phenyo olwawaziwa ngokuthi "yiBible Project," nolwalusungulwe nguMnuz Oliver Tambo owayengumongameli we-ANC ngaleso sikhathi. UZuma wayeyinhloko yalo.

Ngemuva kokuphuma kwalo mbiko, okhulumela uphiko loFozela, uMnuz Sipho Ngwema, uthi besazocubungula okuqokethwe yilo mbiko waleli phephandaba bese benquma ukuthi bathatha ziphi izinyathelo.

"Asizolokhu sichitha isikhathi sethu siphawula ngala manga. Kodwa esizokwenza wukuthatha

izinyathelo zomthetho ezifanele. Sibaxwayisile ngaphambi kokuthi bakhiphe lolu daba ukuthi mabenze uphenyo ngoba ayikho le nto," kusho uNgwema.

UNgwema uthi uma kuwukuthi yinto eyenzeka ngempela le ekhulumywa ngoNgcuka, kungani ivuka manje ngoba oFozela sebephezu kokuphenya izinto ezibucayi ezithinta izikhulu eziphezulu.

"TANC yayingathathi ngani izinyathelo ngama-80s uma wukuthi yinto ekhona ngempela leyo?"

"Siyalwazi uhlobo lwabantu esigondens nalo ukuthi alumanembeza. Akuziqondanelanga ukuthi lokhu kuvele ngalesi sikhathi. Yingoba bafuna ukuthi kube nokudideka ngophenyo olwenziwa woFozela. Bafuna ukucekela phansi isithunzi negama likaNgcuka," kusho uNgwema ogcizelele ukuthi



BULELANI NGCUKA

kungekudala abamele bakaNgcuka bazobe sebeyikhiphile imininigwane ngamademeshe abawafunayo kuleli phephandaba laseGoli sikhathi. Khonamanjalo, iPhini likaMongameli selizwakalise ukuthi likudlulisela kuMyikeli womphakathi ukuze kuthathwe izinyathelo zokujezisa, ukukhononda kwalo ngendlela uNgcuka

asingethe ngayo udaba lokuphenywa kwalo. UZuma kuthiwa uzwakalise lokhu esitatimendeni asethule enkantolo lapho efake khona isicelo sokuthi ihhovisi likaNgcuka kumele limnike ikhophi ebhalwe ngesandla yencwadi ebhalwe ngesiFrench okuthiwa yabhalwa nguMnuz Alain Thetard, onguMqondisi

wenkampani iThales/Thomsons, nokuthiwa ihlanganisa igama likaZuma nokufuna ukugwazelwa ngo-R500 000 ngonyaka ukuze le nkampani ithole ukuyikeleka ekuphenyweni ngezinsolo zemikhonyovu ekutholeni kwayo inkontileka yokudayisela leli zikhali.

UZuma ukhala ngokuziphatha koFozela kulolu daba, ukuthatha isikhathi eside kokuphuthulwa kophenyo, ukutholakala ngokungemthetho kwemininingwane yakhe yasebhange, ukupotshozelwa kwabemithombo yezindaba imininigwane eyimfihlo ngalolu phenyo, nokunye.

Kuleli sonto uZuma kulindeleke ukuthi aphenidule imibuzo yePhalamende ngezinsolo zokwehluleka ukudalula izipho okuthiwa wazithola

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ABOUT 1 700 TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION BENEFICIARIES WERE 'LOST'

Bid to end 'unfinished' TRC business



CHRISTELLE
TERREBLANCHE
POLITICAL BUREAU

LEGISLATION to be debated in parliament this week has the potential of reviving a mini-Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

It provides for the establishment of committees with powers to grant amnesty, to pay out reparations and determine a gross violation of human rights against an individual victim.

The Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Amendment Bill comes nearly two years after the TRC closed its doors, but is mainly aimed at dealing with what has been

called the unfinished business of the commission and its committees.

Originally the Bill was sent to parliament only to amend the Bill to allow payments from the President's Fund towards the rehabilitation of apartheid-ravaged communities.

The TRC Act only made provision for reparations payments to individual victims, but the government wants a large chunk of the money in the fund to go towards community reparations.

Changes

Parliament's justice committee, however, has made substantial changes to the draft, adding amnesty and human rights committees.

It is understood that the provision made for a subcommittee on amnesty is mainly aimed at dealing with some legal challenges against amnesty decisions, like that of the alleged perpetrators of the Motherwell Four murders.

In an apparent effort to address the erroneous classification of victims by the TRC's human rights committee, the legislation allows for a new committee to be set up to decide whether individuals were victims of gross human rights violations.

At least one serious mistake was included in the TRC's final report, that of Quentin Cornelius, who was declared to have been killed in the Heidelberg Tavern attack, but is living in Dubai and awaiting

reparations payment to buy a new wheelchair.

In addition it is estimated that about 1 700 designated victims were "lost" and the amendment would make it possible for them to receive their reparations.

If the legislation is passed by parliament, the minister of justice will be authorised to appoint an amnesty subcommittee consisting of a judge and two other "fit and competent" people. The committee will be able to deal with amnesty issues that "need to be dealt with anew" as a result of "an order or finding by a court" or a "settlement agreement" pursuant to pending litigation around an amnesty issue.

The committee will be able to grant or refuse amnesty.

One of the urgent reasons for

the amnesty subcommittee is to hear a review by the three people who were refused amnesty for their role in the 1989 deaths of the Motherwell Four.

Imprisonment

Gideon Nienwoudt, Wynand du Toit and Martiens Ras were found guilty of the murders in 1996 and sentenced to between 10 and 20 years' imprisonment. They ordered the three policemen and an askari to guard a house in Motherwell outside Port Elizabeth and blew up their car.

They were granted appeal, but the TRC process started before the court date, and the appeal was postponed pending the amnesty decision.

In their amnesty applications

they accepted accountability for the murders but were refused amnesty.

They took the 1999 amnesty decision on review in the Cape High Court, but in the meantime the TRC closed its doors.

The high court ordered in 2001 that a new amnesty committee should be set up to re-evaluate the applications of the three.

Their appeal was based on denial of guilt, whereas they acknowledged culpability before the amnesty committee.

An appeal will only be reopened once if amnesty is again refused.

Should the original amnesty decision be overturned, it could pave the way for more applications for amnesty reviews.

Adoption of the Bill by parliament is scheduled for tomorrow.

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NPP defends jets expenses

JOHANNESBURG: The Democratic Alliance and the New National Party were on opposite sides of the fence at the weekend over the issue of President Mbeki's official jet, the Inkwazi.

According to media reports, the aircraft's operating costs set taxpayers back R13.5 million in its first six months.

While the DA felt this was a "damning indictment" of the government's priorities, the NNP said far worse had happened under the old apartheid regime, the NPP's predecessors.

NNP spokeswoman Carol Johnson said there had been many more aeroplanes in use under the old dispensation.

She said that as South Africa was a global political player, Mbeki had international obligations to fulfil. Both former presidents P.W. Botha and F.W. de Klerk had had presidential planes.

"The truth of the matter is that there were many more of such planes under the previous dispensation."

The DA said that while it was true Mbeki needed to travel safely and efficiently, the expenses incurred should be limited.

DA spokesman Nick Clelland-Stokes said the total catering bill for the 16 international flights amounted to R107 262 - an average of R7 151 a trip.

"A particularly opulent example was a flight from Pretoria to Paris on January 24, with a bill of R14 430 for nine passengers."

He said the DA had suggested many alternatives, including the use of the national carrier and commercial charter planes.

Presidential spokesman Bheki Khumalo said it was impossible for Mbeki to be expected to make use of commercial flights. He accused critics of electioneering, and said it was a "waste of time" to comment on the catering costs. - Sapa

ISOLEZWE, UMSOMBULUKO, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

Abezepolitiki bawotha ubomvu

S'KHUMBUZO MIYA

AMAQEMBU amakhulu esifundazweni saKwaZulu-Natal, okuyi-African National Congress (ANC) neNkatha Freedom Party (IFP), asezwakalise ukuphatheka kabi ngokupotshozelwa kwabemithombo yezindaba umbiko womcwaningimabhuku-jikelele wakulesi sifundazwe ochaphazela osopolitiki abaphezulu kulesi sifundazwe nezikhulu zesiShayamthetho.

Iphephandaba langeSonto lipotshozelwe umbiko womcwaningi-mabhuku-jikelele, uMnuz Barry Wheeler, obalula ukusetshenziswa budedengu kwezimali athi kwenziwa yiziphathimandla zesiShayamthetho nezikhulu zeBhodi yaso ezingosopolitiki.

Izikhulu okuthinteka amagama azo kulo mbiko ngoMnuz Robert Mzimela, oyisikhulu esiphethe kwisiShayamthetho, uMnuz Joe Mkhize oyiphini lakhe, kanti bobabili bamiswa ngemuva kokuqala

kophenyo ngoSeptemba 2001.

Kosopolitiki khona kubalwa amagama kaSomlomo Inkosi uBonga Mdletshe, ongusihlalo weBhodi ephethe kwisiShayamthetho omele i-IFP ePhalamende, iphini lakhe uMnuz Willies Mchunu we-ANC, nomholi wendlu yesiShayamthetho uMnuz Blessed Gwala.

Okhulumela i-IFP, uMnuz Velaphi Ndlovu, uthe bona njengesisiShayamthetho babenqume ukuthi lo mbiko unikwe abathintekayo ukuze bathole ithuba lokuziphendulela kwisiShayamthetho ngaphambi kokuthi ubikelwe izwe.

"Akusehlisi isithunzi sesiShayamthetho ukukhishwa kwemibiko enjengale, kodwa kukhombisa ukuthi sisebenza ngokusobala, futhi sinomcwaningimabhuku-jikelele osebenza ngokuzimela.

"Sithi makwenziwe uphenyo ngokupotshozela abemithombo yezindaba lo mbiko kungakabi yisikhathi," kusho uNdlovu.

BUSINESS DAY, Monday, September 8 2003

Bring curtain down on costly farce in KwaZulu-Natal legislature

HAD Boswell Wilkie and his circus been present at the KwaZulu-Natal legislature in Pietermaritzburg last week, the clowns would have had legitimate grounds to fear for their jobs.

Except for that, hopefully, this farce has only another seven months to disgrace SA's political stage.

Initially, as I sat through the debate, I could have declared that I feared for my country and its constitutional democracy as I listened to heated exchanges about the supposed supremacy of the legislature over the constitution of the republic — the very legislature that is a creation of our supreme law.

Instead of being despondent, I relaxed when I realised that this was all a joke — albeit a costly one for the taxpayer. Nobody in their right mind can take the KwaZulu-Natal legislature seriously. In fact it should be suspended



**CYRIL
MADLALA
KINGDOM COME**

until we can elect people who want to serve — and not the clowns on show at the moment.

For, what unfolded before me last week was some desperate gasp by greedy politicians to dig even deeper into the public purse to line their pockets and those of their cronies. This had nothing to do with our hard-fought

democracy. It had everything to do with the African National Congress (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) trying to curry favour with their minority alliance partners as they court them ahead of next year's poll.

It has absolutely nothing to do with improving the lives of the people they promised a better life. It has nothing to do with the ANC and the IFP fulfilling their constitutional obligations. It has everything to do with an insatiable appetite for power, now and after the election. Subtlety and

the creation of illusions in the mind of the unwary voter have given way to plain lies and underhand methods to secure power.

KwaZulu-Natal ANC leader Sbu Ndebele lies when he tells the august gathering the arrangement to co-operate with the IFP faltered because it negotiated in bad faith by also trying to strike a deal with the Democratic Party. That was just after the 1999 election, when it was evident neither the ANC nor IFP could govern alone.

They say black people do not blush. But Ndebele could have done with a deep hole when Democratic Alliance (DA) provincial leader Roger Burrows disclosed during the debate that at the same time Ndebele himself was negotiating with Tony Leon's Democratic Party to form an alliance to undermine the IFP. That is the same Leon now being vilified at every instance by the ANC because his party co-operates with the IFP.

IFP premier Lionel Mtshali, of course, is a former school principal of the old order — straight-faced and delivering directives very sternly. There shall be no additional seats for the ANC in his cabinet because ANC

members take orders from bosses in Cape Town and Pretoria and undermine his authority at every whim.

He cites the example of Zweli Mkhize's supposed failure to carry out the premier's instruction early in the year to convene an AIDS conference for the province. A perusal of Hansard confirms the premier is being thrifty with the truth, as he told the legislature early in the year his own department would organise that conference.

But along with the lies one heard in the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature last week, lurks a disturbing deliberate misrepresentation of the constitution.

At the core of the latest furore between the IFP and the ANC is the question of where Mtshali, as premier, derives his authority. The ANC argues that in 1999 the organisations had an agreement to co-govern and share the seats in the executive council equally.

That decision became a resolution of the legislature, and that is how Mtshali became premier. Thus, the ANC argues, Mtshali cannot act unilaterally by, for instance, exercising a premier's constitutional prerogative to appoint and dismiss members of his council. Mtshali has invited two

DA members to serve in his executive council, and the ANC says he should have offered them seats from the IFP's allocation.

The IFP says the 1999 agreement ran into obstacles from the start, and that, in any event, the legislature has no authority to direct how political parties should conduct bilateral talks.

As it turns out, Mtshali is not even a member of the IFP's delegation to talks with the ANC. Meanwhile, he is very clear about the powers he enjoys under the constitution, and has demonstrated this in the past by firing ANC members from his council.

Therefore, in this great kingdom, our leaders waste taxpayers' money to meet to debate what the constitution is supposed to mean.

Recalling that the clowns have spent the better part of the last decade trying to come up with their own provincial constitution, it should not be surprising that they cannot distinguish between the powers of the legislature and the constitution. I long for the days of Boswell Wilkie.

■ *Madlala is editor and publisher of Umafrika.*

THE NATAL WITNESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

Mbeki praises Hindus for struggle contribution

PRESIDENT Thabo Mbeki has hailed South African Hindu families for their contribution to the communal fight for freedom.

One of the keynote speakers at the inauguration of the National Hindu Convention at the University of Durban-Westville at the weekend, Mbeki said the South African Hindu Sabha — an umbrella body to which the majority of Hindu bodies are affiliated — has had close links with the ANC since its establishment in 1912.

Mbeki was accompanied by Indian High Commissioner Shiv Shankar Mukerjee and ANC provincial leader Sbu Ndebele and Health MEC Zweli Mkhize.

Delegates from Hindu bodies across the country attended the conference to discuss challenges such as globalisation, gender and language issues.

Professor Brij Maharaj touched on several of these in his paper on strengthening Hindu identity in a post-apartheid environment.

"There is no place for fundamentalism which seems to be on the increase in South Africa," he said. "Some newspapers have less than 10% South African content. Most of it is Asian propaganda."

Another contentious issue is the high domestic violence and female suicide rate in the Hindu community.

"While Hindus are known to have the lowest figure of violence against other groups, we have



Photo: RAJESH JANTILAL

President Thabo Mbeki chats to the president of the Hindu Maha Sabha Ashwin Trikamjee at the beginning of the two-day National Hindu Convention held at the University Hindu Centre at the University of Durban-Westville at the weekend on issues and challenges facing the Hindu community in post-apartheid South Africa. The Maha Sabha is the umbrella body of over one million Hindus.

some of the highest divorce rates."

He said this is a reflection of the failure of men to come to terms with the social freedom of modern women.

Chairwoman Dr. Pramda Ramasar said the Sabha has the vision of enabling every Hindu to live in peace and harmony. "It is in this spirit that the national conven-

tion has been organised with the aim of closely assessing our religion and its place in South Africa," she said.

— Witness Reporter.

Mbeki reassures SA's Jews

JOHANNESBURG — The South African Jewish community will always have a home in South Africa and should fear no threat of anti-Semitism, President Thabo Mbeki said on Saturday night.

Mbeki was addressing the centenary conference of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies in Sandton, Johannesburg.

Mbeki expressed grave concern about a report that appeared in a U.S. Jewish newspaper which quoted that 60% of South African Jews interviewed did not see a long-term future for themselves in South Africa mainly because of the perceived increase in anti-Semitism.

"I wish to respond to that sense of unease and pledge that we, as government, are prepared to spend as much time as need be talking to the Jewish community about that unease and about other concerns they have regarding their future."

"We, as government, have a responsibility to all people who fall victim to marginalisation, fear and disempowerment and we cannot allow any sector of the community to plunge into a permanent sense of unease and displeasure," he said.

Mbeki acknowledged that the Jewish community plays an integral and inalienable role in the country. — Sapa.

Monday September 8 2003 **SOWETAN**

Poll list selection hits snag

By Noxolo Kweza

MOST ANC branches might not meet the deadline for selecting candidates for the party's election lists, both provincial and national.

They were expected to finalise nomination lists by yesterday and submit them to provincial offices by today.

By the end of last month lists from only 30 branches had been finalised. There are 509 branch lists to process.

Eastern Cape asked for an extension

and Western Cape a two-week extension. Of Western Cape's 250 branches, about 50% met the deadline.

Mpumalanga, North West and KwaZulu-Natal wouldn't say whether they needed an extension, but haven't finished nominating.

Free State said 65% of its branches (about 291) had completed the process. Limpopo's nominations were delayed.

ANC spokesman Smuts Ngonyama said he wasn't sure whether the deadline would be extended or not.