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CITY PRESS 16/11/97

Congratulations to IFP for peaceful branch launch

WHILE I AM not a member or supporter of the IFP, I must say that it was quite an admirable thing to notice that the IFP meeting to open a new branch in Noordgesig was peaceful, as well as providing a conducive climate towards promoting peace in our region.

This was also coupled with a noticable absence of the so-called traditional weapons

which seemed to be encouraging acts of violence after the rallies, which were also complicated by the lack of political awareness at grassroots.

There also seems to be a shift from being a narrow tribal enclave, which was stifling the growth of the party, to being a national platform. -WB NGCAYIYA, Orlando West

Attack policies and institutions, not individuals

I LIKE the Editor-in-Chief of this paper. On several occasions, I have stated that I rank him higher than any other editor in SA - black or white - in terms of balance and qualitative objectivity.

So, I will refrain from responding to him in the way he responded to my complaint.

His public stature and professional dignity is something we should uphold.

We need good role models in the African community.

It is important for each of us, in the black community especially, to protect our public integrity and to defend the integrity of individuals. I have advocated this view since 1956

when I first began to comment in the newspapers and the media about distortions in our society.

We should attack, not individuals or persons, but rather institutions, policies and public stances or values. Many of us still do not know the difference between criticising policies and criticising persons and individuals.

So Mr Khulu Sibiya, the Editor-in-Chief of this paper remains a revered figure to me, and I hope also to the rest of the country - just like his brethren Mike Siluma, John Qwelane and Thami Mazwai, who are also highly revered. - PROF THEMBA SONO

FINANCIAL GAIN 'FORCES CHANGE OF HEART'

IFP jumps on to TRC bandwagon

MURRAY WILLIAMS
& YVONNE GRIMBEEK

THE IFP has finally jumped on to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission bandwagon – despite long-held objections about the commission – but only where it applies to financial gains for its members from the commission's reparations budget.

This change of heart came on Friday when premier and IFP national chairman Ben Ngubane urged IFP members to make submissions to the commission's human rights violations committee.

However, senior sources in the party yesterday indicated that the move had come about due to pressure from rank and file members who had seen ANC communities and individuals applying for up to R23 000 a year per family – awarded to victims of political violence – and did not want to miss out.

Thousands of Inkatha members stand to qualify for victim reparations after Dr Ngubane's announcement that the IFP would start co-operating with the commission's reparations committee – with immediate effect.

With the TRC's December 14 cut-off date for new applications looming – and despite a lengthy IFP submission to the public protector challenging the commission's impartiality – IFP members have been encouraged to come forward, opening the door for reparations for those who qualify as victims of political violence.

And there is now a glimmer of hope of last-minute victims' hearings specifically for IFP victims, with the commission vowing to "do everything possible" to accommodate them.

Dr Ngubane said yesterday that the Rev Khoza Mgojo, TRC commissioner for KZN, had appeared to the provincial cabinet to assist

with reaching rural people – especially IFP members – to make statements to the human rights violations committee.

"The cabinet shared his fear that many people had not been reached and we decided to tell people that there is still a chance, that the door is still open."

He said the impression might have been created that the IFP was against individuals and party members going to the commission. "The position of the IFP towards the TRC remains unchanged, but party members should not be prejudiced in going to the reparations committee," he said.

But Dr Ngubane's announcement may give the commission a logistical nightmare in trying to process the new applicants before December 14 – if thousands of IFP victims flood into TRC offices to make statements.

The commission's Ilan Lax said that should this occur, the TRC would "simply have to find resources to deal with it".

"This is the people's commission. If the job is much bigger than anyone anticipated – so be it. If the information is there, we have the duty to process it," he said.

Despite the IFP's refusal to co-operate until now, the commission has already received a large number of "IFP" submissions at its various hearings. Mr Lax explained that many politically non-aligned victims had come forward – seen as belonging to either of the two "main streams" by virtue of where they lived.

□ KZN needs to establish a post-TRC structure to continue addressing the reconciliation process in the province, truth commissioner Khoza Mgojo said at the weekend.

Speaking at a breakfast briefing on reconciliation in the province, he said a provincial structure made up of local people must work out a strategy of dealing with victims of violence.

THE MERCURY

Phosa out of race for deputy's job

MERCURY CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG – Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa has formally withdrawn from the race for the ANC deputy presidency to be decided at the ANC's 50th national conference in Mafikeng, North West, next month.

Mr Phosa withdrew from the race during a "tense" meeting with President Mandela at Nelspruit yesterday.

He confirmed his withdrawal in a telephone interview with The Star.

"I had to manage the situation before it got out of hand," said Mr Phosa.

However, his decision disappointed members of the ANC in the province who have fought an intensive battle on his behalf.

Mr Phosa also announced that he would not stand for the position of national chairman, which the ANC Youth League and the Free State wanted him to do.

His withdrawal opens the way for a two-way fight for the deputy presidency between KwaZulu Natal ANC leader Jacob Zuma and ANC Women's League president Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

Mr Phosa would only be an NEC member by virtue of being a provincial chairman.

Sources in the NEC said that Mr Phosa had urged the executive members to "understand that any signs of internal power struggles within the ANC would be detrimental to both the organisation and the country's economy and political atmosphere".

□ Mr Mandela was expected to meet senior ANC officials in the Eastern Cape on Friday in a bid to swing the province solidly behind Mr Zuma for the post of ANC deputy president.

1997 11 10

FF blames ANC for mom's murder on EC farm

THE Freedom Front (FF) on Saturday said it held the African National Congress responsible for the death of the Eastern Cape mother of four, Ms Annie Venter, who was shot dead on her farm near Burgersdorp, in the Eastern Cape, on Friday.

FF leader, General Constand Viljoen, said in a statement he blamed the ANC directly for Ms Venter's murder and asked that communities be allowed to implement their own security measures.

"They (the ANC) have encouraged a state of hate

and lawlessness, worse than anything ever experienced in the country and the ANC is doing little to correct the situation," Mr Viljoen said.

He said communities had their own ideas about how to deal with crime.

"The police have tried one plan after the other, with little success," Mr Viljoen said.

"The ANC must admit that the crime situation in

South Africa is out of control and allow communities to implement their own security measures in association with security forces."

He said there were specialists in the Afrikaans community who could assist other communities in this regard.

Ms Ansie Venter was shot in the head and stomach on Friday afternoon when she and her four

young children returned home after a trip into town.

The children said their mother was still alive when the attackers forced them into their mother's car.

Ms Venter's 12-year-old son carried his three-year-old brother to a nearby farm for help after the robbers dropped them kilometres from their home.

The eldest daughter, aged 14, and her 11-month-old baby sister were later found in the veld by the area's community policing unit.

Eastern Cape police spokeswoman, Senior Superintendent Marinda Mills, said a special task force had been assigned to the case.

Ms Venter's body was found near the house which had been ransacked.

Police said her attackers appeared to have made themselves something to eat and drink. The phone had also been disconnected.

Supt Mills said police had interviewed the two older Venter children, who had been able to provide important information about their mother's killers.

Evidence was also found in the house which could lead to the arrest of the robbers, she said. - Sapa.

Aide: Queen will never abdicate

LONDON. - Queen Elizabeth will never abdicate in favour of her heir, Prince Charles, but has decreed he will not be passed over in favour of his son, according to a senior Royal aide.

Simon Gimson, a former assistant to the Queen's private secretary, Sir Robert Fellowes, said in a BBC documentary to be screened today that she plans to modernise the monarchy although she will retain the traditional line of succession.

The reforms were given new impetus by the death of Princess Diana in a Paris car smash on August 31, said Mr Gimson in a transcript

of the programme released yesterday.

"I think that the palace is looking very carefully at specific changes, at radical changes, at gentle changes. It's looking at the whole array," he said.

There has been some speculation in Britain that the Queen, who is now 71, may abdicate in favour of Charles, now 49, so that he can take the throne while he is still in middle age.

The Queen has ruled out abdicating and will not allow the crown to bypass Charles and pass directly to his elder son, Prince William, now 15, as Princess Diana suggested in a tell-all Pano-

rama interview in 1995, Mr Gimson said.

"It's an extraordinary idea, abdication, generation skipping. It isn't going to happen," he said.

Mr Gimson said the palace was concerned about public reaction in the week after Diana's death.

"We weren't sure which way the mood was going to swing ... I think there was some (public) hostility there, originally," he said.

But Mr Gimson denied the Royal Family had failed to respond to the public mood by remaining out of sight for days at their Scottish castle. - Sapa-AP.

Six killed, one wounded in KwaZulu/Natal crime

DURBAN. — Six people were killed and one injured in crimes in KwaZulu/Natal on Saturday, police spokesman Captain Vishnu Naidoo said in a statement yesterday.

Fanie Mchunu, 32, was shot dead by a policeman at the Mayville police cells in Durban on Saturday afternoon after he tried to disarm another policeman.

Mr Mchunu, who was arrested for murder, was placed in the holding cell where he tried to take the policeman's firearm. Another policeman shot dead Mr Mchunu after issuing a verbal warning.

Police in KwaDabeka arrested a man in connection with the murder of another man in the area on Saturday afternoon. The victim was stabbed several times during a quarrel.

Police arrested four men in Chatsworth near Durban on Saturday in connection with the killing

of Victor Munewe, 30, and the wounding of Patrick Munewe, 28.

The suspects, aged between 18 and 28, allegedly shot dead Victor Munewe and cut off Patrick Munewe's one thumb.

Solly Ahmed Ebrahim, 45, was stabbed dead by a man in Wentworth, Durban, on Saturday morning. Mr Ebrahim went to the President Hotel at 2 am and left with another person. He stumbled back to the hotel a short while later, suffering from a stab wound to the chest, and died.

The motive for the murder was unknown.

The body of Nhlanhla Zulu was found at

Umlazi's H section near Durban on Saturday afternoon. Mr Zulu had been stabbed in the neck.

An off-duty police sergeant was shot dead at a house at Sundumbili in Eshowe on Saturday evening. A group of men entered the house where Sergeant Johannes Tikana Ncube was watching television with some friends. They shot dead Sgt Ncube and fled.

Other people who were with Sgt Ncube were not injured.

Police believe Sgt Ncube was killed because he was supposed to testify in a criminal case against other members of the police. — Sapa.

ANC govt 'failing SA'

FROM PAGE 1

a middling country which has got to make it on its own merits," said Mr Leon.

Mr Mbeki, as the future leader, had to take a firmer grasp on issues that would determine whether or not the country succeeded. He had both the insight and the political presence to do this.

He had failed on the two major issues on which he had taken a firm public stance – the so-called "six pack" of reforms he announced in October 1994 to reduce the size of the public service and follow a policy of aggressive privatisation, and last year the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) policy.

"The only growth of jobs has been in the public sector, which actually contradicts both the budgetary requirements of GEAR and more particularly inhibits job creation in the private sector.

"It also inhibits the provinces, with more than 55 percent of the average provincial budget going on salaries and wages," Mr Leon said.

"Mbeki has got to deliver some success stories. I very, very much hope he

succeeds, because whatever my criticisms of the government are, and they are legion, if the ANC fails in government then we all fail.

"They are the majority party, and their failure to deliver is a failure for the whole of South Africa, and the consequences are not going to be pleasant."

The direction of the ANC had become more obvious in the 1997 political year. It had become very clear from the actions of three key ministries – health, education and labour – that the ANC was hell-bent on centralising as much control as possible in their own hands.

The government was following the old National Party pattern of taking all power to themselves, but devolving administration to the provinces or even lower.

The other failure was to hold ministers responsible for their actions. Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu "must rate as about the most incompetent minister, and there is a fair amount of competition for that title", yet he was not being held to account for his faults.

Pres Mandela appeared to have given Health Minister Dr Nkosazana

Zuma "tenure for life", with a blank cheque to do whatever she liked.

"This is the worst possible signal in terms of holding people accountable for the use or the misuse of their powers. Ministers should feel the breeze, should feel they are replaceable, they are accountable for any wrongdoing.

"We can hardly expect the general public to shape up and behave themselves if at the top there is no signal sent out that deeds have consequences, particularly bad deeds or wrong deeds."

Mr Leon said this attitude was reflected in the parliamentary committees too, where the ANC rode rough-shod over any pretence at democracy to push through legislation – Dr Zuma's Bills and the actions of the ANC on the Health Committee provided an example.

On the other hand, parliamentary committees functioned well when left to do their work properly and efficiently. This was seen in the excellent work of the Justice Committee, resulting in Bills that achieved unanimous approval by all parties in Parliament.

PW may face the law

FROM PAGE 1

one who has been subpoenaed does not appear before the commission, without sufficient cause, he or she faces a fine, up to two years' jail, or both.

"I am very sad at the way in which Mr PW Botha has appeared almost to have thrown down a gauntlet to the TRC in a newspaper interview published today," Archbishop Tutu said.

"Since I travelled to George to have discussions with Mr Botha a year ago, the commission has gone out of its way to be accommodating to him in view of his age, his health and his position as a former state president."

The commission waited since the beginning of the year for answers to questions which it submitted to

Mr Botha in accordance with an agreement made with him last year. "We now understand we will have those answers shortly, but we have constantly extended the deadline for the answers," he said.

He said the TRC made special representations to the government to enable Mr Botha to have the necessary legal assistance in order to provide the necessary answers.

The TRC also proposed a special hearing to accommodate Mr Botha after his representatives indicated that he was not well enough to travel to Johannesburg last month to attend the hearing on the role of the former State Security Council.

"In the same way as I was prepared last year to travel to see Mr Botha, we are prepared to hold the second round of our State Security Council hearing in George, close to his retirement home," Archbishop Tutu said.

"In showing this consideration for Mr Botha, we have angered many South Africans who have accused us of being spineless for not unceremoniously calling him to account."

Mr Botha said he would not apologise for the "struggle against Marxist revolutionaries" and would not appear before the TRC in person.

In a statement yesterday from his home in Wilderness, Mr Botha said he wanted to make it clear that he was not willing to appear before the commission.

"I have been fully advised by my legal team on the consequences of such a viewpoint.

"It is well known that I will not ask for amnesty.

"I will not apologise for the struggle against Marxists revolutionary attacks which led to the mutilation and death of innocent civilians," Mr Botha said.

Mr Botha's statement followed after the TRC recently indicated that they might subpoena him to testify on the former state security council when the commission sits in George next month.

He was yesterday quoted in Rapport as saying that he would not be threatened and that the TRC could take him to court if it wanted to.

Mr Botha said his answering of written questions by the TRC, after giving an undertaking in this regard to Archbishop Tutu on November 21, was progressing well.

It seemed, however, as if there was an "ominous haste and diligence" to subpoena him to appear in public before the commission on issues which were dealt with by these questions.

It seemed as if the TRC did not even want to wait for his answers, he said.

He expressed a willingness to reply in writing to any further questions in a bid to clarify the functioning of his government.

"I am also willing to meet Archbishop Tutu at George again and to discuss reconciliation personally with President Mandela."

Mr Botha said he had tried so far to deal with the commission fairly, but it seemed that the same goodwill was not forthcoming from the commission.

Political comment in this issue by A W Ball. Posters, headlines and sub-editing by P H Smith, of 28 Height Street, Doornfontein, Johannesburg.

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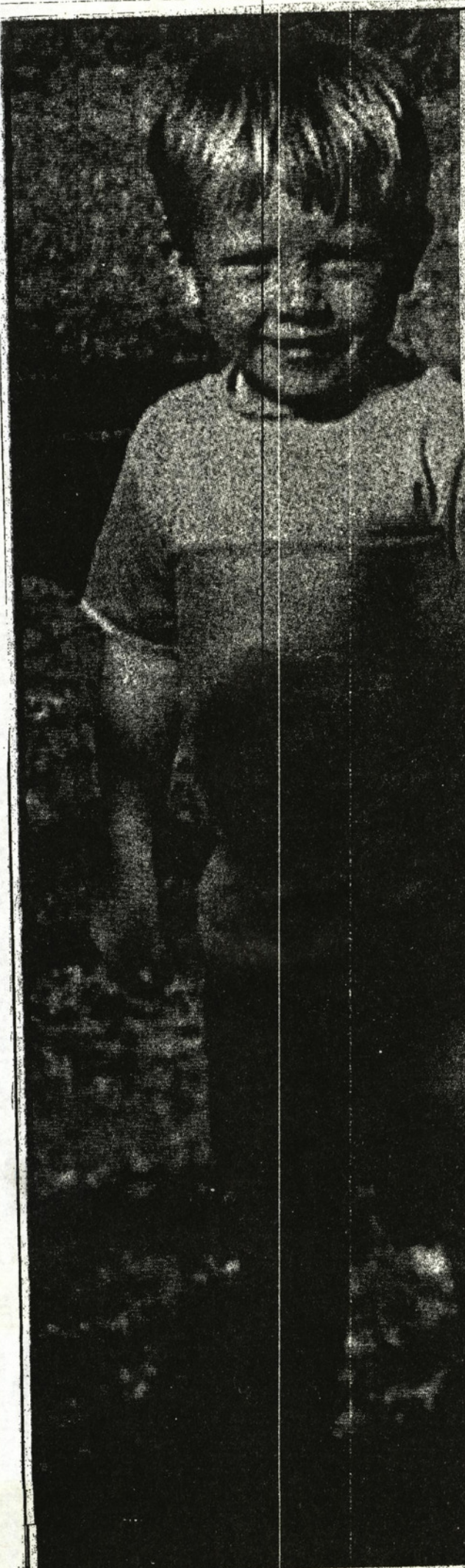
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Read this and weep,

Our welfare system failed this boy. Each and everyone, including the social workers who just did not do their jobs properly, should accept equal responsibility for his death

JUDGE PERCY BLIEDEN

Minister



BENEFT Grandparents Eric and Aletta Pienaar blame social workers for Eddie's death
Picture: RAYMOND PRESTON

BETRAYED Three-year-old Eddie was systematically tortured after he was

KZN schools balk at 2005 plan

PREGA GOVENDER

KWAZULU Natal premier Dr Ben Ngubane has warned that the province is not ready for the new controversial multi-billion-rand education plan expected to be introduced to Grade 1 pupils in January, 1998.

The new system, which is known as Curriculum 2005, will see more group work while pupils will be assessed not only on their ability to pass exams, but on their skills.

Teachers will act as facilitators instead of simply teaching by rote.

Ngubane said that, although the concept was good, the province lacked the resources.

"We are just not ready for it, but will have to forge ahead," he said.

Kwazulu Natal's MEC for education, Dr Vincent Zulu, said that, despite training, all teachers would not be ready in time for the implementation of 2005.

"But we are definitely introducing the new system in Grade 1 next year," he said.

Thulas Nxesi of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union said that, although the new concept was good, he did not think it would work if the government continued with education cut backs.

Jonathan Jansen, dean of the education faculty at the University of Durban-Westville, said: "What this new curriculum will be doing is increasing the gap between privileged schools and the disadvantaged ones. Schools with resources will obviously forge ahead of those without resources."

"I cannot see this working unless the Grade 1 teacher gets an average of 80 hours of training."

But national education ministry spokesman Khume Kangala denied that 2005 would fail.

"Training of teachers has already taken place although I am not sure if everyone has received it yet," he said.

"The proposed cut back of 20 000 temporary teachers should not be seen as a stumbling block," he added.

Kwazulu Natal education, which is under-funded by R568-million, was thrown into further disarray after an urgent government memorandum proposed the axing of 20 466 temporary teachers last week.

With 1913 of the province's schools still without water; 3 314 without electricity; 551 without toilets and 8 559 without telephones, officials say the future of curriculum 2005 looks bleak.

JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT and SANTOSH BEHARIE

A HIGH court judge said this week that Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi must share responsibility for the death of a three-year-old boy who was tortured by his mother and stepfather.

Mr Justice Percy Bliden has ordered that a copy of his judgment in the Johannesburg High Court be sent to Fraser-Moleketi to study.

This week the judge sentenced Sandra and Machiel de Beer to 15 years in prison for murdering Eddie.

"Our welfare system failed this boy," he said.

He told the Sunday Times that every person involved in the case, including Fraser-Moleketi, her department and social workers "who just did not do their jobs properly", should accept responsibility for the child's death.

Behind Judge Bliden's harsh words lies the tragic betrayal of a blond toddler by those who should have protected him.

Abandoned by his mother when he was just eight months old, Eddie lived for two years in Secunda with his grandparents, Francois and Aletha Pienaar. But following the intervention of the Gaut-

eng department of welfare and population development and the Dutch Reformed Church's Christelike Maatskaplike Raad (a state-subsidised welfare body), he was returned to his mother in March last year.

Four months later he was dead.

Eddie was killed by a blow to the head but his body was covered with deep grazes and septic sores. His genitals were torn and cut.

Judge Bliden criticised the decision to return Eddie to his mother, saying: "The mother and father of this child were not physically or psychologically prepared for accepting Eddie as a new child into their home."

When moving a child from one set of foster care to another, including to a biological parent, proper preparations needed to be made.

"With no warning to the child or preparation to the mother, Eddie was moved."

"If the social workers had gone there regularly and thoroughly checked out the situation, Eddie might have been alive," the judge said.

He said that based on court evidence, the social workers involved in the case saw Eddie's wounds, but chose to believe they were self-inflicted.

State forensic pathologist Dr Patricia Klepp, in dismissing his mother's evidence that Eddie's wounds were self-inflicted, said all the bruises dated back to shortly after the boy was reunited with De Beer.

"He could not possibly have inflicted wounds of this nature himself," Klepp said.

Although the wounds and bruises on Eddie's body were inflicted at different times, and were at different stages of healing, all were caused by systematic injury over a period of more than two-and-a-half months.

His penis had become inflamed and swollen by blunt twisting. "A three-year-old does not have the power to cause a wound of this nature," Klepp said.

Social workers from the church's social council made two visits to the De Beers' Germiston home in three months.

Ilsa Pieterse, one of its social workers, visited the De Beers on April 16 and reported that Eddie did not talk much and his speech was under-



FRASER-MOLEKETI
'Responsible'

During this visit, De Beer justified scars on the toddler's nose, ears and hands by saying he had suffered sunburn and constantly scratched himself.

On April 23, De Beer took her children to the church council's offices in Elsburg, Germiston, and told Pieterse Eddie had hit himself in the face. De Beer explained that she had covered scratch wounds with plasters to prevent Eddie from doing this again.

The last social worker to visit the De Beers on May 29 only heard Eddie's laughter coming from the bedroom.

Fraser-Moleketi said yesterday: "I failed Eddie Pienaar, because my system failed."

"Here was obviously a situation of inadequate follow-up visits and because of this our system failed this little boy."

"However, I cannot say that the social workers failed."

"To the family of Eddie I can say, I am deeply sorry," Fraser-Moleketi said.

The Pienaars blamed the church social workers for their grandson's death.

"We will never forgive them. They called us to a meeting, but when we got there, we knew they had already made up their minds that Sandra will get the children," Francois Pienaar said.

He and his wife believe welfare authorities should have investigated the De Beers' capabilities before returning Eddie to their care.

"They must do this from now on so no other child will have to die like Eddie," Pienaar said.

The Rev Willie van Aswegen, chief executive officer of the church council, said yesterday: "There was no wilful negligence on the part of our social workers, they re-

uation at the De Beer home was a healthy one."

Lindie Luus, a friend of Eddie's mother, who met the family six months before his death, said she had visited the De Beer home about five times.

"I was shocked when I heard about how Eddie died.

"Every time I visited, Eddie would sit next to me and hold me tightly. He was a cute little boy.

"But I never noticed any bruises on Eddie's body until about two months before his death. It was the last time I visited and the last time I saw Eddie.

"Sandra had bandaged his two hands together in front of him and he had a bruise on his forehead. She told me that she bandaged his hands because he always hit his head against the wall and tried to hurt himself. But now I realise she was lying.

"I had a feeling that she did not like Eddie particularly. On some days she would lock him alone in the house for nearly two hours while she went to fetch her other three children from school. She

would also sometimes go shopping in town before coming back home to Eddie.

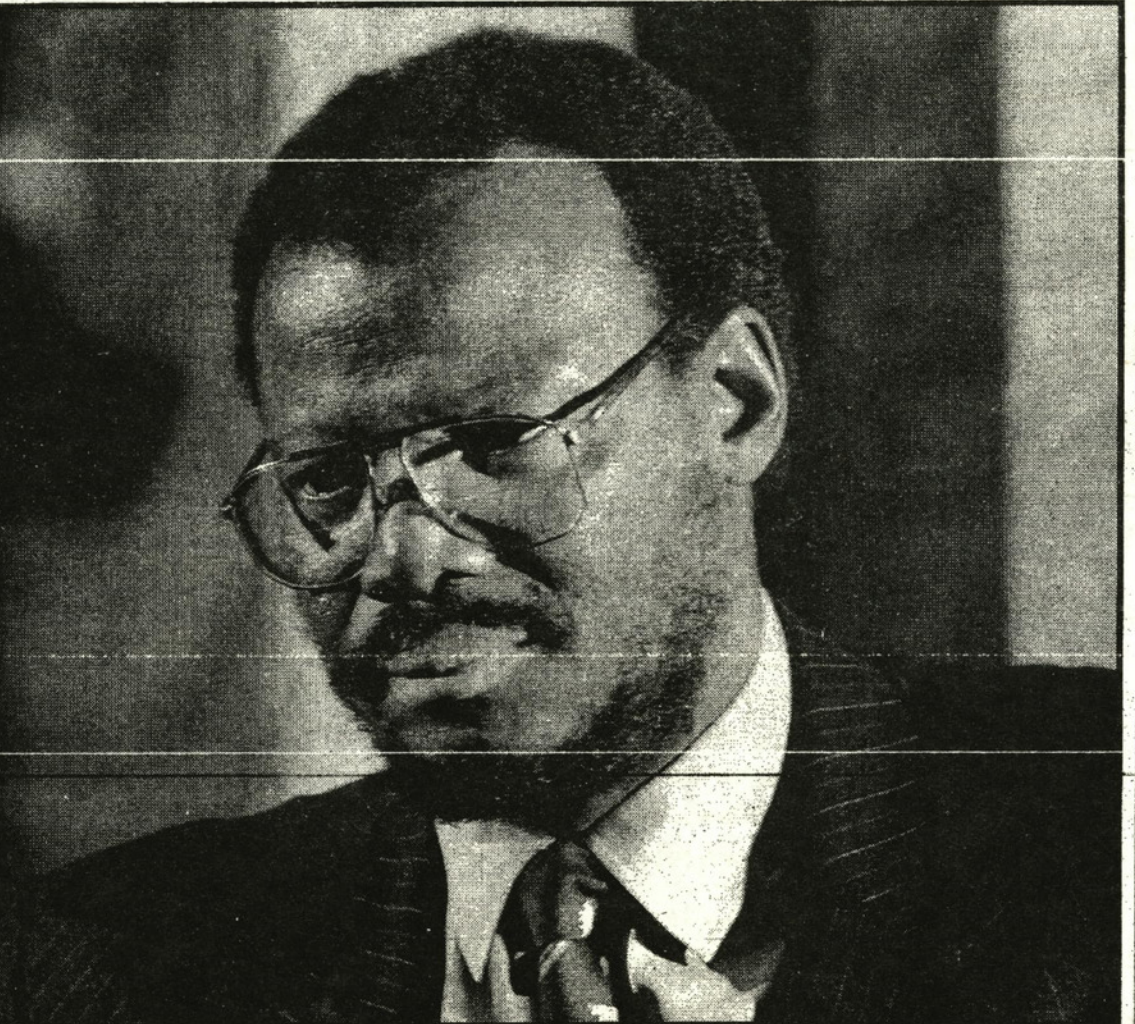
"And every day after school Sandra would give each of her children a cup of black coffee and a slice of dry bread to eat. But she would have her coffee with milk."

*SUNDAY
TIMES*

NOVEMBER 16, 1997

Will Buthelezi bite or play hard to get?

The IFP is being pushed to
decide if and how it will
contest the next election



NATIONAL IMPORTANCE: The ANC will be urged to try to bring IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi on board

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

Sunday Times,
November 16 1997

A resolution at the ANC national conference urging the ruling party to woo the IFP to join forces with it could present a dilemma for the IFP. CYRIL MADLALA examines the options

INTRICATELY linked to the very survival of the Inkatha Freedom Party as a political force is the likely future role of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi as a player of any consequence on the national stage.

But within a political party not nurtured in the culture of discussion papers about tactics and strategies, the possible options available to the IFP after the 1999 election have not been explored publicly in any meaningful way.

If they are being discussed by the membership at all, the IFP's choices remain shrouded in secrecy for fear that they could be misunderstood by the powers that be and by those who seek to ingratiate themselves with the leadership by misinterpreting the motive for a discussion of these crucial matters.

In more ways than one, the ANC's national conference will have a direct bearing on the IFP's approach to the 1999 election.

Firstly, if — as is almost certain to happen — ANC national chairman Jacob Zuma is removed from Kwazulu Natal to take up a position nationally, his departure will be felt as much by the IFP as by the ANC in the province.

His appeasement policy towards the IFP may have taken root, but that does not guarantee that his successor as provincial ANC leader will be as accommodating. He, or she, could be from the school of thought within the ANC that believes the IFP has reached its zenith and cannot grow any further unless there is a major shake-up in its thinking, strategies and leadership style — an unlikely development.

In that case, the thinking goes, the ANC does not need to bend over backwards to be nice to the IFP.

A lot, however, hinges on how both parties read the political trends in the province and how they rate their chances of success at the polling booths, cognisant of the fact that there will be no constitutional obligation for a government of national or provincial unity after the next election.

The only certainty about the 1999 election is that the IFP will not dislodge the ANC nationally, which means the top leadership of the IFP who are serving in the government of national unity will be without their present ministerial jobs.

That in itself is not a crisis.

However, while ministers are equal in stature, some are clearly more equal than others. Therefore, while Sipo Mzimela, the Minister of Correctional Services, and Lionel Mtshali, the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, will become ordinary MPs with ease, it is difficult to picture Buthelezi in that role in Cape Town while the real power of the IFP remains with his Kwazulu Natal premier.

But then there is no certainty that the IFP will win in that province, which raises the possibility that Buthelezi could end up as an ordinary member of the provincial legislature.

In the midst of this scenario, comes the proposal by the ANC's Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Peter Mokaba. The resolution he will table for adoption at the ANC's national conference next month will urge the organisation to "encourage" Buthelezi to rejoin the ANC together with his followers.

This is a boost to tentative moves already made by the ANC leadership towards Buthelezi.

In its proposal for a peace package for Kwazulu Natal, the ANC has said to the IFP: "The ANC recognises that the president of the IFP, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, has an important role in the national politics and in ensuring peace, stability, national reconciliation, nation-building and the prosperity of South Africa, and therefore has a meaningful contribution to make."

"The ANC believes that (his) stature befits that of national leader. His role is national and therefore a position and a responsibility needs to be found for him at a national level."

What this entails exactly has not been spelt out, but there have been suggestions that he could be offered a position as South Africa's deputy president.

Buthelezi's ego could, however, be a problem if his supporters were to perceive the ANC's overtures as some form of underhand ploy to co-opt him. So far, there has been genuine enthusiasm and excitement from the IFP rank and file whenever Mandela has asked Buthelezi to act as president, a gesture construed as an acknowledgement by Man-

dela of Buthelezi's leadership qualities.

It then becomes a matter of how the ANC sells its proposals to the IFP, and Mokaba makes a strong case to back his suggestion for the ANC conference.

The former fiery youth leader agrees that Buthelezi and almost all senior IFP leaders are former members of the ANC, and formed the IFP as a cultural liberation movement with the blessing of Oliver Tambo, the late former ANC president.

A fall-out between the two organisations subsequently led to bloody conflict in Kwazulu Natal which left more than 10 000 people dead.

Mokaba — who, as president of the South African Youth Congress, was at the forefront of campaigns by the mass democratic movement to isolate Buthelezi and the IFP politically — says: "I used to believe that the best way to deal with the situation in Kwazulu Natal was to destroy the IFP and I worked passionately with comrade Harry Gwala to achieve just that."

Gwala, the late Kwazulu Natal Midlands leader, was vehemently opposed to efforts to find a peace-

ful solution to the violence between the IFP and the ANC, arguing that violence was the only language the IFP understood.

Central to Mokaba's argument is that there is no political basis for the fact that only African lives have been lost in the conflict.

"At the end of the day, it is only Africans who are dying in a struggle for power among the powerless and a bold step is needed in order to achieve peace in Kwazulu Natal. We need to come out of our past prejudices, and reflect the truth about what divided us. Buthelezi must be encouraged to rejoin the ANC together with his followers," Mokaba says.

The ANC and the IFP have the same constituency and they seek to achieve the same goals, he says. "I do not see the IFP as a weak organisation, and we have not defeated it. But we need to talk peace by being one, and isolate the enemy."

Mokaba is canvassing support for his proposal among the youth and other members of the ANC.

Besides the fact that the ANC

to it depends on the party's assessment of its options.

The National Party and the Democratic Party continue talks to explore possible areas of co-operation, but each would love to have the IFP on their side.

But relations between the IFP and the ANC have thawed remarkably in recent times, and there has been a convergence of ideas on how to address the needs of their common constituency. In Parliament the ANC has found an ally in the IFP when it has pushed through some controversial and groundbreaking legislation, such as the Education Laws Amendment Bill.

But how this coming together of minds translates into an election strategy for the IFP remains unclear. For now, the IFP has all the options in front of it, but soon it will need to decide how it will approach the election vis-à-vis its relationship with the ANC.

The big question is whether Buthelezi will risk being consigned to regional politics or be tempted by the ANC's offer — which at least

NOVEMBER 16, 1997

R258m allocations under scrutiny

Dodgy deals jeopardise peace fund

KwaZulu-Natal's finance portfolio committee has called for the suspension of the province's R100 million peace fund and its R158m special development fund after discovering the funds were being misused. **PADDY HARPER** reports.

More than R258-million voted by the KwaZulu-Natal government for peace and development projects is to be suspended after the discovery by the province's influential finance portfolio committee it was not being used for the purposes it was allocated.

On Tuesday the committee, which has been conducting a mid-year budget review in an attempt to prevent overruns of around R2,2-billion, recommended the suspension of the R100m peace fund.

The fund was to be used for development of communities which had been ravaged by violence and which had achieved peace. However, thus far the only money spent was R3-million paid to a firm of human resources consultants, T Msomi and Associates. Not a single community had benefited.

The finance committee further

recommended a special R158-million development fund - administered by finance MEC, premier Dr Ben Ngubane, and ANC provincial leader Jacob Zuma and allocated for providing water and toilets in schools - be used towards meet the province's budget deficit instead.

A confidential memorandum from the finance committee, which will be presented to the provincial legislature when it meets in Ulundi on Tuesday, says the peace fund "has moved completely outside of its original terms of reference and has simply become another works programme, with significant expenditure being made on consultants".

The memorandum recommended that "the programme be suspended pending further investigation that it meets the conditions set in awarding these monies".

The committee also criticised government departments for using consultants in areas which could be handled by staff from various departments. It recommended province negotiate rates of payment for all consultants and departments co-ordinate properly when using consultants.

Top government officials also came under attack for the "rather lame excuses" they provided when questioned about the lack of fiscal discipline, a situation which the

committee said "cannot be tolerated some 42 months after democratic elections".

The education and public works departments were slammed for a lack of planning and the inability to provide proper explanations around spending and the constructions of buildings.

Officials from the works department had shown "total contempt" for parliamentary instructions around spending, the committee said, and called for "strong sanctions" against officials.

According to the committee's memorandum, the budget overruns were partly caused by short-sighted decisions taken in previous years without regard for their impact in the future.

The provincial treasury, it said, had not provided proper explanations about why education, health and welfare had consistently gone over budget or what steps had been taken to keep within the budget.

Treasury was also criticised for not outlining what steps would be taken against "errant" departments.

The committee recommended that treasury provide the legislature with a report dealing with these issues and indicating what would be done to keep departments within budget.

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WINNERS: Celebrating after being awarded a licence for a private radio station, Radio P4, in KwaZulu-Natal are, from left, Peter-Paul Ngwenya, chairman of the consortium; Shado Twala, music and programme manager; Tembe Mthethwa, head of Vuma Trust; Lilly Houston, consultant; and Jerry Gumede, a member of the consortium.

Picture: GRANT ERSKINE

New radio station is up in the air

THAMI NGIDI

The Durban Radio Initiative, a consortium which is to operate as Radio P4 and comprising former Radio Metro disc jockey Shado Twala, has been granted a licence to operate a "smooth jazz" station in KwaZulu-Natal.

When Independent Broadcasting Authority chairman Felling Sekha announced the winning bid for a private radio licence in the province on Friday, Twala broke down in tears.

Her statement after she had recovered her composure summed it all up, though.

"It is harvest time," she said.

Twala's group beat five other bidders for the licence, among them Classic FM, Igagasi Radio, ZFM radio and Moribo-Kaya FM. New Millennium withdrew its application during the hearings, which were held in Dur-

ban two weeks ago.

Twala is music and programme manager for P4 radio in Cape Town, and regarded the consortium's acquisition of a second regional licence as the culmination of her decade-long campaign to popularise jazz in South Africa.

formed to benefit former political prisoners, Vuma Trust (29%), an investment arm of the Inyanda Chamber of Commerce, and Radio P4, a Norwegian radio group.

Umlazi-born Ngwenya described his consortium's victory as a home-coming.

“Seven years ago I was in prison, now I am heading a consortium empowering former political prisoners.”

Peter-Paul Ngwenya, Radio Initiative chairman

Chairman of the consortium Peter-Paul Ngwenya, who was released from Robben Island in 1991, said the licence represented his long-cherished dream of involving former political prisoners in "real economic empowerment".

The Durban Radio Initiative, consists of Makana Trust (51%),

"I am elated. I could not sleep on Thursday night thinking about the announcement. For me personally, I am back home in victory.

"Seven years ago I was in prison, now I am heading a consortium which is empowering former political prisoners."

The station will broadcast on

99.5 FM and will target an audience ranging in age from 25 to 50. It will start in February.

Twala said that the station would be playing the "sophisticated sounds of smooth jazz", setting aside time for local music.

"Depending on the music, one will be able to hear Joe Nina next to Spyro Gyra, Michael Franks next to Jabu Khanyile. Or Hugh Masekela back-to-back with Dollar Brand.

"P4 is an adult contemporary jazz station and you will be able to hear the same music throughout the day," said Twala.

IBA chairman Sekha said that the authority had awarded the licence on the basis of expected funding sources, a training programme for new entrants into the market, and on whether the station would be adding a new voice where there was a demand for such a service.