

MAVERICK LEADER UNDER PARTY SPOTLIGHT

# Mzimela dilemma for IFP

PHINDILE NGUBANE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

**W**HEN the Inkatha Freedom Party holds its national council meeting at the weekend it will be faced with the task of deciding what to make of its national deputy chairman, Dr Sipo Mzimela's, recent public behaviour, which provoked calls for his resignation by some senior party members.

Tensions between Dr Mzimela and his party were triggered off by his public suggestion of a merger

between the IFP and the ANC, as well as writing a newspaper article praising President Mandela for his role in the liberation struggle.

The IFP reacted with anger to Dr Mzimela's move and rebuked him for his failure to first discuss the matter within the party before going public. Some senior members called for his immediate resignation since, they argued, it was apparent that Dr Mzimela was leaning towards the ANC.

Although it was initially thought the IFP would impose stern disciplinary action at the national co-ordinating commit-

tee's meeting in November last year, the party leadership had left the issue until Saturday's meeting.

At the meeting the members had apparently attempted to show Dr Mzimela where he had overstepped the line and demanded an explanation, but later said the committee members had noted a difference of opinion between themselves and Dr Mzimela.

In a newspaper article after the committee meeting, Dr Mzimela criticised the "hysteria" within the IFP following his suggestion and said it was "consistent with

the views of people who merely pay lip service to democracy". He said the party had "chastised, condemned and vilified" him for making the suggestion.

Last week IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi also slammed Dr Mzimela for continuing to criticise the IFP in the media.

Although some party insiders believe that Dr Buthelezi would strip Dr Mzimela of his positions both as deputy chairman and minister for correctional services, others now believe Dr Mzimela would at the most receive a stern warning from the party.



MANDELA PRAISES BUTHELEZI

# Inkatha-ANC merger boost

DONWALD PRESSLY  
PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

**P**RESIDENT Mandela has raised the stakes of the growing rapprochement with the Inkatha Freedom Party by praising Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi's role in government.

In an interview on SABC television yesterday, he said that while there had been no suggestion of offering Dr Buthelezi a deputy presidency either of the ANC or of the country, he would support such a proposal.

"I am not aware that Mr Buthelezi has been offered the position of deputy president either of the ANC or of the government.

"If he were offered that position, I would be happy about that. Now that we are building national unity, we want people who are talented," he said.

Speaking ahead of the ANC's national conference in Mafikeng, he indicated that a merger between the ANC and the largely Zulu-based political party had been discussed on numerous occasions, as early as 1991.

The possibility had been discussed not only by the provincial leadership of the two parties in KwaZulu Natal but also between Dr Buthelezi and himself.

Mr Mandela also praised Kwa-

Zulu Natal ANC leader Jacob Zuma prior to his potentially bruising contest this week with Mrs Winnie Madikizela-Mandela for the party's deputy leadership slot.

ANC insiders are now predicting that the fiery ex-wife of the president will not be nominated from the floor for the post, clearing the way for Mr Zuma to be elected unopposed.

On the issue of a possible merger with the IFP, he acknowledged that the ANC and IFP had differed vastly in the past and that the ANC had rejected Dr Buthelezi's participation in the KwaZulu "bantustan" administration.

Mr Mandela said the traditional chief had nevertheless gained consummate skills in the workings of government. He particularly praised the "very useful" talents that the IFP leader had brought to the unity government which he joined in May 1994 as home affairs minister, a senior cabinet post.

Dr Buthelezi has served as acting president six times in the absence of Mr Mandela and his heir apparent, Deputy President Mbeki.

Dr Buthelezi, who in recent months has restrained his criticism of Mr Mandela for not delivering on the pre-election promise of international mediation, was an active member of the ANC before Inkatha broke ties with the then

exiled organisation in 1979.

Inkatha opposed the ANC's decision to step up the armed struggle and enmity grew in the 1980s when Dr Buthelezi vigorously fought the ANC's sanctions campaign against the white minority government.

He argued at the time that it would be counterproductive to the interests of the black majority.

Asked by SABC TV editor Allister Sparks if a merger of two large mainly black parties would not fuel perceptions of yet another one-party state in Africa, Mr Mandela said democracy did not necessarily mean a plethora of political parties.

Instead, one united political party could act as a vanguard force to promote transformation "and pool energies" in which all its supporters were free to express dissenting ideas. Pressed if this would not mean a ganging up of black forces, Mr Mandela said this was not true as the ANC was made up of all population groups.

Asked how the ANC could justify being in bed with a free enterprise party with serious sympathies with traditional leadership, Mr Mandela said there was no question that the ANC supported "the market economy". It also consulted traditional leaders and had drawn them into government through a statutory advisory council.

SEE ALSO PAGES 3 & 6

## Mzimela believes IFP out to get rid of him

PHINDILE NGUBANE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

IFP deputy national chairman Sipo Mzimela has accused senior party members and its president, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi, of wanting to get rid of him following his controversial call for a merger between the IFP and the ANC.

His claim comes in the wake of last week's meeting between himself and members of the IFP's national co-ordinating committee at Ulundi, after which the committee stated that there existed a "clear clash over policy issues between Dr Mzimela and the other members".

The minister of correctional services's popularity within his party has rapidly waned with, according to party insiders, incidents that

have proved to both the IFP and its president that its senior members' interests were steadfastly shifting towards the ANC.

The party was dealt what some IFP insiders considered to be a "last blow" when Dr Mzimela recently called for the IFP and ANC to unite as a "fitting tribute" to President Mandela's commitment to freedom.

This received stern criticism, especially from Dr Buthelezi who said he was astounded at Dr Mzimela's handling of the issue and rebuked him for first failing to raise it within the IFP.

IFP sources have indicated that the party planned to oust Dr Mzimela.

They have, however, also speculated that the minister would resign to save himself embarrassment.



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ATTORNEYS

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old Johannesburg city council with the  
municipal pension fund and the City of Johannesburg  
pension fund in November 1994.

REPORTS: Business Day Reporters, Sapa.

will result in many more people (being un-  
able to) afford medical aid," he said.

However, the Representative Associa-  
tion of Medical Aids Schemes (Rams)  
reckoned the new bill would help

in excess of R25bn for health services for  
members this year, compared with R20bn  
earmarked for the public health sector  
covering 33-million people. — Reuter.

# Khuzwayo defects from 'conflict-racked' IFP

Business Day Reporters

SENIOR Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) member  
Dumisani Khuzwayo defected to the African  
National Congress (ANC) yesterday, landing a  
blow to the IFP in the build-up to next year's  
elections.

Khuzwayo was previously seen by the ANC  
as a "warlord", but the IFP voted him a few  
years ago as its best organiser in KwaZulu-  
Natal. Khuzwayo had in the past claimed that  
the ANC made more than 10 attempts to  
assassinate him.

Khuzwayo said that he was defecting to the  
ANC because the IFP was racked by internal  
conflict. He was dissatisfied with the decision  
of some IFP leaders to align themselves with

United Democratic Movement (UDM) strong-  
man Sifiso Nkabinde.

ANC KwaZulu-Natal chairman Sibusiso Nde-  
bele and deputy chairman Zweli Mkhize wel-  
comed Khuzwayo to the party.

Khuzwayo's defection follows that of Wal-  
ter Felgate, a close aide of IFP leader Mango-  
suthu Buthelezi, more than a year ago. No se-  
nior ANC member has yet switched allegiance  
to the IFP.

Observers said the ANC's decision to poach  
Khuzwayo showed that while it was engaged in  
rapprochement talks with the IFP, it was still  
working towards winning KwaZulu-Natal in the  
elections.

IFP spokesman Blessed Gwala said Khuz-  
wayo defected because the IFP had overlooked

him earlier this year to fill a vacancy in the  
KwaZulu-Natal legislature. Khuzwayo had  
once been a good organiser, but the party later  
discovered that he was not accounting for sub-  
scriptions collected from members.

Gwala said that the IFP was pleased that he  
had defected.

Khuzwayo was believed to have worked  
closely with IFP midlands chairman David  
Ntombela and KwaZulu-Natal MP Philip Pow-  
ell, both of whom were alleged to be more se-  
nior "warlords" in the IFP.

The new special investigation unit headed  
by Chris MacAdam, the former truth commis-  
sion witness protection programme head, was  
likely to interview Khuzwayo as part of its  
probe into political violence in the province.

## Nothing but the truth...

On May 10, 1978, during the funeral of his friend and former colleague, Mr Robert Sobukwe, a group of youths tried to murder IFP leader, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, after driving him from the dais. This happened after he had been invited by the Sobukwe family to deliver the funeral oration. In response to this attempt on his life, Mangosuthu Buthelezi denounced the outrage as the work of thugs. Not so, retorted a very high profile cleric and later patron of the United Democratic Front, an internal surrogate of the African National Congress. The action, he said, was the work of a new breed of youth with iron in their souls. We have never heard an apology for this condonation of attempted murder.

*The UDF and its leadership failed to exert political and moral authority available to it to stop ...the killing ...attempted killing and severe treatment of political opponents ... (and is) accordingly accountable for the gross violations of human rights...*  
TRC report pages 246/247

This assault on Mangosuthu Buthelezi and the party he leads, the Inkatha Freedom Party, marked the first major salvo of a vicious campaign of vilification and serial killing of many thousands of ordinary IFP members and leaders, culminating in documented public calls for the murder of Buthelezi and at least one documented plot - acknowledged by the leadership of the ANC at the highest level - to have him assassinated by a hired killer. Chairman Emeritus of the Inkatha Freedom Party, Dr F T Mdlalose, told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Cape Town on September 5, 1996 that the dark years of apartheid had conditioned us all to think in stark contrast, in black and white. This stereotypical thinking had, he said, journeyed with us into what we call the new South Africa. We were, he said, still busily crafting mythologies in which we cast ourselves as the only righteous force in the struggle for freedom.

The work of the Commission, he predicted, stood in danger of becoming a victim of this malaise. Its brief, he said, was to investigate human rights violations under apartheid. But, he noted, the conflict between the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party was not about apartheid, but rather about the nature of the system that would replace white rule and the identity of those who would wield power after liberation. The conflict was rooted in differing responses to the problem of apartheid, responses that had begun three decades ago and persisted in the current policies of the two organisations to bring about fundamental change in South Africa.

Policies to render South Africa ungovernable were not confined to the apartheid state. Kwazulu and its then leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, were singled out by the ANC as a target of this campaign and the TRC is fully aware of a mass of official ANC documents that prove this beyond doubt. The TRC knows of public calls by the then ANC leadership for the murder of Mangosuthu Buthelezi and other IFP leaders. It is known that Mangosuthu Buthelezi was stigmatised as a counter revolutionary and detailed plans - begun decades ago and that persisted long after the commission had begun its work - to destroy his leadership and deprive him of his social base.

The TRC has evidence that a member of the cabinet - and it knows the name of the individual concerned - publically called for Mangosuthu Buthelezi to be 'got rid of'. It knows too that the same individual told Judge Richard Goldstone that the policy to use violence as a political tool had been dropped - an assurance that was accepted. Nowhere in its report has the TRC recorded these facts. This despite the fact that the TRC knows full well that the very people involved were caught red-handed smuggling large quantities of the tools of assassins into KwaZulu-Natal long after the transition to democracy had begun and for the express purpose of murdering members of the IFP. There have been no charges and the TRC has chosen to remain silent.

The TRC knows too that many thousands of ANC youth were illegally flown out of South Africa for offensive training in Uganda and elsewhere. It must know that thousands more were openly and totally illegally trained in the townships around Durban in the use of AK47's and Draganov sniper rifles. If it does not know these facts there can only be one of two explanations - it has either acted irresponsibly thus not fulfilling its mandate, or it has chosen to ignore them.

Despite all these documented facts, the TRC chose instead to focus all its attention on the so-called Caprivi trainees, 300 young men who were legally trained - that was the finding of the High Court of South Africa - to protect government property and to help stem a murderous and publically documented onslaught against the Inkatha Freedom Party.

While it has found no evidence of wrong-doing or a violation of human rights by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, it seeks to hold him accountable for the violation of human rights. This is legally obscene and morally repugnant.

The TRC has remained stuck in the mind set of the total onslaught against the IFP that is the legacy of yesterday's politics. It has not breathed the spirit of the new South Africa and its work will visit opprobrium on it by the record of history.

Its final report is a clumsily crafted mythology through which it has sought to give credibility to yesterday's liberation propaganda. The TRC will be haunted by the spirits of thousands of our supporters and leaders who were the victims of serial killings. It will be despised by millions of our supporters who still live with the sorrow of the killing of their loved ones and the wrongs done to them.

Its final report will be consigned to the dustbin of history.

We commit ourselves to peace in our time  
and shall not stoop to the falsification  
of a bitter past in the interests of expediency.  
We owe this to the future.

Issued on behalf of the National Council of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

