

Top people to head unicityies

ANC and IFP to choose their best

Executive mayors of South Africa's top cities will have to meet certain criteria, writes **XOLISA VAPI**

DEPUTY Education Minister Smangaliso Mkhathshwa could become the new executive mayor of Pretoria when President Thabo Mbeki announces the ANC's high-profile candidates to head the country's six megacities.

Other appointments will include the redeployment of South Africa's Ambassador to China Chris Dlamini as the executive mayor for East Rand.

For Greater Johannesburg the choice will be between Finance and Fiscal Commission Chairman Murphy Morobe - a former United Democratic Front leader - and Finance Portfolio Committee Chairman Barbara Hogan.

The ANC's deployment committee - headed by Deputy President Jacob Zuma - will consider a member of the organisation's National Executive Committee from Pretoria for executive mayor of the city, with Mkhathshwa being the obvious choice.

Deliberate

It is still unclear who the ceremonial mayor for Durban will be after the executive mayor option was dropped by the KwaZulu-Natal Parliament.

However, Durban Metro Mayor Obed Mlaba and North Central Mayor Nomusa Dube were high on the party's Metro proportional representation list, which was finalised last week.



NEW SUPER MAYOR? Smangaliso Mkhathshwa greets pupils in Pretoria

The IFP is to deliberate on *Inkosi Mangosuthu Buthelezi's* proposed redeployment of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister Ben Ngubane as the party's mayoral candidate for Durban at its national co-ordinating committee meeting in Ulundi today.

A senior IFP source said he expected IFP MP Reverend Musa Zondi to succeed Ngubane in the Cabinet.

Zondi said such speculation was "an old song", adding major election decisions would be taken at the IFP's last national council meeting on October 8 before the Independent Electoral Commission's deadline for the submission of party election lists.

Port Elizabeth Mayor Nceba Faku is tipped to become the new executive mayor, but Western District Chairman Melvin Manentsa is also said to be a strong contender for the job.

ANC Deputy Secretary-General

Thenjiwe Mtintso said the criteria in selecting new mayors included being above factionalism within ANC ranks, economic and financial management expertise and a good grasp of international politics.

Mandates

Mtintso said, while credible political leadership was an important consideration, "it is not enough".

Factionalism has been a thorn in the ANC's side lately with some of its structures being disbanded, including Gauteng's and Free State's Provincial Executive Committees and recently KwaZulu-Natal's Ukhahlamba region in Ladysmith.

"They (executive mayors) should be able to manage finances, know how to spend resources, receive mandates from the community, account to people, not be corruptible and create developmental budgets which generate a revenue that grows," Mtintso said.

Cape terrorists must own up

THE INDEPENDENT ON SATURDAY
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Mbeki puts Africa in the international spotlight

By ROSS HERBERT

UNITED NATIONS: The biggest gathering of world leaders ever ended yesterday with President Thabo Mbeki declaring the session a success at focusing the world's attention on poverty and Africa. But New York was more abuzz about the first handshake at the UN Millennium Summit between Cuban president Fidel Castro and United States President Bill Clinton.

Public discussion of poverty and UN reform dominated three days of speech-making punctuated by epic traffic jams and a chaos of protests against repressive regimes in China, Iran, Burma, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iraq and Cuba.

Clinton, with an eye on his legacy and the end of his term in office in January, tried to use the summit to push Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to revive stalled peace talks. He failed despite speeches

supporting peace by both.

Long-running US hostility to Cuba energised talk about another encounter on Wednesday between Clinton and Castro, who met face-to-face and shook hands at a luncheon.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Mbeki dismissed suggestions that the UN always talked but failed to act on poverty and Africa.

"I have heard members of the G7 address the African continent in ways they never have before. I have heard members of the G7 describe poverty as first among the world's problems.

"Before, you would have heard different answers," Mbeki said, adding that

he and the presidents of Nigeria and Algeria had been commissioned by the Organisation of African Unity to engage the developed world on African development issues. In the past year they had successfully made a case for building a concerted African development plan in talks with Japan, Nordic countries, the European Union, the US and at the UN.

"As Africans we have been very unhappy with the response of the UN to challenges of peace and security in Africa.

"There is a kind of apartheid approach to them saying if there are problems, let Africans solve them," Mbeki said.

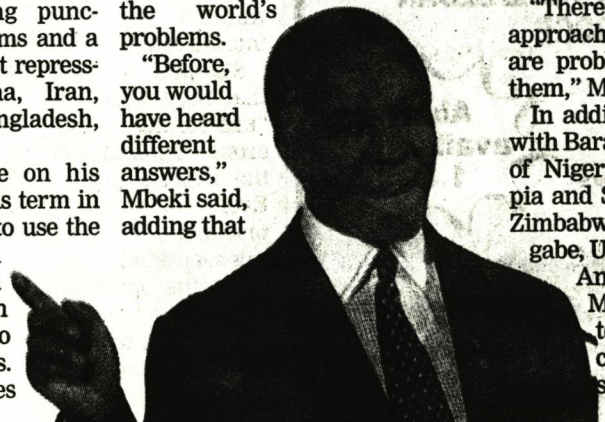
In addition to private meetings with Barak, Arafat and the leaders of Nigeria, Russia, Japan, Ethiopia and Senegal, Mbeki met with Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the presidents of Malawi and Namibia to try to win aid for Mugabe's controversial land re-settlement effort.

NOT surprisingly, the murder of Cape Town Magistrate Pieter Theron has shocked the nation. That it was an assassination and not a random killing is all too clear. It is also clear that urban terrorism in the Cape is totally out of control and getting worse by the day. Cape Town, once this country's premier tourist destination, is fast becoming another Columbia - held to ransom by crime cartels who think nothing of eliminating any perceived opposition, be it police, judges or even, to make their point, innocent bystanders. This cannot be allowed to happen.

Already, whoever is behind these cowardly acts of terrorism has been allowed, literally, to get away with murder. Policemen have been shot dead and innocent people have been mutilated. Now a magistrate is dead, and still no one person or organisation has claimed responsibility for the terror attacks. Safety and Security Minister Steve Tshwete has repeatedly implicated the vigilante group People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad). Pagad repeatedly denies its involvement, saying it is constantly accused without any proof or proper investigation.

The point is that identification of whoever is behind the terror campaign is long overdue. They must come out and make their demands known so there is at least some chance of ending the carnage in the Cape. Not having the courage of their convictions can do their cause no good and it is clearly sending a message to the rest of the world that South Africa is a violently dangerous place. There is also an onus on the community, some of whom must know something, to come forward to assist the police. It is so easy for us to point fingers at our law enforcement agents, charging that they are not doing their jobs properly. But what are we doing?

If we are to succeed at all in fighting crime, it has to be our collective responsibility. It cannot be left to the police alone.



THE controversy around Radio 702 talkshow host John Robbie's interview with Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang raises an interesting question of African mores in the context of South African journalism which is largely informed by Western standards and norms.

Let me hasten to add that, in my view, Robbie was perfectly within his rights as a journalist to insist on a response to a very legitimate and relevant question. A minister of health in an Aids-ravaged country such as ours most definitely must expect to be questioned by the media on whether she believes HIV causes Aids or not. Presumably, she should be able to elaborate on her answer and to defend her position.

That, however, is not what we are concerned about here.

Tshabalala-Msimang objected when Robbie continually referred to her as "Manto". The Minister pointed out that: "I am not Manto to you. I am not your friend," at which point Robbie ended the interview, telling her to "go away".

Only two weeks ago, I cringed when I watched on television South African journalist Gugu Radebe who had been released from a Liberian prison due largely to pressure by former president Mr Nelson Mandela. He talked about "Nelson", as in "Without Nelson, I

would be stuffed. Without Nelson, I would still be in jail".

I do not know how much of acquaintances Radebe and Mandela are, but Radebe certainly looks young enough to be Mandela's son. Ordinarily, African mores would dictate that Radebe would not be at liberty to refer to Mandela by his first name, not even withstanding that Mandela is a former state president and a statesman.

From the little I understand of these matters, it is not even appropriate for any Tom, Dick and Harry to refer to Mandela as Madiba. In fact, in communities where true African values are still upheld, a person of higher standing would be talked to in the third person, and that would certainly apply to King

all things considered
CYRIL MADLALA



Don't call me Manto – it's all a question of respect

Goodwill Zwelithini and other African monarchs.

Yet South African newspaper headlines often scream about "Zwelithini", but never about "Elizabeth". Reading stories about "the Queen" one would never think about one lady in The Netherlands, Queen Beatrix, who is as much royal blood as any other queen.

And so, in South Africa, the President is referred to as Thabo while nobody would ever have called former Prime Minister Mr BJ Vorster John. IFP leader Inkosi Mangosuthu Buthelezi protested a long time ago that he did not want to be referred to as Gatsha, but we still see this in print.

There obviously cannot be a blanket rule on these matters

because others who occupy high offices in the land do insist on their first names. Education Minister Kader Asmal is one of them.

There also does seem to be an unwritten code that journalists are different, and that in the course of their duties their own rules generally apply. For instance, all males are supposed to stand when *imbongi* sings praises, and all women (presumably of whatever race and profession) have to remain seated.

Now, members of the media the world over normally continue with their work regardless of what happens around them. This is not a sign of disrespect and it is not intended to offend. It applies equally to war situations or during sacra-

ment. The press gallery in Parliament does not even rise together with the House when Madame Speaker takes her chair.

There is an interesting dimension to this in the context of African traditional protocol. Black African journalists are often chided for disrespecting their own culture and African values when they fail to observe African ways of doing things, even when they are there in their capacities as professionals. They are sometimes expected to respond differently from their colleagues of other races, and that has nothing to do with being expected to grovel.

It could well be that Robbie saw nothing wrong in referring to Tshabalala-Msimang as Manto. After all, that is her name and she is known as such in her official capacity. But once she had pointed out that she was uncomfortable, surely it would not have done Robbie any harm to have desisted from what offended his guest.

He could still have been as vigorous and thorough in his questioning without causing offence.

As our foremost African, it would be interesting to know what Mbeki thinks of being called Thabo when he is being referred to in his capacity as the President of the Republic of South Africa.

Could it be that he prefers the T-Man label?