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THE MERCURY
Monday, July 15, 2002

KZN 'doomed unless Aids epidemic slows'

PATRICK LEEMAN

SOUTH Africa, and KwaZulu-Natal in particular, is "doomed" unless the present epidemic of HIV/Aids, coupled with a current "tidal" wave of domestic violence, is curtailed.

This was said in Durban during the weekend by Prof Anshu Padayachee, co-founder of the Advice Desk for the Abused.

She was speaking at a crisis intervention workshop held by the organisation against a background of new figures which show that 3 500 cases of domestic abuse throughout KZN were reported to the centre in the first six months of this year alone.

Of this number, almost a quarter of the cases involved women partners or wives abusing their husbands or boyfriends.

Padayachee called for the curricula of schools to be changed to include education on domestic violence.

She also said the curricula for health professionals, similarly, needed to be adjusted because many medical practitioners, in particular, did not have suffi-



ANSHU PADAYACHEE
'Change school curriculum'

cient information about the phenomenon

She said school and health professionals' curricula should also be developed around the issue of HIV/Aids, particularly in view of the fact that a third of pregnant women arriving at ante-natal clinics in the province were now HIV-positive.

At the same time, it was estimated that domestic violence and abuse was occurring in at least a third of the households in the province.

Mr Naveen Naidoo, a facilitator and coach for the advice desk, told the workshop that victims of abuse told counsellors that this was often accompanied by drug abuse.

Naidoo said studies had shown that a person with HIV could more rapidly develop full-blown Aids in a situation of domestic violence and abuse.

The stress experienced by that person could have an adverse effect on their immune system, making it much harder for the person's body to fight off the disease.

These studies had also revealed that the psychological ramifications of domestic violence were immense.

One survey, he said, had shown that 75% of women in abusive situations were using tranquilisers or anti-depressants.

Naidoo said 33% of these women had resorted to alcohol, 55% had attempted suicide and more than two-thirds were permanently clinically depressed.

□ The phone numbers, for Advice Desk for the Abused are (031) 262 9673 or (031) 262 9679.

THE MERCURY
Monday, July 15, 2002

Fire Tshabalala-Msimang, says DA

JEREMY MICHAELS
PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

THE Democratic Alliance has again called on Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang to "step aside" over her "continuous blundering" on HIV/Aids, but President Mbeki's office has dismissed the demand.

DA MP Sandy Kalyan cited the latest HIV/Aids rows – over Tshabalala-Msimang's attempt to halt R600 million in Aids funding for KwaZulu-Natal and her reported comments in an interview with a foreign journalist comparing the anti-retroviral Nevirapine to poison – as reasons for her to go.

The most recent storm is over Tshabalala-Msimang's intervention in a R600 million donation by the UN Global Fund for Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/Aids to the KwaZulu-Natal department of health, which has reportedly jeopardised the funding unless a decision is made within days.

The province failed to secure national approval for its application because of time constraints, but succeeded in its application for the funds.

Tshabalala-Msimang's office has denied she is trying to block the funds, but the DA says the health minister's "continuous blundering, from one crisis to

another is distracting attention from the job at hand."

"Maybe the time has come for her to step aside," Kalyan said in a statement yesterday.

The fact that South Africa's national health policy was "now being decided by litigation" – the Treatment Action Campaign's court case being the most recent example – was another factor influencing the DA's demand.

"President Mbeki must urgently intervene and rescue the R600 million funding for the KZN Health Department. He should also lay down the law to his Health Minister – either she improves her performance or she is fired," Kalyan said.



TSHABALALA-MSIMANG
'Time to sack her'

But presidential spokesman Bheki Khumalo said a dismissal as "definitely not on the cards."

"The president doesn't see a need to dismiss the minister," he said yesterday.

BUSINESS DAY, Monday, July 15 2002

Correctional service to seek Scorpions' aid to fight graft

Hendri Pelser

THE correctional services department plans to strengthen its internal anticorruption unit using forensic investigators from the elite Scorpions unit.

This follows weeks of bad publicity for the department after the Grootvlei scandal involving corrupt prison officials broke three weeks ago. Warders at this Bloemfontein prison were videotaped by inmates selling drugs, alcohol and a firearm.

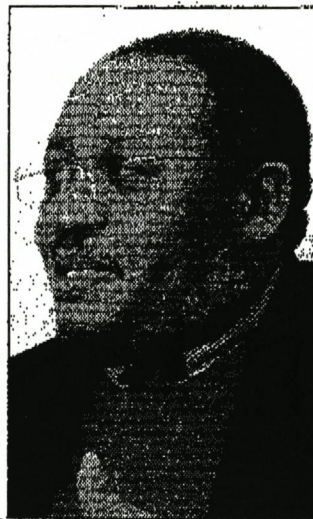
Correctional Services Minister Ben Skosana said that the anti-corruption unit formed part of his "war on corruption". He said the department had received "a wake-up call to get our act together to rid this department of the scourge of corruption".

Skosana said that although the public was angered and outraged by Grootvlei, "it is only a small part of our staff that is engaged in these acts of corruption".

"We are on their tracks (the corrupt staff)."

Meanwhile, following recommendations by the Jali commission, six prison officials were suspended in KwaZulu-Natal on Friday. "We are pleased with the fact that the Jali commission is making progress in uncovering acts of corruption, crime and maladministration in the department," Skosana said.

The Jali commission was appointed by President Thabo Mbeki to probe corruption within the department after a request from Skosana. To aid the endeavour, Skosana and national correction-



Ben Skosana

al services commissioner Linda Mti have embarked on a roadshow, conducting anticorruption workshops.

Skosana said the workshops were being held to identify the causes of corruption and maladministration "to develop strategies to curb the spread and precipitation of such activities".

The department's latest initiative follows hard on the heels of a probe by the auditor-general. This led to a management audit by the public service and administration department, who presented a report to President Thabo Mbeki. The department and the Public Service Commission conducted further probes and presented reports to the president and the cabinet.

BUSINESS DAY, Monday, July 15 2002

Floor crossing is a real threat to IFP home base

IT WAS appropriate that if African brothers were to make a new beginning, they should have gathered in KwaZulu-Natal, a province with the freshest wounds from violent African-on-African conflict in SA.

The kingdom of the Zulu, which witnessed the celebrated birth of an Africa united in a resolve to bury conflict between brother and brother, would have been proud of President Thabo Mbeki's midwifery role.

Today the African National Congress (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) are in a precarious relationship of a provincial coalition government.

However, by the time Col Muammar Gaddafi's motorcade has driven through Africa from the launch of the African Union (AU) in Durban, the shaky foundations of that relationship may well have been swept away by the political whirlwind that could be unleashed by the Constitutional Court's ruling on the controversial floor-crossing legislation.

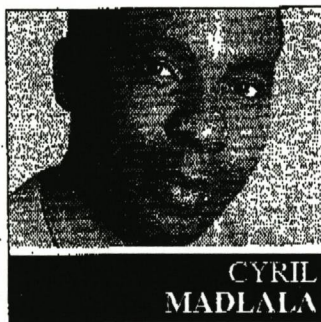
If the court rules that it is in order for our elected representatives to cross the floor without losing their seats, the IFP will lose its majority in the KwaZulu-Natal legislature with the defection of at least two members to the ANC.

For the first time since the days of Bantu tribal authorities some 30 years ago, the north of the Tugela River will not be the seat of African political power in the region.

The IFP and its predecessor, Inkatha yeNkululeko yeSizwe, have through their leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi been so central to politics in KwaZulu-Natal that it is virtually inconceivable that a month from now its stalwarts, including premier Lionel Mtshali, could be watching from the political fringes as the ANC political juggernaut takes charge of the two remaining provinces, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape.

The IFP has already decided to settle for an official opposition role in KwaZulu-Natal if the Constitutional Court endorses the floor-crossing legislation.

Such has been the systematic



CYRIL
MADLALA

Party stands to lose its grip on Kwa-Zulu as two members are expected to defect to ANC

erosion of the IFP's power base by the ANC, that the vultures are hovering menacingly, waiting for it to lose the power of patronage it has enjoyed for so many decades.

At the best of times, when the blood of brotherhood was warm, a development of this magnitude would have been discussed extensively between the two parties.

Now relations have soured so badly that the IFP's only hope is for Buthelezi to meet with Mbeki to salvage the coalition government. But that is a long shot.

Much as Buthelezi would have preferred greater interaction between himself and Mbeki in their capacities as party leaders, he has discovered that as an organisation the ANC operates very differently from the IFP.

His expressed displeasure at the behaviour and utterances of ANC provincial leaders has not elicited the kind of response he would have expected from the

highest echelons of his rival's leadership. Similarly, the ANC has not been impressed by the IFP's endorsement of Mtshali's treatment of the ANC in the marriage, when he seemed to forget he derived his authority from a political arrangement which could be undone by the ANC.

The ANC heaps much of the blame for the souring of relations on Mtshali. He is described as uncompromising and plain intransigent. That could well be true, but he is carrying out the IFP national council's mandate to act tough because the previous incumbents, Frank Mdlalose and Ben Ngubane were seen to be getting too close to the ANC for comfort.

Unfortunately for the IFP, it will discover that there will not be many sympathetic ears just ahead of the ANC's national conference in December.

Appeasing the IFP will be the least of many ANC leaders' concerns, and that includes deputy president Jacob Zuma who has largely been responsible for laying the foundations of co-operation and peace with the IFP.

Conferences are about personal leadership battles too, and the provincial ANC leadership in KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape will be eager to deliver these outstanding provinces to the organisation. Whereas in the past the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal has been urged to tread delicately in dealings with the IFP, it is now being left to its own devices.

The IFP's political head on a platter is exactly what the provincial leadership needs, not only for the national conference, but also significantly for the coming regional one as well.

Globally, Mbeki is forging new partnerships for Africa's development and devising mechanisms to accommodate the Gadaffis of Africa. Domestically, he may be unable to sustain an African brotherhood between the IFP and the ANC.

Such is the game of politics.

■ Madlala is Editor and Publisher of UmAfrika.

SOWETAN Monday July 15 2002

Home Affairs denies row over Nigerian alien.

By Gershwin Chuenyane

THE Department of Home Affairs has denied that the deportation of a Nigerian illegal alien was an attempt to stifle an investigation into the death of another Nigerian at the Lindela repatriation centre near Krugersdorp.

Home Affairs head of communication Mr Leslie Mashokwe dismissed the allegations, saying there was no diplomatic row between Nigeria and South Africa.

The supposed row arises from the repatriation of Mr Sylvester Mmaduka to Nigeria. He was a key witness in the murder of Ikechukwu Obiakor, who was allegedly beaten to death at Lindela on March 10. A Malawian, Hamid Manisi, died at the centre on the same day of natural causes.

Mashokwe said Mmaduka's deportation was normal and not hurried.

SOWETAN Monday July 15 2002

Lawyer is still practising

By Noxolo Kweza

A LAWYER recently struck off the roll continues to practise law and is also acting as a legal adviser to King Goodwill Zwelithini Zulu.

Attorney Justice Zulu was struck off on February 1 this year, but has continued to represent clients in court.

Zulu said he continued to advise Zwelithini and that the king was aware that he was appealing the High Court's decision to strike him off the roll.

A member struck off the roll cannot practise in the country's courts, nor operate from an attorney's office. The law does not, however, prevent anyone from using a disgraced attorney as an adviser.

Recently 163 lawyers were struck off the roll in South Africa.

Zulu admitted that he represented clients in court and that the Law Society of South Africa was aware of this.

Continuing to practise as a lawyer after being struck off the roll of attorneys is a criminal offence.

Zulu said his inclusion on the Law Society's list of 163 lawyers was a "technical error", though he admitted to "professional negligence" in a dispute involving R175 000.

Zulu is filing an appeal with the Court of Appeals in Bloemfontein.

SOWETAN Monday July 15 2002

By Muzi Mkhwanazi

TWO high-profile fraud cases involving prominent African National Congress politicians resume in different Pretoria courts this morning.

In the Special Commercial Crime Court former chief whip Mr Tony Yengeni will hear whether magistrate Mr Willie Moyses agrees with his lawyers that charges against him should be thrown out.

In the magistrate's court nearby, more damning evidence is expected to

ANC politicians face the music

to be led against ANC Women's League president Mrs Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, who is facing multiple counts of fraud allegedly committed in 2000.

Yengeni's fraud and corruption charges derive from the controversial multibillion rand arms deal, through which he allegedly received a substantial discount on a vehicle he bought from an arms company.

This took place while he was the chairman of the parliamentary joint committee on defence.

During last week's hearings Yengeni's counsel, Mr Hilton Epstein, and his counterpart, Mr Mike Hellens, who represents Michael Worfel, a former director of the implicated bidder, argued that the state's case was based on unsubstantiated allegations.

Epstein also argued that the state's indictment did not sufficiently explain how Yengeni used his influence to award part of the arms deal to Worfel's company.

Hellens said the state's case contained insufficient particulars about the nature of the "act" which Worfel intended Yengeni to commit in relation to his powers.

But state counsel Mr Jan Henning said that the act of receiving a "benefit" and Yengeni's failure to disclose such a gift to Parliament was a criminal offence.

Moyses is expected to rule today on whether or not to withdraw the charges against both accused.

Madikizela-Mandela suffered a setback when magistrate Mr Peet Johnson ruled against her application to compel the state to furnish her defence team with copies of loan applications not included in the charge sheet.

THE NATAL WITNESS, MONDAY, JULY 15, 2002

DA: Health Minister should resign

CAPE TOWN — It is probably time for Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang to step aside after her continuous blundering from one crisis to another, which is distracting attention from the job at hand — fighting HIV/Aids, the Democratic Alliance said.

DA spokesman on social development Sandy Kalyan said yesterday that since Tshabalala-Msimang's appointment she has been embroiled in numerous controversies.

"Most recently, she blocked R600 million in Aids funding to the KZN provincial Health Department," Kalyan said. The minister claimed that "proper procedure" was not followed when the KZN department applied for the funding from the United Nations.

"The fact is her department was late in making its own application, prompting the provincial department to take the initiative."

Kalyan claimed that funding to send MPs to the recent international Aids conference in Barcelona was also cancelled at the last minute.

In response, Ministry of Health spokesman Sibani Mngadi said the ministry and KZN are discussing ways of addressing the province's failure to meet the Global Fund's requirements. — Sapa.