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BUSINESSDAY, Monday, September 29 2003

Mbeki now has an approval rating of 32%, compared with only 23% before President, ANC on a roll of approval

THE South African public's opinion of both the African National Congress (ANC) government and President Thabo Mbeki has improved significantly since last year.

A survey by research house ACNielsen shows that 41% of people questioned in May rated government's overall performance "good" or "very good", a sizeable increase on the 29% that had the same view in February last year. Only 26% thought government was "poor" or "very poor", far fewer than the 36% recorded last year.

Mbeki's approval rating has risen to 32% from 23%, and his disapproval level has dropped to 34% from 45%. However, his personal popularity still lags behind that of government.

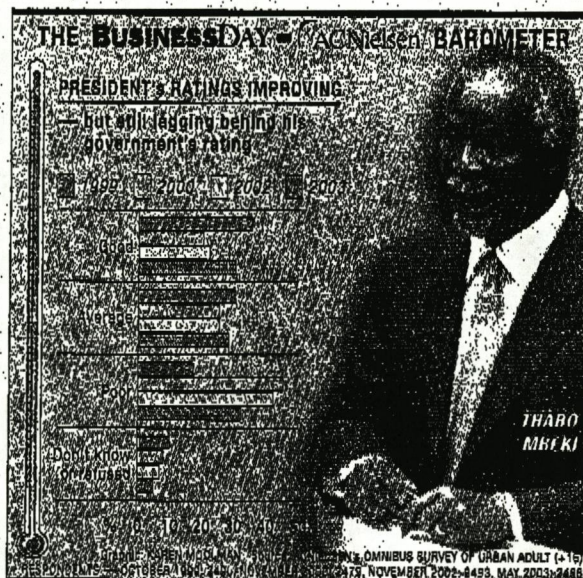
The assessment of both government and the president as "average" is around the 29% mark. The "don't know" and respondents refusing to reveal their opinions account for 4% in both categories.

The survey is the latest conducted for Business Day by ACNielsen using its successful Omnibus subscription research product. It used a sample of 2 486 households, ranging across all race and income groups and representing 16-million people, or 91% of the urban adult population of SA.

The improved ratings for government and its leader come after two successive years of results showing little change in rather low public perceptions of performance. The current figures return perceptions to the levels the survey recorded in late 1999.

Political analyst Tim Hughes of the South African Institute of International Affairs says the improvement can be accounted for on a number of grounds.

"These include a far more interventionist strategy on key issues such as minimum wage levels; a more robust and popular stance on black economic em-



powerment, with the mining charter being one manifestation; and a popular 2003-04 budget," says Hughes.

Another factor could be that the economy is holding up well in international terms, with the strengthening rand being welcomed by consumers.

"Although government and Mbeki, in particular, have come in for harsh criticism regarding Zimbabwe, this has been largely among whites. Indeed, there is no doubt Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu (PF) and President Robert Mugabe are popular among large numbers of South Africans," says Hughes.

The only areas in which government and the president have lost ground are in KwaZulu-Natal and among Indians.

In KwaZulu-Natal, 30% of respondents said government was good or very good, while 36% said it was poor or very poor, against 31% previously.

Says Hughes: "Government's soft underbelly of HIV/AIDS

remains, and this may in part explain the relative unpopularity of both government and Mbeki in KwaZulu-Natal."

Growing disenchantment between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party is also likely to affect the province.

But such negative perceptions are more than made up for by soaring ratings in Free State, where 58% gave government the thumbs up — a 21 percentage point rise, and the combined provinces of North West-Northern Cape, which registered a 55% positive view, a 25 percentage point improvement.

In Gauteng approval of government's showing rose to 41% of the population from 27% in 2002. Disapproval fell to 27% from 44%.

In terms of race, only 13% of Indians rate government highly. Fully 54% of them give it a poor rating, an increase from 47%. White approval stands at 13%, up from 10%, and disapproval at 39%, down from 50%.

Among blacks 55% rated gov-

ernment's performance good or very good, up from 39% in 2002; and only 19% believed it was poor or very poor, down from 33%.

Among coloureds, 22% gave government good marks for its work during the year, a notable rise from 13%.

Mbeki's public opinion ratings shadow those of government, but to varying degrees. In KwaZulu-Natal, only 19% of people think he is doing a good job, with 48% saying he is not performing well. This represents a seven percentage point fall in approval and a six point rise in disapproval since last year.

By contrast, the president has impressed more than 40% of people in North West-Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State and Limpopo-Mpumalanga, with significant gains in all these areas over February 2002. In Gauteng, 31% give him a good rating, up from 20%.

Among Indians, 61% think Mbeki is doing a bad job, along with 45% of whites and 35% of coloureds. But 43% of blacks give the president top marks, with only 29% having the opposite view.

Mbeki's growing band of admirers are principally in lower-income groups, with 43% of people with household incomes of less than R800 a month saying he is doing well, up from 27%.

At the other end of the spectrum, only 15% of those enjoying more than R8 000 a month think he is above average, about the same number as before.

Nikki Quinn, client service and research director of ACNielsen, notes the survey was done prior to the decision on provision of antiretroviral treatment to people with HIV/AIDS and also before the storm over corruption allegations against Deputy President Jacob Zuma, which could have affected attitudes negatively.

Which way these opposing influences will tilt the balance of voting intentions remains to be seen. Edited by Julius Baumann

BUSINESS DAY, Monday, September 29 2003

Very briefly...

THE National Development Agency has begun allocating R22,4m in European Union funding to 25 poverty eradication projects in KwaZulu-Natal. *Sapa*

THE Proudly South African campaign has welcomed the commitment by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) to support the drive to buy local products. *Sapa*

ISOLEZWE, UMSOMBULUKO, SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

Makwande ubumbano esizweni, kusho abaholi

MUSA CERISA

UBUMBANO lweSizwe samaZulu olwakheka kusabusa Inkosi uShaka kaSenzangakhona, lobhekene nezinsalelo ezingase zenze ukuthi lube ntekenteke.

Abaholi abahlanganisa iSilo samaBanda, iNgonyama uGoodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu, uSihlalo weNdlu yabaHoli boMdabu KwaZulu-Natal, Inkosi Mangosuthu Buthelezi noNdumankulu wakulesi sifundazwe, uDkt Lionel Mtshali, bavumelana ngalokhu ezinkulungweni zabo emcimbinini wokugijwa kohlakosi weLembe KwaDukuza, ngoMgqibelo. Lo mcimbi wawunyaka yonke ubuhlanjwe yizinkulungwane zabantu, oNgqongqoshe beminyango

eyehlukene kuHulumeni kazwelonke nowezifundazwe, amalungu asebukhosini base-Uganda naseNigeria, owayengumongameli wezwe, uMnu Nelson Mandela, iPhinti likaMongameli wezwe, uMnu Jacob Zuma, nezicukuthwane zemikhakha ehlukene.

Kihula inkutumo yakhe, uMtshali uthi kufanele kulwa nezinsalelo eziphica isizwe samaZulu abaholi bakusasa.

"Kulesi sifundazwe sibhekene nangqinamba yokubhebbetheka kwegciwane lengculazi eselibhuhise imizi neseliphupe isizwe abaholi bakusasa, abayintsha. Sibhekene nesimo lapho imisebenzi yokuba ngumzali isithwefwe ngogogo abahola impesheni. Kweminye imizi izingane sezithwele



QYETHINI likaMongameli wezwe, uMnu Jacob Zuma, uthathwe ngosikothini oqeda ukwamukela isipho eSizweni samaBanda, iNgonyama uZwelithini kaBhekuzulu (kwesokudla), omkhosini weLembe KwaDukuza. Ophakathi ngoMnu Nelson Mandela kanye nabanye abaholi base-Uganda naseNigeria abehoximaziso lo ngabho

Izithombe: ABE PHUNGULA

imithwalo yokukhulisa abafowabo nodadewabo ngenxa yokufelwa ngabazali," kusho uMtshali.

Uthe enye insalelo yileyo yokungazululwa kodaba lokwabiwa kwamandla nemisebenzi yamakhosi naleyo yoHulumeni baseKhaya. UNdumankulu Mtshali uthi uma le nkcinga ingazazululwa, ingagcina iphazamise umsebenzi

wamakhosi wokubumba nokuphatha isizwe.

Emanela le nkukamo, uButhelezi uthi ubunye bombuso wakwaZulu bulengela engozini yokuhlakazeka. "Ngesikhathi sokubusa kwenkosi uShaka, ubunye bombuso wobukhosi babusekelwe ngabantu ababe nesibopho sokuthatha izinqumo ezingeni elithile

lomphakathi kanye nasezingeni lomndeni. Umbuso wobukhosi bethu waphepha ngoba abantu babehlangene emazingeni omndeni kanye nawomphakathi," kusho uButhelezi.

Uthe lobu bunye bufanele bukhuthazwe.

ISilo sibagxekile labo abafanisa umbuso kaShaka nowobandlululo ngenhloso

yokozama ukuhlakaza imizamo yokubumbana kweSizwe.

"Wusuku loin olusitika iithuba lokuthi sibheke ukuthi sisukaphi futhi siyaphi njengesizwe. Kufanele sibambise lokhu esiziqhenya ngakho, amagugu nomlando wetu ngoba yikho esizodla ngakho uma kufika abayakashi," kusho iSilo samaBanda.

ILANGA, SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2003

NOCKY NTSHINGILA

UMBUTHO wabesifazane be-IFP obizwa nge-IFP Women's Brigade uzo- ba nengqungquthela yonyaka ka-26 ezoba ngoLwesihlanu kusukela ngo- mhlaba ka 10- 12 Okthoba.

Le ngqungquthela kazwelonke izo- ba soLundi eMandleni/Mateng Train- ing Camp, I-IFP Women's Brigade ya- sungulwa ngo-1977. Ngonqaka odlule lolu phiko belugubha i-25th Silver Ju- bilee njengoba lwalugeda iminyaka engu-25 lwasingulwa.

Okuphinde kubhekeke ngale ngqu- ngquthela ngukuthi ngeyokugcina ngaphambi kokhetho ngonyaka ozayo.

Okunye ekubalulekile kule ngqu- ngquthela kuzokhethwa ikomidi eli- sha njengoba leli elikhona seliphele- lwe yisikhathi, kanti ukhetho luzoba ngeSonto.

USihlalo wokuqala kazwelonke ku- IFPPWB kwaba nguNkk. Ella Nxasana owaba negalelo efilalulekile kulo mbutho njengoba wawusanda kubu- njwa. UNkk. Nxasana uke waba yiMe- ya yaseLamontville, wasebenza kahle kulo mkhakha wakhe. Ushone ngo- nyaka odlule. Lesi sikhundla sokuba nguSihlalo wasithatha ngo-1977 wasi- shiya ngo-1980 lapho sekungena uN- kk. Abe Mchunu.

UNkk. Mchunu wayegxile kakhulu ekuqeqesheni nasekuthuthukiseni abantu besifazane ikakhulu emsebe- nzini wezandla nezolimo.

Wayekhulelwa kakhulu ekutheni into encane yindle, wayechaza ukuthi ukuze into ikhule kahle kumele iqale ngobuncane. Wasiphatha lesi sikhun- dla kusukela ngo-1980 kuya ku-1989, kwase kuthatha uNkk. Thandi Bhe- ngu.

UNkk. Bhengu wayenamachinga amahle okungenisa imali kuleli qe- mbu njengoba wayenolwazi oluthe xaxa lwezemali.

Wayenamakhono okugqunguzela abesifazane ukwenza okufungileyo. Ngaleso sikhathi wakwazi ukwenza ukuba abesifazane babe nokuziqhe- nya nesithunzi ikakhulukazi ekuzi- thuthukiseni.

Ukhukhulela-ngoqo wengqungquthela yombuthano wabesifazane be-IFP

UNkk. Bhengu wasiphatha lesi si- khundla kusukela ngo-1989-1992 kwe- se kuthatha uNkk. Faith Gasa.

Njengomuntu owayengutshisa wa- phinda waba nguye kuleli qembu, wa- yenekhono elikhulu lokwakha abahlo- li egejini nangaphandle. Wasipha- tha lesi sikhundla kusukela ngo-1992- 1998 kwase kungena uNkk. Nokukha- nya Ka-Nkosi Shandu.

UNkk. Ka-Nkosi Shandu waba ne- khono eliqinile lokuba ngumholi no- kubamba iqhaza elikhulu kwezepoli- tiki. Ubengumuntu othanda ukuthu- thukisa umphakathi ngezinhlelo ezi- nhlolobonhlolo. Waphatha lesi sikhun- dla kusukela ngo-1998 - 2000 kwase kuthatha uNkk. Abe Mchunu kize ku- be yimanje.

UNkk. Mchunu osalokhu ebakhe- lele ekutheni ukuze into ibe nkulu ku- mele ugale ngobuncane.

Ingqithi yale ngqungquthela ithi "Abesifazane bayinikhonto yengqu- ko empilweni yabantu njengamach- we ezentluluko nokubusa ngentando yeningi".

Kule ngqungquthela kuzobhekwa kakhulu entuthukweni kanti kuzo- khulunywa kakhulu ngesifo sengculu- zi esesingenelwe emakhaya amaningi kanti ambalwa amakhaya angakabhe- kani naso.

Ingqungquthela izoxusa amalunga ayo ukuthi azihlanganise ngokusi- ndisa impilo yabantu ngalolu shu- bhane, njengoba izobe idlulisa umye- lezo othi, "zigcine uze ushade, the- mbeka emuva kokushada ukuze uphe- phe".

NgoMgqibelo kulindeleke ukuba

uMongameli we-IFP uNtwana thu Buthelezi, abule inkulamo uNkk. Abe Mchunu uzokwethula waKwaPhindangene uMangos- yakhe kanti noSihlalo we-IFPPWB, owakhe unyalezo.

ILANGA, SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 2003

MBONGENI KHUZWAYO

UDABA lokuphathwa konhlathathi olulenga phezu kwamakhosi njengezembe, iSilo Samabandla sihle seluphelelwa yisikhathi, kungcono aboMnyango wezoMhlaba kufufumeni oMkhulu bashebe baluhungise.

Sikusho lokhu enkulumweni yaso ethinte imkhakha eminingi emkhosini obungoMqibelo KwaDukuza, kukhunjulwa iSilo saKwaDukuza, uShaka, emuva kokuba sethulwe nguMntwana waKwaPhindangene, uMangosuthu Buthelezi, oxwayise ngokuthi iSilo size sibagaphele labo abashaya sengathi bayasithanda, kodwa kuze kubhekwe izezo zabo ukuthi ziyalukhumbisa yini lolu tuthando.

ISilo sihle kukhona abagxeka ngokuthi sibiza izimbizo zamakhosi kungekho sidingo ngalolu daba lomhlathathi.

"Kodwa ngicela ukuthi kuphuthunye ngalolu daba lomhlathathi. Ela KwaZulu lehlukile kunezinye izizwe. Kodwa kukuwona amaZulu, uma ema, nombuso wawo uyoma, uma esukumisile ubukhosi bawo ukuze aye (yawo)," sisho sanenelwa ngalawo mazwi iSilo.

Sexwayise abagcogcomayo emisebenzini, ngoba bethi abanelisiwe umholo, abaneme, kumbi banethemba lamadlalo aluhlaza, abanye baze bawele izilwandle sathi:

"Nginyanicele ukuba ninikeze umphakathi wakithi nezwe lethu izidingo zabo, ukwenze lokho ngokubambisana, nishiyelane luthi antasu, ukuze sigwenie ukuhamba kuleli kwabantu abanemigondo emihle."

Sengeze ngokuthi, othisha abebefutathiele leli nyakenye, kuthiwa asebebuyile nje kulo nyaka -isibalo sabo singu-90%.

ISilo sexwayise abagcogcomayo

Noma singawabizanga ngamagama amaBandla "anwephena emaphephandabeni", iSilo sihle, akuphele ukunwephana emaphephandabeni kamaBandla, kodwa mawathathe isibonelo szezweni zeqhawe, iLembe, izezo zalo ezakha isizwe samaZulu esesihlonishwa umhlaba wonke.

UProfessor Charles Dlamini oyinhloko yoMnyango wezeMfundo nezamaSiko KwaZulu-Natal, okunguyena obephethe uhlelo, ucele iSilo ukuba sineme "abeFumdisi abambalwa abazizwayo ukuba bayothandaza, bacele impendulo kuNkulunkulu ngokuthi fiyoze litholakale nini ikhambi ngesifo sengculazi. ISilo sihle inselelo enkulu ebhekene nesizwe manje, wukubhekana ngqo nezinselulo ezibangwa yizifo ezinjengengculazi, ufuba, umdlavuza, ushukela ne-high blood pressure, kusetsbenziwe izindlela zesiNtu nezisimanje ukubhekana nalezi zifo osekuze kwaphela izindawo zokungwaba kwezinye izindawo ngenxa yazo.

Umicinbi walo nyaka ubuzinyaziswe nguMngameli wokuqala oMnyama wakuleli, uMnuz Nelson Mandela, iPhini likaMngameli wezwe, uMnuz Jacob Zuma namakhosi aseNigeria nase-Uganda, kukhona noNgqongqoshe abaphuma ku-IFP, ANC ne-DA KwaZulu-Natal namakhosi abephuma e-Eastern Cape naKwaZulu-Natal.

UMnuz Mandela ongowasebukhosini baseMathenjini obudabuka KwaZulu, nobekungokokuqala ukuba abambele lo mcinbi, usho wanganazama ukuthi iSilo esibusayo manje "ngesethu sonke."



UMCINBI wokukhumbula Lembe obekungokokuqala ukwenzeka selokhu kwabuyisana iSilo nomNtwana waPhindangene, ubusiseke ngezindlela ezahlukeni; ubuningi babantu abebewuhambela nokubanjelwa nguMnuz Nelson Mandela obonakala emukelwa nguNdonankulu waKwaZulu-Natal, uDr Lionel Mashali, iPhini likaMngameli wezwe, uMnuz Jacob Zuma, noNgqongqoshe Narend Singh wezeMfundo okunguMnyango wakhe obusingathe zonke izindlela zalo mcinbi. ISITHOMBE NGU-SIPHO DHLOMO

Reality of crime shocks those who do not live with it

LAST month, The Argus ran a high-profile series of articles concerning Cape Town's criminal economy.

"On the Cape Flats," one of the articles reads, "entire communities are (reliant) on gangs... Gangsterism is an economy with a 'basic workforce' of about 120 000 gang members... and the police are... power-

less to intervene... It is no longer a fringe activity perpetuated by outsiders."

The series turned out to be pretty controversial. Everyone I met in Cape Town was talking about it. Many whites said it couldn't possibly be true. Some coloureds took umbrage, saying they did not recognise their communities in the articles.

At the risk of sounding arrogant, I must confess that I found myself won-



**JONNY
STEINBERG**
FREE AGENT

dering on what planet — or, at any rate, in which city — these shocked, offended people live.

Lawbreaking is woven into the fabric of the poorer sections of the Cape Flats, quite obviously so, and it has been for decades.

Nor is it that difficult to grasp why.

Take just one example: the history of the liquor retail

trade in Cape Town. It is well known that in the mid and late 1960s, tens of thousands of people were removed from the inner city and dumped on the Flats.

Less well known is that the new arrivals in the ghettos found all of the Cape Flats serviced by just 20 licensed liquor outlets. Each was confined to regular business hours, and was neither allowed to offer entertainment, nor to extend credit to their clientele.

Funny thing about apartheid — SA's rulers believed that the greatest threat to coloureds was not their banishment from the inner city, but alcohol; it tried to destroy and save people at the same time.

This project to keep the Flats dry was always silly. For one, Western Cape's wine industry was never going to allow it. About 75% of its bottom of the market wine was consumed by Cape coloureds.

Vast quantities of alcohol were sold to the handful of legal outlets, and they, in turn, wholesaled to literally thousands of illegal shebeens. By 1980, there were about 3 000 shebeens on the Cape Flats. Social life became synonymous with these illegal drinking houses.

Vast, oversubscribed and criminalised markets will always use criminal methods to regulate themselves; the most callous and amoral are the ones who prosper. Many shebeens assembled armies of young men to defend their businesses. The nastier ones made life very difficult for neighbourhood residents opting to patro-

nise a rival shebeen. They would also encourage patrons to drink on credit, and then relieve them of their weekly wage packages on Friday afternoons.

As with all criminalised industries, the illegal liquor market began to gather other forms of contraband around it. By the mid-1970s, it was not unusual for neighbourhood shebeens to be selling drugs and stolen goods.

Nor is it surprising that many of those who made it in the contraband markets of the Cape Flats became heroes to scores of young men. To become wealthy and ostentatious despite apartheid and in defiance of its laws was a dizzying spectacle.

Criminals became icons; thousands of youths aspired to be like them. The cleverer, and more imaginative crime bosses began to extend their patronage to the very poor — paying electricity bills, school fees, and even buying groceries.

So crime was woven into daily life, and, indeed, into many young people's aspirations. In the poorer sections of the ghettos, it was often not possible to live a normal life without

patronising a criminal enterprise. For a young man with bleak prospects, it was difficult to imagine a future without at least wondering about crime.

This is just one aspect of a complex history. I relay it, not to blame the problems of the present on the past, nor still to claim acquisitive and violent men are heroes. Rather, I am expressing wonder about how so many Capetonians understand their city.

The term "organised crime," and especially, "transnational organised crime," is a comforting one. It conjures an image of shady deals somewhere away from the flesh of society — something the Scorpions can deal with. So too, the term "gangs" — bands of thugs who can be rounded up and thrown in jail.

A series of newspaper articles that speaks simple truths — that crime emanates from the very structure of our world, that it is bound up with ordinary people and the way they have had to live their lives — seems too uncomfortable to imbibe.

■ Steinberg is a freelance writer.

THE WITNESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

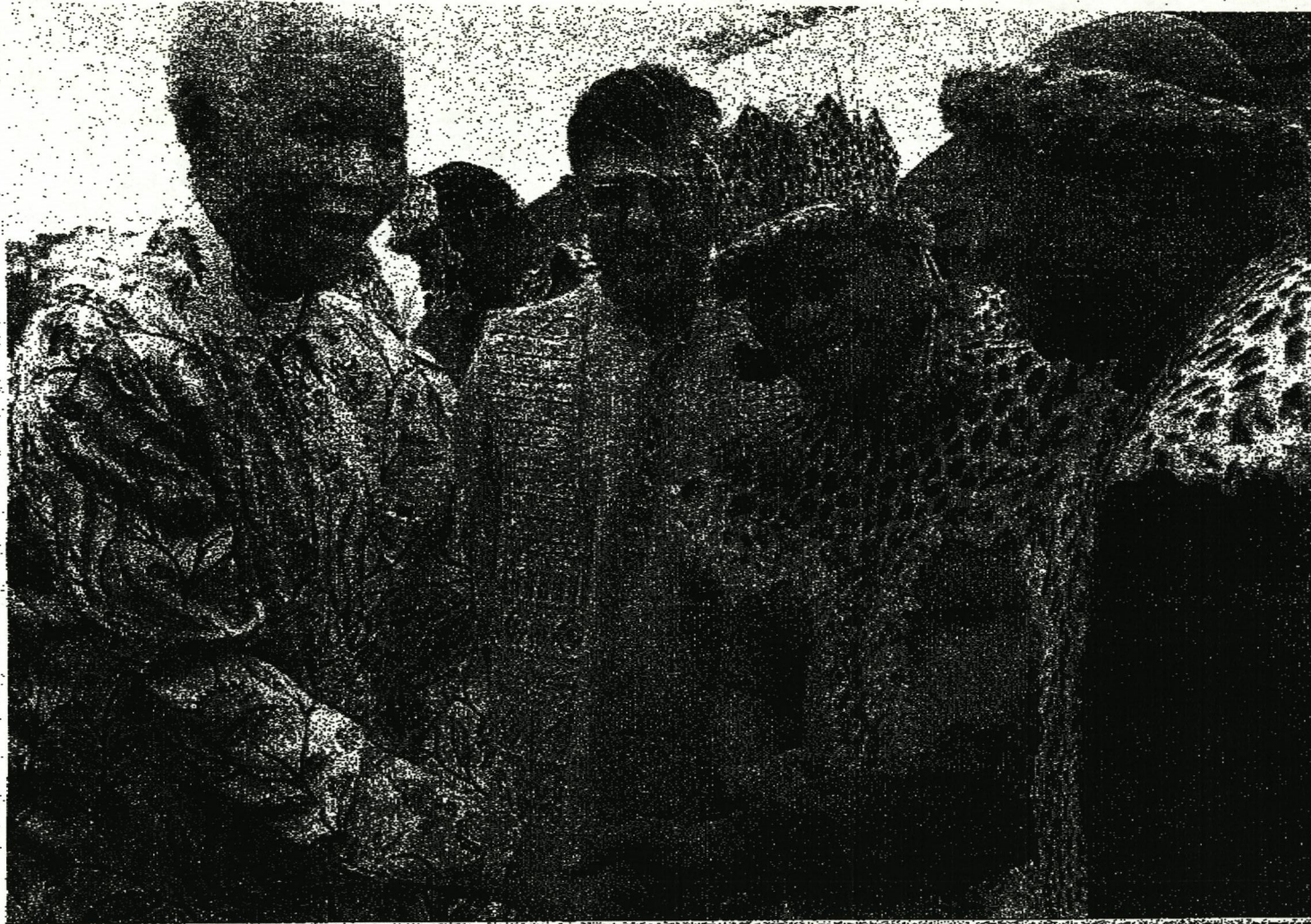


Photo: SUPPLIED

A warm welcome

Former President Nelson Mandela is welcomed by KZN Premier Lionel Mtshali at the King Shaka Day celebrations in Stanger at the weekend. Looking on are Education MEC Narend Singh and Deputy President Jacob Zuma.

THE WITNESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

PMB garden show a big success

THE visitor count at the 2003 Garden and Leisure Show was 24 595, up from 22 863 at last year's event.

RAS general manager Terry Strachan said inclement weather that settled in yesterday afternoon will have affected the final count.

"Shows of this sort are vulnerable to weather changes, but we're nevertheless satisfied with the public support for the show," he said.

The standard of exhibitions at this year's show elicited praise from Dr Charles Oakely, a keynote speaker at the concurrent Orchid Show and Congress, who also delivered the guest address at the event's opening.

According to Oakely, a member of the Royal Horticultural Society, at least four displays would have garnered gold at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Oakely did not identify which of the displays he thought worthy of a gold medal at the world's premier horticultural event, but these are likely to include the entry by the Msunduzi Municipality Parks and Recreation Department that scooped the accolade for the best stand at the show.

The competition was judged in various categories: key note gardens (large horticultural), small horticultural, commercial horticulture, commercial displays, and leisure displays.