

To: Nario

## ANC is ruling like the Nats, says TRC man

JUSTICE MALALA: New York

THE ANC is running South Africa in a manner similar to the way the National Party ran the country, and many of the ANC's programmes are a joke, former truth commission investigative head and apartheid reparations lawyer Dumisa Ntsebeza said this week.

Ntsebeza, who is concluding a year's tenure as a visiting professor of political science and law at the University of Connecticut in the US, blasted the ANC government's housing programme, its scrapping of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, its failure to support victims of apartheid in their reparations claims and its R60-billion arms deal.

Ntsebeza's remarks came on the eve of the ANC conference to be held in Stellenbosch this week, where the future direction of the party is to be hammered out.

"If you look at the way the ANC is doing things and the way the NP was doing things, they are brethren," Ntsebeza said.

He suggested the ANC was lurching towards a comfortable relationship with the New National Party, its former sworn enemy, because its leaders seemed to be heavily influenced by former NP intellectual luminaries.

"In his state-of-the-nation address last year the President [Thabo Mbeki] relied exclusively on research conducted by

Professor Willie Esterhuysen, a prominent Broederbond and one of the modernisers [of the NP]. Now they are going to hold our [the ANC's] conference in Stellenbosch," he said.

"The RDP is a swearword today but that was the programme that was aimed at putting more of the underprivileged into schools and into housing ...

"We are building houses but what houses are those? We used to talk about the apartheid matchboxes, but now the apartheid people must be saying that whatever they were, at least they were houses that were durable."

He said the ANC's move to close down some institutions of higher learning was one of the biggest jokes of modern times. "In South Africa we don't need fewer universities, we need more."

Ntsebeza criticised the arms deal, which has resulted in a spate of bribery scandals, implicating the late Defence Minister Joe Modise, Deputy President Jacob Zuma and former ANC Chief Whip Tony Yengeni. He said the deal was particularly disturbing as South Africa was living through an era of relative peace.

Ntsebeza said the discord between the ANC and its alliance partners, Cosatu and the SA Communist Party, had its roots in the fact that "the policies are not coming right".

Ntsebeza, who is also leading an attempt by apartheid victims to get reparations from US and Swiss multinationals for their aiding of apartheid, said he was not surprised that ANC and NNP leaders had condemned his law suit.

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From: Kaos