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mf ATALWHâ\200\231NESS THURSDAY, JULY-L

AP 2002 - T-U

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Hot rhetoric from IFP

THE article in the Sunday Times of June 30 titled
â\200\234IFP wonâ\200\231t play second fiddle in KwaZulu-Natalâ\200\235 is
disappointing to most people of KwaZulu-Natal and
South Africa, especially if pronounced by one of the
respected political organisations in the province.

Moreover, the announcement by respected and
" recently elected IFP KZN chairperson, Musa Zondi,

that, â\200\234the peace process itself will be in jeopardy as
a result of this selfish act by the ANCâ\200\235, is frustrat-

ing, embarrassing and displays naivety within the

political arena.

All those people who write and tell the worldâ\200\230

about peace being endangered in KwaZulu-Natal,
such as Musa Zondi and Bantu Holomisa, are hld-
ing the truth. They must tell us who is preparing to
jeopardise..- the peace, who is preparing for vio-
lence, who will fund these activities and where the
meetings are taking. place in which these i issues are
discussed.

It is strange that the IFP has decided not to con-
structively participate in.the ANC-led government
in KwaZulu-Natal, yet the ANC has and is still serv-

ing in an IFP-led government in the province. - : .

SIPHIWE GWALA

Pietermaritzburg

* Letter shortened . . o

-at all levels, following the DA-NNP and ANC-

IFP divorces, and the ANC-NNP marriage, the
political pundits are already predicting a DA-IFP
coalition, if not a merger. As a longstanding
admirer of DP and DA policies and principles, I
hereby caution the DA against any such incompati-

ble union. Any DA-IFP get-together will be just as short-lived and disastrous as the now defunct DP-

â\200\234allllanceâ\200\235

Yes, Tony Leon and Roger Burrows, oxl and water never mix.

Of course, there is no harm in pragmatlc co-operation with any party that supports DA thinking on any issue but mergers and alliances are another kettle of fish. The DA is a national organisation with its support and membership cutting across all | ethnic barriers, and is a principled party respecting transparency and liberal values. In contrast, the IFP is a dictatorial body under the supreme command of Dr M. G. Buthelezi, wedded to Zulu â\200\230royalty, traditional powers, Zulu tnbalxsm and conĩ-\201ned to KwaZulu-Natal only.

There are other differences, too :

INBA RABINDRAN PERUMAL iF
Pietermaritzburg

IN view of â\200\230the current fluid state of our politics

T aadit] s

2002 11:06

[NKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

- Fresh start
for Africa

' THE formal launch of the African Union. amid

such pomp and circumstance in Durban this
week 15 undoubtedly a significant event, The
Organisation of African Unity, born in the era of
decolonisation, has gone and Africa has changed
gear. Forty of the continent's 53 presidents and mon-
archs attended as President Thabo Mbeki, the
union's inaugural chairman, declared: "Let us pro-
claim to the world that this is a continent of democ-
racy and good governance."
Yet amid such noble commitments, the impromptu
speech by Libyan maverick Muammar Gaddafi, not

exactly himself renowned as a model of democratic
propriety, struck a discordant note with its appeal to .
" Mbeki and ex-president Nelson Mandela to "forgive

your brother Mugabe
ill-conceived as his mtewennan was, in it put

a finger on a potential landmine on the promised

high road ahead. Whereas the OAU was premised on
the principle of non-intervention in the domestic

affairs of member states, the AU envisages peer .

review. The new policy was officially endorsed by

the heads of state in their declaration at the conclu-
sion of the AU's inaugural session. But a vague col-

lective, endorsement is not, the same. &3 accepting
inspection of one's government by one's peers.
There has been no signing ceremony for those coun-
tries that agree to peer reviews lest leaders who
refuse might be embarrassed, and nothing to make
subjection to peer review any more than voluntary.
Clearly, then; the peer review mechanism has got no

teeth. And if it doesn't work, what chance is there

that the AU, for all its noble rhetoric and high-

-sounding principles, will appear to the outside world

as any more than another emperor who has got no
clothes? - -

Mbeki's inaugural speech suggested that he plans
a more forceful role for South Africa in African
affairs, Let us hope and pray that he is more force-
ful. Mugabe remains his first challenge as a BBC
World Service television juxtaposition between

ruination in Zimbabwe and pomp and ceremony in .
Durban reminded viewers world-wide. Mugabe has

stolen an election, overturned the rule of law and

produced an eminently predictable famine by making farming a criminal offence, displacing 800 000 farm workers and 3 000 farmers.

South Africa's so-called quiet diplomacy exercised up until now has been a dismal failure. If nothing is done soon, if his peers do not seize this nettle and review Mugabe's policies and their consequences, whether he likes it or not, then surely the outside world will dismiss Africa as utterly irredeemable.

No.6592

P. 9/30

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" Pongola valley residents prepare for

LIFE for drought-stricken Pongola
River communities will be easier
when the Department of Water Affairs

(DWAF) releases 150 million cubic. -

litres of water from the Pongola Dam.
However, the controlled flood has
drawn criticism from conservationists
who claim it could destroy sensitive
and unique floodplain flora and fauna,
. impact on migratory bird species and
lead to massive soil erosion. !
Moreover, residents in the arid

Makhathini Flats have questioned why

the Shemula Water Scheme, a 1995
. Presidential Lead Project to install

pipelined water, has not yet materialised.

They said the flood is a short-term

THE NATAL WITNESS, THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2002

measure that does not address the

long-term lack of potable water.

Concerns have been raised that the -
-cotton industry will use the sudden
water increase to plant cotton. Should
-this happen, DWAF will be unable to

release more water later for fear of

wiping out newly planted cotton fields. -

Fifty cubic metres a second will be

released tomorrow, rising to 800 cubic -
metres per second by Sunday, then

reduced to 10 cubic metres by Mon-
day. In all 153 million cubic litres will

be released and the Pongola Dam level -
. will fall from 96% full to 89%. 1

Natal University's Donovan Kotze
warned that it could affect flood-dependent fish

species could be affected by unseasonal
flooding. There are around 90
species on the floodplain, which are
home to flood-dependent fish. These
require feeding when they are breeding

in summer months, not winter. - -
It is a sentiment echoed by KZN
Ezemvelo/Wildlife's Dr Robert Kyle .

who said winter flooding affects
migratory birds and increases erosion.

Winter flooding is unnatural. It is the old debate between the agriculturists who want water in winter and the environmentalists who don't. - -

DWAF's KZN regional director, Joe Hansmann, acknowledged that the

timing is wrong, but said people are

winter flood

.desperate for water. This should have

happened last summer but the Mozambique government indicated that they did not need more water after their own flooding. We would

" rather delay until October but the lack

of late summer rains this year has made the situation desperate. Pongola Flood Plain Water Commit-

. tee member Zeph Nyathi asked why

grandmothers have to walk 20 kms to fetch water. Livestock is dying. We are patient but enough is enough. KZN Environmental Affairs MEC Narend Singh told the Witness that he

will look into the matter if the commu--

nity faxes their grievances to him.

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06/01

1. Jul. 2002 11:05 INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY
' THE NATAL WITNESS, THURSDAY, JUL7 11, 2002] e

â\200\230Against alliance

IN-view of the current fluid state of our politics

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R â\200\230 Â¢ SIPHIWE GWALA
Pietermaritzburg

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THE NATAL WITNESS, THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2002

[NKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

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"~

* Floor-crossing

UCH has appeared on the news and the pages
Mof- The Natal WitnÃ©ss over the last couple of
weeks about the floor-crossing legislation but
the only words of wisdom I saw appeared in the July 9

. editorial.

I understand it took around 100 000 votes to send
Tim Jeebodh and Belinda Scott to provincial parlia-
ment, One of those votes was mine. They now have
decided that, in fact, I meant to vote for the ANC.
How .dare they preÃ©sume that I made a mistake? I do
not believe in the policies of the ANC, nor did I err.

_Although. I donâ\200\231t count for much, just being one -~

- vote, I personally hope that the UDM win their case

and allow my vote to be correctly represented in the

provincial parliament. o .

. No politician has the right to interfere with my vote

without consulting me first. =~ . . i

: [= Â© GAIL GROSE
Â© . Hilten

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1. Jul. 2002 11:05 - INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

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No.6592

THE NATAL WITNESS, THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2002

AUIGunchen ds on
note of optimism

up the inaugural summit of
the new African Union yes-

: Q FRICAN leaders wrapped

- terday, promising to combine:

their strengths and expose weak-

nesses in a bid to end misery on

the continent. .~ . :

They laid to rest the Organisa-
tion of African Unity â\200\224 which
_was widely regarded as ineffec-
tive - and brought to life the AU
with the power to tackle conflict
and poverty head-on. ~ . - |
er describing the advent of
the AU earlier as a giant step for
the continent, South Africaâ\200\231s

. President Thabo Mbeki told the -
" . closing meeting in Durban: â\200\234The

a strong person.â\200\235 " - ot
" There 13 a new way of doin

small baby will grow and become

things, he later told reporters in -

his eapacity as AU chairman.
Evidence of this is: the New

â\200\234Freedom Front praises Mbeki -
CAPE TOWN â\200\224 President Thabo. | '
Mbeki must be congratulated on-

his leadership during the forma-

tion of the African Union, Free-

dom Front leader Dr Pieter Mul-.

der said yesterday. : :

However, there are hurdles in
. the way of the AUâ\200\231s success,
The AU should have followed
the EU and started. with â\200\234only the
top African statesâ\200\235. .
â\200\234Other states could then aspire

Partnership for Africaâ\200\231s Develop-
ment (Nepad) and the AUâ\200\231s
endorsement .of -a Peace and

Security Council with the authority to help stem war, conflict and other human rights abuses.

- " This council is a major. depdĩ¬\201-

ture from the old style of the OAU, which attached overriding importance to sovereignty and non-interference. - :

â\200\234The union, in certain

instances, can intervene in,vari-

ous countries if various things go

wx;gug. That is very new,â\200\235 Mbeki

said.) "

Nepad addresses the issues of

political and economic gover-

â\200\230nance by setting. standards by

which Africans can judge themselves, Mbeki said, - '

The economic recovery plan is

a key programme of the AU.

. = It provides fo; a development

(to joining],â\200\235 Mulder said.

- *Mbekiâ\200\231's ideals cannot be

faulted: â\200\234His struggle will â\200\230be to sell them to older leaders.â\200\235 - - .

Mulder said the world will not be easily convinced that. Robert Mugabe and Muammar Gaddafi believe in these ideals, -

â\200\234With. the old leaders, the risk

is that all their political baggage will be draped round the neck of

the AU,â\200\235 Mulder said. â\200\224 Sapa.

pamiership between . Africa and'

richer countries, with a condition

â\200\230that participating countries on

the continent practise good gov-

The plan includes a voluntary

" peer review mechanism that .

allows for sanctions against countriÃ©s that fail to adhere to Nepad governance standards. '

- ' Nigeria's â\200\230President Olusegun

: Obasanjo. does not foresee any

problems with -the voluntary nature of peer reviewing, or that countries would reject criticism from other states, i

" â\200\234You are in a club and if that club says these areâ\200\231the rules of the club of the game, you have to

- obey it.â\200\235

Obasanjo said the review mechanism i like a doctorâ\200\231s check-itp, It would not look good if a country does not have.a doctoratall.â\200\235 g :

-Qbasanjo, along " with - Mbeki, Senegalâ\200\231s President Abdoulaye Wade and Algeriaâ\200\231s Abdelaziz Bouteflika, are the chief architects of Nepad, , 4

. Closing the inaugural meeting yesterday, -Mbeki said expecta-

-tions of the AU and Nepad are Chigh. - '

"People expect the changes to which we are committed. The rest of the world also waits hopefully to see us do the things we want to do,â\200\235 Mbeki said.

: Â©. â\200\224Sapa..

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INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

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SOWETAN Thursday July 11 2002

No.6592 12/30

For a better future

HE 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de

Taneiro, Brazil, which laid the founda-

tion for the coming World Summit on

Sustainable Development in Johannes-

burg next month, helped clarify some of the
world's complex problems. .

The 50 000 delegates, including 103 heads of
state and governments from across the world,
emerged from the Rio summit with a common
understanding that environmental conservation
and economic and social development are not
incompatible.

The Agenda 21 document shows that human
wellbeing depends on the favourable interaction
between environmental health, economic devel-
opment and quality of life - all, when integrated,
define the term "sustainable development". .

Though it is not a convention nor legally
binding, Agenda 21 places a strong moral oblig-
ation on all governments to implement it, and
calls for the strengthening of all role-players in -
achieving sustainable development.

The 65 000 delegates expected to attend the
summit in Johannesburg from August 26 to Sep-
tember 4 will, among other things, review some

of the social issues at the root of many environ-
mental challenges.
. . These include poverty, economic disparities
and human, health.

However, there is debate in environmental
circles about whether the cause of the environ-
ment itself has been significantly advanced
since Rio. .
The director of the International Union for

the Conservation of Nature-South Africa

(IUCN-SA), Salim Fakir, believes the Rio summit was important because "if we didn't have it, it would have been worse".

That's the positive of it. The negative is that not much has been done to advance the cause of the environment.

In South Africa there have been a lot of changes within the context of Agenda 21, but more still has to be done" says Fakir

But Endangered Wildlife Trust director John .

Ledger remains convinced that Agenda 21 is a shopping list for things that the nations of the world were supposed to do. -

The human population has rocketed, and to deliver all the things contained in Agenda 21 -

appears impossible. This, coupled with the

. growth of rich nations; has put pressure on the -

environment," says Ledger.

"But he agrees that South Africa has fared much better than other parts of Africa, where political instability remains an obstacle in advancing the cause of the environment to the benefit of the people.

In Mozambique, says Ledger, there is great opportunity to do things, because stability has been established after many years of civil war,

The same does not apply in other countries

The World Summit on Sustainable Development is the best chance in a generation to deal with global environmental challenges, writes environmental

reporter Russel Molefe

such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe and many other African countries

where environmental terms are still being dictated

by people who are hungry. .

Where there is political instability, the environment is always at the bottom of the agenda, says Ledger.

It may be for this reason that Kingsley Amaoko, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, highlighted the second wasting away of HIV.

Aids during the inaugural summit of the African :

Union in Durban this week.

- Former time immemorial humankind has managed to pass down an environment.

â\200\230from one genera-
* tion to the next that "

has had promise for

-the future,

continue, our inheritors will
receive a markedly WOISC envi-

He pointed to the New Pâ\200\231a.rmer-,
ship â\200\230for Africaâ\200\231s Development's
committee's

Political, Econotmic and Corpo-
tant becatis â\200\234our stakes override

Though -South Africa Â° has
made great strides in advancing
ftion and public awareness â\200\224 environmental
injustices are still the biggest challenge.
to dangerous cheraicals â\200\234seems to be â\200\230the price
we pay for dewelopmem but the hazards can be
greenhouse gas cmissions in Southâ\200\231 Africa, as
measured per capita, compare with those-of devel-

. â\200\234If present trends ;
ronment â\200\230and - much worse
prospects.â\200\235. warned Amaoko, -
-

heads of state and government :
impletmentation .
â\200\234Declaration on Demoeracy, .
rate Governanceâ\200\235 as dll-impor-
those of others". -
the cayse 'of the environment â\200\224 - o
especially in biodiversity, planning, coordina~

The Depurment of Eny Lvonmental Affairs
and Tourism agrees that pollution and Eexposure
kept 10 a minimum if managed comrectlyâ\200\235.

It alsop agrees that carbon dioxide and othÃ©r
oped countries, and the country could still be hit
hard by the resulant climate change.

At least South Africa has now acceded lo theâ\200\231

Kyoto Proiolcol â\200\224 one of the b) produc\s fâ\200\230owmsz

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_inagenerationâ\204ç i

Kyoto requites industrialised countries lo
reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. South
Africa is the 52nd country to mufy the protocol,
agreed to in Japan in 1997.

But in many cases, the cnvironmentsl jnjus-

tices faced by people in Afiica are not of their own

making. They can beÃ© traced back to the unwilling-

_pess by highly industrialised nations to abide by

conventions, â\200\230

The floods that devastated Mozambnquc two

_years ago were blamed by scientists, though not

all, on climate chianges induced by greenhouse gas emissions.

This may be one of the reasons Amacko

spoke of the need for rich nations â\200\230to fund

acceJerated implementation of the key

" agreements reached inâ\200\231the

past on climate, deser-

tification and btodx-

versity.

2 â\200\234The rich couniries

5 are main polluters and the

~ main cause of global Cclimate

change. They must bc held -to

â\200\234account. { believe we need commit:

ment from key governments to back

~ the Kyoto' Protoco] and other vital

| - agreCments,â\200\235 Amacko said.

, ; In Bali, hidonesia, where the final.

UN prepatory meeting for the

Johannesburg summit was held,

some uon-governmental - organisu-

tions branded the United Statcs,

Canada and other developed coun-

: : tnmtheâ\200\234axxs of cnvironmental evilâ\200\235

' " for refusing to ratify Kyoto.

But Ledger this week expressed

unhappiness with the â\200\234iosulting terms used to

descrbe couptries that we disagrec with, Xt's just

ot in the interest of anyone if the cause of the

environmeit is W be adyancedâ\200\235.

The words may be inappropriate but devel-

oped countrics should nat be dlloved to build their

cconomies at the expense of the environmental

and social conditions of the poor natons.

The summit in Johannesburg, among mdny

other issues, will iy to find a solution that puts the

. environment on an equal footing with economic

and social development.

As British prime rojnister Tony Blair put it car-

lier, the Johann â\200\234wieg summik is the â\200\234best chunce

al with global enviroRanental

chalieniges.

No.6592 P. 11/30

o 1106 INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY
- Jul. 2002 1 rloP(:a anu lears - -
about HIV-Aids -

WENTY years after the discovery
of Aids, the fight against the
epidemic is far from over.
Sufferers, particularly those in
Africa, look at the battle with mixed
feelings of hope and fear. :
The fact that after 20 years there is
still no cure is n itself reason enotigh for .

despondency. It also begs the question; -

had Aids been a rich manâ\200\231s disease ,
would there still be no cure? Probably
not, :

Even if a cure were found, it would .
not be affordable to those who
desperately need it in the POOr countries.

There is a glimmer of hope, though,
that a vaccine - not a cure â\200\224 will be . -
foand within five years, Hopefully this

- Will be affordable to all. .
- Still, a vaccine would merely help
-"maxaâ\200\230m&ei\202:eei\202â\200\231lectsbrothe_;; =
preventative methods' Siich as condoms
and abstinence from sex, , :
The worst disservice African

governments, including ours, can do now

is to repeat past mistakes, Having failed
. for a range of reasons to act early

- enough against the disease, our guard

- shiould not be lowered, Aids awareness .

campaigns should be stepped up. .
~ After all, the disease i\$ proving to be .

Worse than war itself. New infections in
the US are fuelling fears where theâ\200\231

. disease was thought to be op the retreat.
Similar fears are bÃ©ing expressed about
Uganda - hitherto an African success
story in the anti-Aids war, ' :

Worse, hopes that the disease will | .
level off in the worst-affected regions are
atrisk of being dashed.

. Asif this is not enough, those -~ -
following reports from the 14th
International Aids conference in.

" Barcelona, Spain, have been told another

depressing piece of news about the disease: it is becoming more resistant to .half of the anti-Aids drugs, which have - alleviated Sufferersâ\200\235pain (not cured them ,' of the disease).

~ Apart from being hideously expensive,

â\200\234some of these drugs require a . ' sophisticated infrastructure to - . administer and can, at times, have disastrous side-effects. ~

+ So, if it is this bad, what should - sufferers do? Nothing, really, other than staying positive. They must not give in to- hopelessness. Even the poor can afford this, particularly with caring =~ .- governments ruling them.

- 'But none of this means that governments should refuse treatment to

' those who want (or need) it ~ regardless- of how dangerous the side-effects can be.

Also, none of this should absolve rich countries and pharmaceutical companies

from the moral responsibility of funding.

and expediting the search for a vaccine

that will be affordable to all. -

.. Fresh hopes are being raised about new anti-Aids drugs that can stop the

diseaseâ\200\231s spread. While this might take years to arrive, particularly in Africa, all-

of us bear a moral responsibility to

- Remain vigilant against this enemy.

â\202\00Â¢ 1T AInr Aepsuny NY13IMOSs

O Thursday, July 11, 2002 |

Ecl

chcup at AU
launch after
Gaddaffl tirade

â\200\231 â\200\230DURBAN â\200\224â\200\234In a. far from
" smooth launch, Africaâ\200\231s new

political union rallied after

â\200\234Libyaâ\200\231s maverick leader Muam-

mar Gaddaffi grabbed centre
stage with a trademark anti-
Western outburst to begin the
task of healing a continent rav-

. aged by war and poverty. -
The African Union- ig deter-

mined not' to fall prey to -the

infighting and financial woes
that plagued its predecessor. -
â\200\234The time has come for Africa

to take her rightful place in

global affairs,â\200\235 â\200\230President Thabo
Mbeki said on TueÃsday at the
launch of the African Union, stic-

cessor body to the long ineffec- .
tual Organisation of Africanâ\200\231
Unity. Mbeki is chairman of. the

AU for its first year. s
There was virtually no mention

Â@_in keynote speeches of the Aids
â\200\230pandemic ravaging the conti-

ment, the food crisis: gripping
sduthem Africa or the political
tension in Zimbabwe.

Mbeki called a. SPGCJ.al or.
Yextraordinaryâ\200\235 AU summit after
Gaddaffi called for radical.

amendments to the AUâ\200\231s found-
ing charter to be held before the

AUâ\200\231s next. planned summlt inâ\200\231

Mozambique in a year's time.

.â\200\234That has been sorted out. It

will be held within six months,"
Mbekiâ\200\231s spokesmen said. .

But a summit communique on
Tuesday night by the OAU/AU

secretariat made no mention of

" the meeting. -

Gaddafi wants Africa to be a

single state with one army and believes the serving AU chairman, Mbeki, should move to the body's headquarters in Ethiopia. His ideas are likely to be

ridiculed in Western capitals.

It is clear they are way off the

path if they are thinking of

indulging in this kind of pie-in-the-sky," said William Zartman,

an African specialist at Johns Hopkins University in the U.S.

4] think the Africans are romping down the path to ludicrous-

-ness and undermining the serious-

attention that is being given by the (President George W.) Bush administration to political and economic reform in Africa. The AU upheld an controversial OAU policy on Madagascar,

" refusing to recognise millionaire -

businessman Marc Ravalomanana as president, saying his

administration took power unconstitutionally and calling for fresh elections.

Ex-president Chhabir Ratsiraka,

now in Paris, had held power for

more than two decades on the

island of 16 million people. Ratsiraka fled to France last week " after the U.S., France, Germany and China announced they would

work with Ravalomanana. At their meetings on Monday, the heads of state approved the

creation of a Peace and Security Council that will have greater

powers to tackle conflicts than its predecessor in the OAU.

. Top-level talks continued into the early hours yesterday to try

. to resolve one of Africa's worst

conflicts. Rwandan President
Paul Kagame and. Congolese
President Joseph. Kabila gath-

- ered at talks chaired by UN Sec-

retary General Kofi Annan and

- in the presence of Mbeki and his

deputy J: acob Zuma. -

One Congolese official - said
Annan urged them to show some
flexibility if they want to resolve
the conflict. â\200\224 Reuters.

AN C-IFP marriage turns sour

them equal seats in the leg:slamre. i

APERHAPS it is time
for the African Na-
tional Congress
{ANC}) and the In-
katha Freedom Par-
ty (IFP) to seek a di-
vorce, which will be
welcome as long as
it is not at the ex-

pense of the people MOLILBLL

of KwaZulu-Natal
who have enjoyed
relative peace of late after enduring
years of violence.
Despite what the leaders are try-
'ing to poriray, it is o longer a ques-

tion of whether the tentative relaâ\200\224 !

tonship will end but when.

This should come as no surprise
because there has been no love lost
between the two former adversaries
since they began sharing a bed in
1999. Disagreements fuelled by
deep-seated mistrust have driven
the relationship to the cliffâ\200\231's edge. .

The decision on who will govern
the province will be decided by the
outcome of the legal challenge to
the defection laws made by the Un-
ited Democratic Movement (UDM).

The ANC appears determined to

ditch the IFP and jump into bedâ\200\231

with the New National Party. The
NNP'â\200\231s support, coupled with that of
the Minority Front and a few defec-
tors lured from the IFR, Democratic
Alliance {DA} and UDM, will give it

USINESS DAY Thursday, July 11 2602

"the p!enuetshlp of

other hand, is trying
to fight this off by
wooing the DA, with
which it has a_co-
* operation = agree-
[HNBEF ment at local gov-

.s the quicksand that
characterises SA's
political landscape.

Many will argue it is premanue

to speak of an end to the IFP and ANC co-operation. But the reality is

- that the two organisations are not -seeing eye to eye in KwaZulu-Natal, -

which is bad for the quality of governance in the province,
From the beginning theirs was a

marriage of convenience, forced on -

them after KwaZulu-Natal failed to chose an outright -winner in SA's

second democratic elections in-

1999: the IFP won 40,45% of support to the ANC's 39,77%.

. Their agreeing to co-operate was

hailed because it heralded much-

needed peace, and active steps were agreed to consolidate the uneasy relationship. These included a joint address to IFP and ANC supporters by the parties' presidents.

At provincial level, the parties were to draft a constitution, which would, among other things, give

ernment level. Such: -

Leaders were also expected to tone down emotive rhetoric. Only a few of these steps, including token

appearances at each other's national-

al conferences, appear to have been carried out, even partially, -

ANC leader Thabo Mbeki and. his IFP counterpart Mangosuthu Buthe

thelezi went to the East Rand and -

addressed the parties' supporters, spreading the message of peace.

The ritual was not undertaken with -

the same zest in KwaZulu-Natal, where it was needed most.]
Despite increasing differences

and tensions among provincial

leaders, there has not been a return to violence in the province. Instead, KwaZulu-Natal's politics appear to

have come of age and public dis-

agreement among leaders has not

resulted in loss of life, which was not

soon in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
'Duke. for example; the hotly dis-

. puted issue of the province's dual
* capitals, - Maritzburg and Ulundi.
The IFP lost the battle for the leg-
islative seat of KwaZulu-Natal to the -

ANC's choice of Maritzburg without
loss of life. This is despite the pal-
pable tension this issue had gener-
ated in the province,

There should be no denying that
things are not the same in KwaZulu-
Natal as they have been. in the re-

. centpast.

* The national leaderships of the

-ANC and the IFP enjoy a relatively

better and cordial relationship at
national level than is the case in the
province, and have been streaming

- 10 the province in an attempt to

soothe relations. .

The measures by the parties' na-
tional leaders have managed only to
paper over the widening cracks be-

cause the provincial leaders are still :

having ignored other. -
The ANC accused the IFP recent-

ly of abusing public facilities for par-

ty-political activities, a claim the IFP

-dismissed as 'fantastical nonsense',
It said its leader, Buthelezi, was one

of only two ministers paying rent for
their homes in Cape Town.

While the coalition has brought
peace, accountability issues have
escaped the watchful eye of the
public, Errant behaviour by MECs
and public officials has attracted lit-
tle attention, a corollary feature of
rule by a coalition government.

The prospect of one of the two
parties sitting as the official oppo-
sition promises better things be-
cause KwaZulu-Natal needs a strong
government and an equally strong
opposition. If this were to suc-
cessfully, without resorting to vio-
lence, the province will have come a
long way from a past of conflict:

W Molebeledi is Political Fditor.

BLINNY

(699" ON ALÂ¥Yd WOO33Y4 VHLYIN] â\202¬111 Â¢00Â¢

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06/8Â¢

Iries Botha

COMMERCIAL. farmers
in Zimbabwe have been
forbidden to farm on

pain of incarceration,
NJ states the latest direc-
of President Robert Mugabe.
The warning is tantamount to
ling a starvation directive fo the
swulation since commercial agri-
ural production, and not subsis-
ce farming, feeds the people.
A Democratic Alliance (DA) del-
tion to Zimbabwe led by Tony
n learnt that this situation has
firmed the worst fears of an
rending catastrophe.
The United Nations (UN) World

Â»d Programme office in Harare'

ied that it would be impossible to
ggregate the crisis. It is estimated
t, in Zimbabwe alone, between
aillion and 6-million people will
fex starvation during the next six
rine months.

An estimated 1,8-million tons of

eal, representing a 75% food gap,
L have to be imported.

This food gap â\200\224 the difference
'ween .miniroum nutritional re-
irernents and what is available â\200\224
he biggest in recent world history.

o years ago in Ethiopia the gap '

samere 10% by comparison. .
Dan .Maluleke, DA spokesman
land affairs, marvelled at
igabeâ\200\231s effrontery in ing for
yd aid abroad while forbidding
:production of food. .
It is generally believed drought is
2 cause of the crisis, but this i
nply not the case. Droughts are
demic to southern Africa, have

lg since been allowed for by re-
mal agricultural practices and -

ve never caused regional famine.

The present human tragedy is
an-made through the self-inflict-
folly of the Zimbabwean regime
at has turned a regional bread-
ket into a begging bowl!.

â\200\230The UN office in Harare was
yened in 1997 as a procurement
ntre for food distribution elsev

herc. As a result of the policy of
influx (PF) this has now been turned
into the largest food aid centre in
Yica, if not in the world.

John Makumbe of Transparency
International describes the land
policy as the 'repeasantisation' of
Zimbabwean society. It was initiated

06/6/84

Zimbabwe's land policy
sure recipe for famine

Massive humanitarian aid is needed as agriculture withers under Mugabe

FOOD SECURITY IN ZIMBABWE

The realities of this
century are very different

from the past. Just since
independence in 1980 the
population of Zimbabwe
has doubled. Subsistence
production can no longer
feed the population. As

in a bid to regain flagging popular
support while simultaneously re-
moving one of the economic sup-
port bases of popular opposition.
The move displays a callous dis-

regard for the people at best complete igno-
rance of the disastrous conse-

quences for food security.
The realities of this century are

very different from the past. Just
since independence in 1980 the

population of Zimbabwe has dou-
bled. Subsistence production can
no longer feed the population. Us-
banised society needs commercial
production for its nutritional needs.
The few settlers represented by
well-off political insiders and so-
called war veterans simply do not
possess the necessary skills to farm,
as our visit dramatically revealed.
The fertile Mazoe Valley not far from,
Harare is a snapshot of the larger
picture in Zimbabwe. ~ . As
In just two short years this re-

markable breadbasket has been
(669" ON ')

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turned into a begging bowl, Most of -
the infrastructure such as dams,

silos, orchards and horticultural units developed since independence in 1980, and many farms acquired since then, have been con-

fiscated without compensation.

Farms have been occupied by the likes of the governor of the

province, the mayor of Bindura, the

wife of the chief of the army and the Zimbabwe ambassador to the UN. Even farmers' household goods

" are included in this theft. The stolen implements, fertiliser, seed and fuel - have been utilised to plant some wheat. The yield from this will be

neither sufficient nor sustainable.

We witnessed overflowing irrigation.

dams next to which oranges were dropping off the trees and orchards were dying for want of watering.

Of particular concern to us has

been the targeting of South African-

owned farming enterprises. We visited a project where an irrigation

dam was built in 1986 at a cost of R3m, enabling the transformation of virgin bush into 2 000ha of irrigated fields. We saw irrigation fields

* overgrown with weeds and returning to bush.

Unlike the governments of Italy, Holland and Germany, South Africa's government has done nothing to date to protect the interests of its nationals. The result is that the management and staff of these farms have been chased off, dispersed and added to

- the unemployed. The rural schools

set up and maintained by commercial farming enterprises have closed down, which must eventually result in a lost generation like the South African experience of 1976.:

The belief that the present land policy, described as 'indigenisation', can benefit the indigenous population is a fallacy. The policy requires replacing 4 000 commercial farmers by untrained new

settlers. Even if 100 settlers replaced each commercial farmer, - only 400 000 people would be accommodated out of 12-million people.

This will be a reduction in the :

* total number of people sustained by

agriculture since it is estimated that

- 1,5-million people formerly employed by commercial

farmers will

be displaced. In

addition to reduced agricultural

output must be added the reduction

of industrial activity dependent on commercial agriculture.

The net result will be a meltdown of -

the economy in general and large-

scale unemployment. An immediate reversal of the

present policy could return the production

of annual crops to previous levels quite soon, It is, however, a

different matter with regard to the

production of orchards and horticulture

where a time lag of up to 10

years is involved. Likewise the replacement

of entrepreneurial and managerial skills, once lost, will require

considerable time. .

. The DA has been gathering the

names of South African citizens adversely

affected by the land policies of Zimbabwe

and is in the process of providing these to the government.

It is government's duty to protect the interests of its citizens.

BUSINESS DAY, Thursday, July 11 2002

Activists demand cheap drugs |

Zachie Achmat - \201@ of Treatment Action

Patricia Reauey

BARCELONA - 224 Activists demanded cheap generic drugs for HIV/AIDS sufferers yesterday. Poor countries can launch a sustainable offensive against the spreading epidemic that has already killed 24-million people. Zackie Achmat, of SA's Treatment Action Campaign, was too ill to attend the 14th International AIDS Conference. But in a video address, he accused wealthy countries and drug firms of not doing enough to help infected people like himself. Despite price cuts, drugs that have

drastically reduced deaths from AIDS:

in wealthy countries are still too expensive - for people in developing countries. What is required is generic competition, therefore we appeal to all the brand name drug companies to issue nonrestrictive voluntary licences," Achmat told the conference.

which will eliminate the unnecessary conflict between the activist

community, governments and drug

companies." He said that companies -

might get a 3% to 4% royalty payment

in return.

SA's Stubbs Maluleke of the Township AIDS Project of SA attended.

Only about 230 000 people in poor countries had access to antiretrovirals

at the end of last year. Nearly half of them were in Brazil, where the government has ignored complaints

about patents from drug makers to

promote use of generics.

British relief group Oxfam issued

research on Uganda showing it was

only the arrival of generic competition from India's Cipla that had brought down the cost of AIDS medicines. Five western drug firms pledged price cuts in May 2000, but prices did not start falling until the arrival of

copycat Indian drugs in October 2000. -
Since then, prices in Uganda have fallen as much as 97%, said Oxfam policy

adviser Mohga Smith.)
Activists trashed the European

Commission's stand yesterday demanding the European Union contribute more to the United Nations Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

They spray-painted "Sham" on the counter, scattered leaflets on the floor, and plastered the booth with stickers saying "Where is the \$10bn contribution to the fund so far? short of the \$10bn goal.

US Health and Human Services secretary Tommy Thompson was the target of demonstrators on Tuesday as

Stubbins Maluteke, left, of the Townsh Campaign in video appeal for generic competition

ip AIDS Project holds a joint

media conference with fellow countryman Dr Philip Coetzee at the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona. Picture: AP

they drowned out his speech in

protest at US level of funding. |
Anthony Fauci, a leading AIDS researcher and director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said the fact there was no excuse for AIDS was no excuse not to treat people.

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BUSINESS DAY, Thursday, July 11 2002

Banks and HIV/AIDS |

alks at the Banking Council on

a reinsurance scheme that
would cover banks against the

risk of people living with HIV/AIDS
defaulting on their home loans are a
welcome sign that the industry is
taking the AIDS issue seriously.

This is not surprising â\200\224 already

* banks are beginning to feel the. fi-

nancial squeeze and damage to
their reputations when. they repos-
sess houses, only to discover that

â\200\230 the breadwinners have died of

AIDS, leaving only the orphans who
are being turned out of their homes.

" Butitis not clear that the way to

g0 is a new national scheme to. .

which all mortgage holders would
contribute and which would prob-
ably require some form of govern-

ment guarantee,

The real problem is that faced by

low-income home owners. The -
- more affluent have little problemâ\200\231

securing mortgages and, unless
they are already HIV positive, can
take out the life and disability in-
surance banks usually require, at

premiums they can afford.
SAâ\200\231s banks aze well aware they.

"need to finance homes for low-

income earners, but it is.a problem

. that, fox the most part, they have yet
. lo crack. Microloans aside, few

"banks are taking on the risk of larger,

longer term loans in the low-income
market. Pension fund-backed home

loans are taking off but have their

own risks, especially for borrowers.
The point though is that AIDS is
not the only reason â\200\224 and possibly
not even the main reason at this
stage â\200\224 that low-income borrowers
struggle to get bank mortgages. Re-

trenchment js still probably much

more of a risk factor. And where re-
trenched workers struggle to find
jobs in the formal economy again,

those with HIV/AIDS can be treated. -
The evidence is that effective -
.treatment, properly administered,

could return them to.their jobs so
that they could resume their bond
repayments and keep their families

housed â\200\224 which is why the not-for-

profit Home Loan Guarantee Com-

. pany has linked its new HIV/AIDS .

Insurance product to a treatment

- and education programimne. .
It is in the area of HIV/AIDS ed-

ucation and treatment that govern-,

â\200\234ment showld focus its efforts â\200\224 not

on assisting banks with. one partic-

ular financial risk, Would a guaran- | .

tee not give the banks an incentive

" {0 declare as many defaults as pos-

" gible to be AIDS related?)

The best insurance t finan-

- cial risk from HIV/AIDS would be a

concerted government effort to ex-

_tend antiretroviral treatment to as
many low-income people as possi- -
ble in effective treatment pro-
â\200\230grammes. o

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~ i i .

BUSINESS DAY, Thursday, July 11 2002 .

Fight the good fight

P AFRICANS were Europeans,
they would take note of the

Jauch in Durban this week of
the African Union and then go 10
sleep on the matter for the next 40
or so years before taking another
peek at the AU's progress.

That is about how slow this is all
going to be. The first inklings of the
European Union, as a trade associ-
ation focusing on trade in steel and
basic commodities, emerged in the
early sixties. Currency unions, po-
litical unions, open borders and
continental parliaments were sim-
ply not discussed,

"Of course, in the minds of the
French and German intellectuals,
business leaders and politicians that
drove the EU, there was the burning

desire never to go to war again. They
had, 50 to speak, amotive.

. So do the African leaders, or at
least some of them, who assembl
in Durban this week to shut down
the Organisation of African Unity,
and reopen it as the African Union.

" The motive of leaders like Thabo

Mbeki, Olusegun Obasanjo and Fes-
. tus Mogae of Botswana is simply to

escape, as soon as possible, the ru-
inous political and economic repu-
tation brought upon Africa and the
OAU by the despots it counts as
leaders, who include Robert Mu-
gabe, Muammar Gaddafi, Daniel
arap Moi, Charles Taylor and others.
. Of course, none of these psy-
chopaths now goes away because

the AU has been formed. In fact.'

they will make it their business to
twist and deform it. But the inten-

. tion of the African democrats is
clear. They want to build an insti-

tution, open, effective and demo-

cratic, that can transform Africa. To the extent that :,'t]lsu programime is al-

ready set inn Mb

opment (Nepad) the AU can count jtsself lucky. Nepad is developing into a credible and solid piece of work . andis a credit to its originators.

The impostant thing for Africans and the rest of theworld now is to be

patient. Mbeki, in the face of someâ\200\231

devious lobbying by the Libyan

likeit has in Europe.

s and Obasanjoâ\200\231s New Partnership for Africaâ\200\231s Devel-

leader, has secured the presidency of the AU for the first year. That is not a long time. If the AQ presidency is to revolve annually, as the EUâ\200\231s does, then SA will next be president in 52 years' time. Equatorial Guinea will have a year at the helm. So will Somalia and Zimbabwe. Clearly, the presidency is not the place in which to invest ouch hope.

The thing is to keep trying to do the right thing, A parliament must be formed. A standards authority. Borders should be. opened. Mechanisms to censure errant members and to enforce responsible economic and political conduct have to be designed, discussed, g@ed to and implemented. It will take ages, just

Mbeki is the right person for this task, though how he will" maintain his influence after one year is not

ed clear. Butheisa methodical, almost

plodding, African visionary with the

â\200\230ight values. It will be easy for local " critics to snipe at him if things in the _ AU or Nepad go wrong, but it may

often be unfair.

Our only regret, and it is not & new one regarding Mbekd, is the distance he s from people. While Africa needs his vision, it also needs

" a larger-than-life figure capable of

speaking directly to Its p.eagle, e-ki, with the best will in the world, cannot. He will be effective in the smoke-filled rooms of power. But notonthestreets. :

Perhaps that task will fall to. another leader at another time. Perhaps this is too early on in the process anyway. But an African Union need not be a whim, provided people like Mbeki are prepared to fight for it and for the right democratic values. The moment they retreat from that, the hope will fade. :
What happened in Durban is a very big deal. Remember the smirks of Gadaffi, of Mugabe, at the summit. They are the enemy here. Mbeki knows it, and we should know it. Mbeki's fight to overcome the insidious influence on African politics of i

- men such as them should be supported by all South Africans. '

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[NKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

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BUSINESS DAY, Thursday, July 112002

State uhdÃ©r,

fire for delay

in releasing:
AIDS grant

Kerry Cullinan

Hoalth E-News Service

PRESSURE is mounting against gov-
ernment for continuing to delay a
\$72m grant to KwaZulu-Natal from.
the Global Fund to fight HIV, TB and
malaria. - :
Speaking at the World AIDS con-

ference in Barcelona yesterday, Global
. Fund director Richard Feachem said
the fund was 'concerned' by the de-

lay. 'It is incredibly important that
states, provinces and local govern-
ments can seek funds from the Global

Fund. In SA this has proved difficult.
' We hope and expect that this will be

resolved quickly internally in favour of
KwaZulu-Natal. If not, we will enter
into negotiations with Pretoria to see
what we can do to unblock the block-
ages,' said Feachem. . R
The Treatment Action Campaign's
Mark Heywood said his organisation
also wanted an explanation from
Health Minister Manto Tshebalala-
Msimang about why she was delaying
the grant, which was announced in

. The grant has been stalled as gov-
ernment was unhappy that the money
did not go through the national co-

ordinating mechanism. . According to
the 'rules', all applications

. should be on by an inclusive:

group of stakeholders constituted in

such a co-ordinating mechanism. -
Government's head of HIV/AIDS, -

Nono Simelela, said at the time she

-was unsure why the fund had ap-

proved a grant for KwaZulu-Natal
FwaZulu-Natal wrote to the fund and
withdrew its application after in prin-

..ciple agreeing to channe! all applica~

tions 10 the fund through the SA na-
tional AIDS council,â\200\235 said Simelela.
However, the fund said it-had de-
cided that "sub-national proposals are
eligible for funding, provided they re-
ceive endorsement of the co-ordinat-
ing mechanist..... The provincial co-
ordinating mechanism from KwaZu-
lu-Natal, therefore, has been asked to

. co-ordinate its proposal with that of
. the mechanismâ\200\231. - S

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I Jul. 2002 11:19

[NKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

BUSINESS DAY, Thursday, July 112002

DA wants disciplinary action against Masetiha

THE: Democratic . Alliance (DA)
called yesterday for disciplinary ac- .
tion to be taken against former home
affairs director-general Billy Maset- | .
ha, alleging he misled Parliament by
providing false information in reply
to a parliamentary question. DA
spokesman Mike Waters said: â\200\234This
came to light when, in-an unprece-

dented move, Home Affairs Minister |
Mangosuthu Buthelezi contradicted
his own director-generalâ\200\231s written re- 3
ply. by adding information of his -

own? In a written reply.to a question

.on the cost of annual strategic plan- . gilly Masetiha -

ning sessions, â\200\234Masetiha said this L
amounted to R360 000 for the 2002 sessionâ\200\235. However, Buthe-
lezi said it was R360 000, said Waters. Masetiha, who has been

redeployed to the president's office as President Thabo Mbeki's

adviser, was not available for comment yesterday. Sapa .

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I Jul. 2002 11:03

EF AS BROTHER LEADER LEAVES DURBAN

raddafi roadshow moves on

-

JOHN BATTERSBY
& BEAUREGARD TROMP

ATIONAL
personnel will be
N\ heaving a collective

< sigh of relief - and
release days of pent-up anger -
when . the -â\200\230Muammar Gaddafi
roadshow leaves Durban after
nedr-catastrophic encounters
â\200\230with the heavily armed
entourage of the Libyan leader,
. And Durbanites will no' longer

be puzzled by sudden interrup-
tions of their celiphone conver-

sations as large convoys of vehi-
cles pass by The Libyan presi--

dentâ\200\231s security detail consisting
-of several dozens of pperatives
will take -a special jamming
device installed in one of his
vehicles with them when they
leave the countty. -Â«

Col Gaddafl is scheduled to
- depart for Mozambique. after
* leaving his colourful â\200\230mark
before, â\200\230during .and after the
launch of the African Union.
* On _miore than â\200\230one occasion

â\200\230proceedings had to.be halted .

~ while the Brother Leader railed
+ against the West, Africaâ\200\231s new

development plan andâ\200\231 other

.. Obsessions of the moment.

. Security personnel â\200\230of all
~ colours and departments had to
bear a special brunt. One

Protested: â\200\234He works totally-

above the law. They came here
with the attitude that Gaddafi ls

the â\200\230Golden Leaderâ\200\235 and they asâ\200\231

Libyans ave above all of us.â\200\235

Another, who was a part of a
tense stand-off between South -
African and Libyan security per-
sonnel on Saturday, said: "There
was almost a war here. There
were about 40 of us against
almost 400 of them. We were total-
ly outnumbered and outgunn
- and nobody would back us."
security '

[NKATHA FREEDOM PARTY.

b "There is a
go FURRENEY, JE eI

Thursda

South African security offi-
cials, had grounded about 60

armoured vehicles belonging to
Gaddafi. Their ostensible pur-
pose was to provide a safe rehaul
by road for the Libyan leader
through Africa. But SA govern-
ment officials feared that he
would use the vehicles to visit
black townships in a bid to steal
the limelight from Nepad
founder and first AU chairman,
President Thabo Mbeki.
Yesterday morning one of
Gaddafi's planes was grounded

b

. MUAMMAR GADDA!
" Golden Leader -

in Mozambique after the discov-
ery of rocket-propelled grenade

launched on board the aircraft.
Gaddafi arrived with two
Boeing 707 airplanes and two

more planes including an

Antonov, the second largest
cargo plane in the world. Aq ini-

tion search of some of the cargo

turned up 27 submachine guns,
Along with a phalanx of vehi-

. Cles. and armaments, Gaddaft
also-brought a container ship -
filled with .goat carcasses and

two 46-seater buses, .

â\200\234Each vehicle was packed to
capacity and we even found
\$6 million (R600 million) in hard

cash in one cai;â\200\235 said the SÃ©uthâ\200\231
ed, African officer Ty
. â\200\234They poi:gt-blank refused for

4 beachfront hotel they had multi-
" pliedto4s. =

No.6592

some of their baggage to be'
searched and said it belonged to
â\200\230the Golden Leaderâ\200\231â\200\235 said the
security source, |

As the situation became tense |
the South African contingent
called in back-up and moments
later deputy minister of foreign
affairs Aziz Pahad arrived in a
bid to defuse the sjtuation.
Shortly thereafter the minister |
sent a fax. instructing security
personnel] to release everything
to the Libyans,

Although the Libyans were
issued with permits for 21 AK47

N -assault rifles, when the guns

were checked in at a Durban

Protocol allows " for four

: firearms to be carried by the

presidentâ\200\231's personal detai1

although special permits are

sometimes issued for extra
armaments. Once a foreign

B leader is. in South Africa his
" security is regarded as the

responsibility of the South:
African president. i

â\200\230Another near calamity was:
when heads .of state convened .
for a Nepad meeting and there
was a scuffle between local secu-
rity forces and the Libyan body-.

guard contingent, .

â\200\234He jeopardised the security |
here and now heâ\200\231s going to jeop-
ardise the security of all the
civilians all the: way to

Mozambique.â\200\235. |
. Although â\200\230the travel arrange.
ments for Gaddafl are being kept
a closely guarded secret, insid-
ers reveal that he plans to take a

.road frip through Messina to

Harare and from there travel all |

the way to Libya on a self-pro-

motionaltour, . -~
Libyan officials declined to

- comment. â\200\224 Independent Foreign
. . - '

P. 2/30

PETER FABRICIUS
. & BASIEDON PETA .

NIGERIAN President Olusegun
Obasanjo said he had been)
encouraged by a meeting he had
in Durban with Zimbabwean
President Robert Mugabe to dis-
cuss the faltering political rec-

onciliation talks between the
ruling Zanu-PF and the opposi- |
tion Movement for Democratic . |
hany

ge. 2y :
However, MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai remains pessimistic about the chances of persuading
OLUSEGUN OBASANJO
about the chances of persuading

Mugabe to back down in his

push-down on opponents in of the summit of the new
Zimbabwe, - ' - African Union launched on

We are making progress. Tuesday.

Maybe not as much as we would Obasanjo said at a press brief.
like, Obasanjo said about his ing that the meeting had taken
place in a better atmosphere
which took place on the fringes - than had existed since the

Commonwealth troika, . met in
London earlier this year to sus-

g8 Push Zimbabwe from the organ-
isation.

8 Obasanjo, President: Mbeki
& Australian Prime Minister
John Howard formed a troika to

decide what to do with:
Zimbabwe after Commonwealth
Observers determined that the
March presidential elections
were not free and fair. - -

- Obasanjo said he had report-
ed on the outcome of his meet-

ing {0 United Nations
. Secretary-General Kofi Annan-
who was as a result eager to-

meet Mugabe, e
Mugabe's spokesman . !

Charamba said later Mugabe

had been unable to meet Annan .

Wwaha had already left Durban for the Sudan but that the two men would probably speak later.

Obasanjo upbeat after talks with Mugabe

Tsvangirai said he would wait to get the details of the substantive issues discussed between . Obasanjo and Mugabe before making a firm comment. .

". He said he was, however, pessimistic about the chances of Mugabe reforming into a reasonable leader.

- The best option was for African leaders to exert pressure on the ageing Zimbabwe leader to rerun the disputed - March Presidential election. - i

" Although they did not formally put Zimbabwe on the agenda of the launch of the AU, Tsvangirai said it was possible that the leaders had marginalised Mugabe by not giving him any prominent role at the summit. The Independent Foreign Service

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[NKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

Prison officers to

fight corruption

THABO THULO

i AMID mounting evidence emerging at the Jali Commission of inquiry into corruption in South Africa, the Department of Correctional Services has launched a countrywide anti-corruption campaign,

Today, the Minister of Correctional Services, Mr Ben Skosana, together with his national ;

commissioner, Mr Linda Mti, will conduct an anti-corruption workshop at Durban's Westville Prison.

The first such workshop was held on June 28 at Bloemfontein's now notorious Grietvlei Prison

where prisoners made a video showing shocking evidence of sex, drug-dealing and corruption at the institution. ;

Westville Prison itself beat the headlines in February when evidence emerged before the Jali Commission that drugs, alcohol and blue movies were freely available over the prison's kitchen counter. . -

Evidence was also found that an inmate at the prison of bribes to corrupt warders.

Thabo Mbeki to probe corruption, maladministration and nepotism in prisons: g

Mr Vusi Shabalala, provincial spokesman for the department, recently admitted that his department had received bad publicity and the workshops were an effort to rectify the situation, * =~ .

He said the workshop would be attended by among

others, prison officials, prison heads, section heads and provincial heads . g

managed to father a child while in custody; courtesy - The Jali Commission was established by President .

No.6592

P. 4/30

End of municipal strike in sight

VERNON MCHUNU

HE biggest municipal

strike in South Africa's

recent history, which

has been raging on for

more than a week, looks set to

come to an end soon with the

disgruntled trade union expect-

ed to accept a lesser wage offer
than its initial demands.

Well-placed union sources

described as a victory that the

employer body; the South African -

an Local Government Association (Salga), could agree to a 9%
salary increase for lowest paid
workers and an 8% offer to those
earning above R3 000 a month.

" The South African Municipal

Workers' Union (Samwu) and.

Salga have been at loggerheads
over the union's demand of 10%
across the board. |

Salga offered 8% for every

employee and vowed it would
not budge, sparking anger from
the workers who then downed
tools starting from last Tuesday.

Mr Rio Nolutshungu, the

Jabour relations manager for

Salga, neither dismissed nor
confirmed the speculation, but
said he did not see the strike pro-
ceeding into the weekend.

Talks

He conceded that the 9% for
lowest paid workers and 8% for
workers paid above R3000
formed part of the ongoing
talks.

Mr Roger Ronnie, the general

secretary of the union, said:

Generally, we are looking at making shifts from our initial position. . . That is the nature of any negotiations during a strike action.

"He expected that the negotia-

tions planned for tomorrow would yield results acceptable to both parties. -

We are quite keen that the talks on Friday will allow both parties to emerge in a win-win situation, he said, and added that whatever the outcome, it would benefit the low income worker, who make up the major-

ity of Samwu's membership.

It has always been Samwu's central area of concern that the

lowest paid worker should bene-

fit more.

But should the union accept

an 8% offer for workers earning more than R3 000, will that not

- upset those workers? _
Ronnie said: that whatever position would be taken at the -

end of the strike, it would be based on a wide consultation with workers.

At depots in Durban yesterday, union members were briefed on the expected resolution, and a source said the gittome would not be so bad for 18",

The main concern has been around the proposal by Salga to

fix any agreement for three .

years, the worker said. o
Victorious '
Samwu is expected to emerge

_victorious in getting Salga o

withdraw its position that any agreement reached would be fixed for the next three years.

. Ronnie said the strong sup-

port from the heavyweight

Cosatu affiliates, with a total

membership of . more than

500-000,- had boosted Samwuâ\200\231s

confidence during the strike.
The Pood and Allied Workers

_Union, the National Education,

Health â\200\230and Alhed Workers
Union and the South African
Clothing and Textile Workers
Union rallied behind Samwu
and threatened to engage in a
sympathy strike in support of
the municipal workers. .
As the end to the strike is now
msight Cosatu president Willie
a's infervention will be
remembered as having helped to

get Samwu and Salga back to the -

negotiating table.
Last Friday Madisha helped

-foster talks from which the
expected agreement emanated.

Meanwhile, the strike is set to
continue today with thousands
of workers staying away from
wark in Durban.

Picketing in the eThekweni
unicity area and several towns
in the Midlands, on the South
Ceast, and in Zululand was

expected to take place. -

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