

19.JUL. 2001

13:57

THE MERCURY, Wednesday July 18, 2001

MG BUTHELEZI

T -

NKUNA SURVIVES APPARENT MURDER ATTEMPT

NO.217 P.1

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Gang shoots  
key witness

INGRID OELLERMANN, CHRIS JENKINS  
SPHINDILE MAKWAKWA

ONTROVERSIAL key witness  
Cliff Nkuna, who alleged that  
top ANC officials and King

Goodwill Zwelithini were in-

volved in a plot to kill Norigoma mayor )

Joseph Sikhonde, has survived an  
apparent murder attempt.  
Thirty-olicsyear-old

by a gang of youths who canfranted

him outside a shop near Pretorla on .;'  
Mouday night after appatently firtng at P

[east six shots at him,

The police are unable to say what the  
molive was for the attack. However, it  
came hree days after he gave dramatic  
testimony in court naming ANC provin-  
cial leader Sbu Ndebele and ANC safety  
and sccu.ui% spokesman Bheki Cele ay  
well as the King as having been at meet.  
ings at which Mr Sikhonde'â\200\231s mueder was  
allegedty planned.

Reacting last night, the ANC called for  
a national police unit to be formed to in-  
vostigale the shooting. The IFP asked  
provincial public prasecutions director  
Mokoledi Mpshe (o ensure Mr Nkuna's  
protection.

Mr Nkuna had refused to cnler a state  
witness protection programme during,  
and after, his testimony in the Mtuba-

tuba high court (rlal of six men charged  
with Mr Sikhondeâ\200\231s murder in June [ast  
yeir.

He told the Investigating team he did  
ot trust the police and felt unsafe in the  
willess protection programme,

Investigailng officer Danic Reyneke,  
who Lelephoned Mr Nkuna in hospitai

t Nkuna was |  
ullegedly shot and wounded in the hand |

TH  
;ï¬\202\_w.â\200\224-Â«---â\200\224â\200\224\ 1â\200\2301'

CA,

CLIFF NKU  
To hide with friends

yesterday, said he was fine bul scared  
and would be discharged Inter in Lhe

day.

{Ie intended hiding with friends as he

e ity M Acting Justiee Vabed  
c judge, Mr ustice f  
was informed of the shooting yesterday.

Mcanwhile, defence attorney John  
Wills brought an application for all six  
accused to be discharged at the close  
the statcâ\200\231s case ay on groun  
that no reasonable court would convict  
them. He also submitted that Mr Nkuna  
had been a bad witness whose evidence  
could not be relied on. Judgment will be  
given at 10am today,

Last night, IFP safety and security  
spokesman Velaphi 'Ndlovu sajd [he  
fears of KZN Premier Lionel Mishal| Jiad  
been realised by Lhe shooting.

Mr Ndlovu said: â\200\234This is a nasty twist  
in the whole saga of the assassination

case of Mr Sikhonde. â\200\230The 11 expresses

its dismay with the excessive Intetfer-  
ence in e judicial pracess.â\200\235

â\200\230This ranged from allemppts by M S'bu  
Ndebele to gag Mr Nkuna from glving  
vidence at the tdal, to attempts by  
â\200\234some biased sections of the mediaâ\200\235 to  
discredit the evidence glven in court be-  
fore it had been tested.

The IFP (elt that no stone should,be  
left unturned In searching for the trugh.

"f\ was in (his light that the IFP recommended Lhat all the accused In the cdse, as well as those mamied by Mr Nkuna, should be regarded as Innocent unless proven gullyty,â\200\235 sald Mr Ndlovu,

However, the party questioned why people like Mr Ndebele were "iumg:ig up and down, as if they had ants in their ganu, In a frenzfed attempt to stop Mr

kuna from telling the court what'he claimead to know about Mr Sikhondeâ\200\231s assassinationâ\200\235, "

ANC spakesman Dumisani Makhaye said national Safety and Security Minister Steve Tshwele and police commisioner Jackie Selebi should â\200\234personally constitute a police unit to investigate the atlempted murderâ\200\235. RN

The unit should further invesuï¬\201{n \*the role of certain clements within police who are supposed to be protectihg Dim and the forces hgndling Mr NkunaP,

â\200\234Mr Nkuna, as a stat state witness-in the trial of the murder of the late mayor, has been an embarrassment to his handlers,â\200\235 Mr Makhaye said, â\200\234Ho is the man who Is likely to expose the third force activitits at the highest level.â\200\235

The ANC wanted Mr Tshwete ahd Comm Selebi lo ensupe Mr Nkuna's safety, said Mr Makhaye.

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18.Jul. 2001

[NKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

No.4968

. THE MERCURY

PHILANI MAKHANYA

% T s o0t Â\$ ey 1Y ot ooy o socmmmbonn

Set aside by the national depart-  
ment of education towards the for-

cal science and technology schools  
in the country,  
The project, launched by the

Mosibidi Mangena, is aimed at pro-

sis to these subjects,

The names of dedicated maths,  
science and technology schools are  
expected to be released after  
Julâ\200\230))' 30.

However, national education  
Spokesman Nelvis Qekema said the

KwaZulu-Natal department of edy. -

cation would choose more than 23  
maths, science and technology  
schools in the province.

â\200\234The R90 million set aside for the  
project is to ensure the adequate  
Provision of resources, such as com.

A\

MORE than R90 million has been -f

matlon of 100 mathematics, physi-

deputy minister of education, Mr  
moting and giving special empha-

Millions set aside  
for specialist schools

T Y |

\* MOSIBIDI MANGENA

puters and  
equipment,  
iuï¬\201â\200\231 he said.

e added that the project would be implemented at established schools with a good history. in maths and science.

KwaZulu-Natal] education spokesman Mandla Msibi said: "We have already submitted our list of 23 specialist' schools and we are awaiting a go-ahead from the national department of education."

general technological and teacher upgrad-

P

18.Jul. 2001 9:49 [NKATHA FREEDOM PARTY No.4968 â\200\230P- 9/10

. VIOLENCE LIKELY TO ESCALATE, WARNS MONITOR

Mangete loses  
troops and police

PATRICK LEEMAN . She is also a member of an only been quiet because of an effec-

. \_ ~ filsos independent research committee tive security force presence, and  
' AFEMBERS of â\200\230the :South appointed in April by national Min- there are signs that  
violence may  
| African National Defence ster of Safity and Security Steve Â« esemlate once again\* Ms de  
Haas

'Force and: the public Tshwete to investigate the recent said. . -  
il R, order policing unit, who farm attacks, - 4% The violence monitor said it was  
â\200\234â\200\230have: been . stationed â\200\230atiMangete, Ms de Haas said yesterday th  
at the essential. that a security force pres- -  
. iÃ©ar Mandeni on the KwaZyilu-Natal presence of the SANDF in Manigeteâ\200\235 ence be ma  
intained inâ\200\231 the area for .  
.North :Coast, the scenie â\200\234of â\200\230tecent during the ast few weeks had the next  
few months, until a soh- |  
-â\200\234land invasions and â\200\230acts.of intima- brought stabi ity to the volatilÃ©  
area tion to the problem of the illegal |

tion, have been withdrawn. - and peace of mind to residents sub- land invasions was found.  
- ;  
& The develggment on Monday Has- -jected to threats and intimidation, She has appealed to t  
he heads of  
- -beÃ©n criticis

. by-Ms Mary de Haas, " She understood that the reasori for the SANDF and the SAPS in Kwa-  
+a violence monitor and senior Jec- withdrawing the troops was that'the Zuli-Natal to-ensur  
e that soldiers are |  
turer-at the University of Natal in area was quiet. \_ ..~ redeployed in the area with imme  
di- -  
: an. . eg p .â\200\234\*The point is that the area has ate effect, ' :

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d toran 0\ â\200\224â\200\224

18.Jul. 2001

9:49

INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

~ THE MERC

No.4968

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USE OF INTERNAL SKILLS URGED

Get rid of

consultants,  
says Mtshali

PHINDILE MAKWAKWA  
POLITICAL REPORTER

KWAZULU-NATAL Premier Lionel  
Mtshali has called on the provin-  
cial education department to end  
its dependence on consultants

who were putting pressure on

already limited finan-  
cial resources.

More than R10 mil-  
lion was spent on con-  
sultants in the 2000/01  
financial year, accord-  
ing to the depart-  
ment's chief financial

officer, Mr Megan Iyer.

Mr Mtshali said  
that Instead of relying  
on consultants, the  
focus should shift to  
developing and using  
internal skills.

His message was delivered during  
a keynote address at the launch of  
the education department's res-  
ource material for women in man-  
agement, held at Durban's Interna-  
tional Convention Centre. ;

It is important to realise that our  
officials have the potential to do  
what many consultants do for the  
department, he said. Isn't the  
time opportune for us to look in-  
wards at the skills we have instead  
of using our meagre resources on  
consultants?

Questions have arisen over whether there were vested interests when consultants were appointed.

Once there are vested interests, it becomes problematic for us to

LIONEL MTSHALI  
Vested interests

know whether we have the best people to do the job," said Mr Mtshali. So He said that resources meant to develop skills within the department seem to be circulating in a certain radius, adding that there was a need to go to the rock bottom of the rot. There was also a tendency for skilled education officials to leave the department prematurely, returning as consultants. - "I want to appeal to the officials of the department to use skills acquired within the department to benefit the learner and not the self. Inasmuch as consulting is good - it shows entrepreneurial skills - the department must not lose valuable skills, Retire at the right age, please," he urged: Giving his first public address

~ since assuming office, KZN Educa-

tion Minister Gabriel Ndabandaba commended the women In-man-agement programme, saying it played a major role in capacity-building within the department. The programme will not only develop critical thinking skills, but will also promote quality education for women. ; Gone are the days when women were regarded as minors. They have emerged as equals to their male counterparts and, at times, hav-

emerged as even better.



X

" KZN ministers are - -  
' entitled to one free home

Minister of Transport Sibusiso Ndebele  
replies to allegations of housing irregularities

by this because he knows it is  
untrue,  
This matter was first published  
in October last  
year: A thorough media briefing  
was done by the ANC to clarify  
the position, which is as follows:  
Q That KZN has two capitals,  
i and Umtata.  
Q That both capitals should

capitals, national ministers,  
city ministers and, in the case  
of the two-capital province of  
KZN, it will be made in  
one capital and in the other  
it will be  
OK,  
Q That every MEC will pay for  
accommodation but not only one  
nial.  
quote the relevant section:

enjoy status, with none of  
them having undue privileges  
above the

mgâ\200\2311;1's;tgâ\200\230edhbî\201sh:dn:m'î\202  
e president and  
deputy president are entitled to  
free accommodation,

Q That, where there are two

\*Ministers will be allowed to rent  
a state residence in the capital of  
their choice or, alternatively, to  
buy or rent a private residence.  
such an event, a state-  
owned house will be provided to  
ministers free of charge.

It also does unsolicited discredit  
to my colleague, Minister of  
Finance Peter Miller, by saying  
he is the only exception in an  
otherwise corrupt provincial

executive,  
I know that he is embarrassed

â\200\2311i-â\202impcattd tion that all  
MECs In RZN either owe

â\200\231 mi%uli:nsimmpddm;sor'sqw  
at the stateâ\200\231s expenseâ\200\235 Is untrue  
and mi and does no  
credit o the common struggle forâ\200\235  
truth and against corruption,

suppalt. wval - mnhd . cal away from Cape .  
to. on national capital away ;  
that myself and some of my Town, it is not enough to look at  
colleagues are having a free ride at mere numbers necessary for a  
expense. :

â\200\234If a state-owned house kn the  
capital Is not available, a  
monetary payment equivalent to  
the rental paid by ministers for  
::ld.m' ed houses should be  
Like a number of my  
0 including Mr Miller, X  
work Plennmî-â\202ub:î-â\2011

ch I

vote, ;  
: Themadtoam\l(e:lgtavh\oe "  
\* demands that all should be :  
sensitive to what is held dear by  
. those with whom we differif . -  
that sensitivity contributes to the :

overall .  
As two capitals, it  
is im) that the prindiple of .

ty is adhered to at all levels,

however, for the record, [ owe  
nothing In Uhmdi, and it js the  
helght of mischief to continve to -  
P this misinformation.

are proud of

the ANC is making in this  
collective effort.

been to forego tactical party  
advantage for the common good.  
Close 10 60% of KZN provindial  
Tegislators favour Pletermaritz-  
burg as the capital. It ls easy

enough to for that.  
But 1 th

.onthaeginmus,nox mof  
Africaâ\200\231s 91 years' experience  
operating Cape Town and

SIBUSISO NDEBELE Pretoria, nor the current

â\200\231

THE NATAL WITNESS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2001

Man who implicated MEC and

king in murder plot attacked after testimony

Star witness Nkuna shot

ZWELIHLE MEMELA  
8nd SAPA.

HE key state witness testifying

in the Nongoma mayor murder

case has been shot. Clifford  
Nkuna is in a serious condition in an  
undisclosed hospital following an  
attempt on his life earlier this week.  
A source close to the investigation

- confirmed that Nkuna was shot and

wounded on Monday in a hiding

place in Soshanguve near Pretoria,

The source said an assailant fired  
six shots at Nkuna and he was  
admitted to a local hospital.

However, Pretoria police spokes-  
man Inspector Pileletse Sebola said  
they have not attended any case  
involving Nkuna. The incident  
might have happened somewhere in  
Pretoria, but because our area is so  
big that could not have been cap-  
tured [on the database] as yet, he  
said.

Nkuna made headlines last week  
when he alleged that senior mem-  
bers of the ANC, including KZN  
Transport MEC Sibusiso Ndebele, as  
well as King Zwelithini participated  
in the plot to assassinate Nongoma  
mayor Joseph Sikhonde, who was  
killed in June last year. - .

Nkuna told police that at the  
meeting where the plot was hatched  
cellphones were handed out by Nde-  
bele for proper communication.  
Ndebele's last words were that he  
wanted to see Sikhonde dead.

Ndebele lodged an unsuccessful  
court application to block the prose-  
cution from presenting Nkuna's evi-  
dence implicating him. )

The head of the investigating

team, Superintendentâ\200\231 Sakkie Tredoux, said Nkuna completed his tes-

â\200\230timony on Friday.  
Un&l o

.then, he wan In a witness  
rotection programme but asked to  
egve the programme after he fin-

ished testifying. â\200\234We took him to a  
place in Johannesburg on. Friday  
night and that was the last contact  
we had with him,â\200\235 Tredoux said,

The atate closed its case yester- ,  
day. .

SARBC radio tews quoted Nkuna  
ag saying that he was on his way  
home from the shops when he was  
apprehended by five men who shot  
at him. The men alleged)y reminded  
Nkuna of his evidence In court and  
said thet It would be the last time he  
spoke of ANC members in that way.

The IFP yesterday issued a state-  
ment-expresging grave concerns for  
the judicial process following the  
shooting of Nkuna, IFP Safety and  
Sacurity spokesman Velaphl Ndlovu  
e e ]  
shoul ' regarded as  
proven.guilty and that ls why the  
IFP questioned why- paople like  
Ndebele are jumping up and down  
a3 if they have ants in their pants in  
a frenzied attempt to stopâ\200\235 Nkuma  
from telling the court what hâ\200\231e  
clalmed to know about Sikhondeâ\200\231s  
assassination.â\200\235 ,

Ndlovn reiterated his party's call  
for those testlfyng to ba placed in a  
witness protection programme.

The ANC gald it learnt with shoek .  
about the attempted murder of -  
Nkuna, ANC spokesman Dumisanl  
Makhaye said the party will ti  
Safety and Security Minister Steve  
Tehwete and National Police Com-  
missioner Jackie SelÃ©bi to person-

\* ally conatitute a poice unit to Inves-  
tigate the attempted murder.

â\200\234The ANC believes that only  
those Who emear the name of the  
" ANC leaders jn KwaZulu-Natal will  
benefit from his murder,â\200\235 Makhaye  
sald. . >

He added Nkung Is "likely to  
â\200\230expose lthlr.â\200\230lsâ\200\235foree lctmtie\_l at the  
m"l"l'elsg XVNC 'hll\_mu that lt {s for

this reason that his third force handlers have tried to eliminate him.â\200\235 o

THE NATAL WITNESS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2001

\_ Mitshali slams  
Education's use  
of consultants

\_THE KZN Department of Education  
bimaldpdmhvm\200\230.thm t;\200\230( ranks for

ovills cof: Wag money on

oconsultants;-Premier Lionel Mshall  
sald yemri-\20lay.

- Speaking at the launch of = mod-  
.ule. for- Women . in Education Man-  
.agement, Mtshali said it 18 time the

department looks inward at the  
wealth- of \200\230skills available before  
. wasting meagre resources on con-  
. sultants, He said the use of consul-  
:tants. poses questions about the  
. motives of those who appoint them.  
.- \200\234There are questions about vested  
interests which creates problems for  
. B 10 say we have the best people to  
do the job and not people who are  
\_just lining their pockets. If this is so  
then we need to get to the bottom of  
the rot,\200\235 sald Mtshall, who acted as  
\_Education MEC while a successor  
was found for Faith Gasa, who  
recently resigned from the position.

- The premier said there are  
\200\234resources In the department meant  
for skills and training \200\234go its \200\230good- -  
\200\234bye' to the dear consultants\200\235,  
Mrehell appealed to officials to  
\200\234use skills acquired in the depart-  
) ment for the benefit of learners and \200\230.  
. not for self-interest. \200\234There is a ten-  
. denay for- highly-skilled officials to  
leave the department and who con-  
sulting. In as much as consulting is  
good \200\224 it shows entrepreneurial  
skills \200\224 the department must not  
. lose valuable skills prematurely.  
Therefore, retire at the right age,\200\235  
Jhesaid. . .

- I+ - Zonks" Cele, the chief education  
specialist for human resource devel-  
:opment, sald KZN is the first  
" province to \200\230introduce training mod-  
ules to develop departmental offi-  
cials to be competitive. \200\234This is  
capacity building with a view to  
. improving the quality of education,\200\235  
she sald.-;Among\200\231 other areas, the  
modules, which focus on developing  
women leaders, cover conflict reso-  
lution, assertiveness and team  
. building. = Durban Bureau.



THE NATAL WITNESS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2001

N

. Ministerial squatters -  
HE article entitled â\200\230:MEC,qzin KZN living 3

OUR READERS;iWRITE=::

. AR E &  
freeâ\200\235 is mischievous, - migleading, 'sensational  
and racist. IRt S LT  
I could not have occupied a state house from 1994

because I only became an MEC jn:-July 1999. I was-  
given a house at Ulundi by the ppevincial Pepartment  
of Works to use whenever- I was qperating .from -  
Ulundi. I used that house for -only-three nights,-In

\* those three nights government officials working in.my -  
department also used.that house:..Qtherwise, they  
would have used hotel aocommodation..at.huge gov- .  
ernment expense. - â\200\231 I T

A house at'Umhlanga, north of Durban, was rented:

. for me- by the Department of Works. for;;abaut four..  
months, As an MEC, I am not reaponsible fiox deociding.  
the rentals the Public Works Department pays; The:. )  
accommodation of this house was appraoved by the.

i Tender Board. Ry B g e

On my own, I forfeited my right to offfigial accom-  
modation at Ulundi, Durban- and Pietesmaritzburg  
seven months ago, I am living in.my own hopse. . Per-:

. haps the question should be â\200\234how am I being.compen-

. Sated for not living in a government housg?â\200\235-I do not..

need any compensation. D LA e

. DUMISANI MAKHAYE .

e -KzN\_MEC,-\_for.I-Iq},ls.l.pg\_.;.



S WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2001

THE NATAL WITNES

Monitor slams

army pull-out |  
from Mangete .

THE Natal Monitor, a University of

Natal-based. violence monitoring  
project which has played a signifi- -  
cant role in unravelling patterns of .

: i-\201omicnl violence in the province,

as slammed the withdrawal of the

SA National Defence Force

(SANDF) from the Mangete area. .

The SANDF was brought into the  
area earlier this year amid the pro-  
tracted land battle between the  
Dunn family and the local commu-  
nity, who claims the land belongs to  
them. C - .

In the mid 1800s King Cetshwayo

ave the Dunns the Jand stretching  
rom Babanango to the sea,â\200\235 and !  
from Tugela River to the Mhlathuzi.  
- River in the north. The land is cur--  
rently farmed by third generation  
Dunns, â\200\231

Over recent-months .the Dunns  
â\200\234have complained of illegal land  
invasions and the torching of their  
sugar cane. plantations, allegedly byâ\200\231  
the invaders.

Natal Monitor spokeswoman  
Mary de Haas said the SANDF pres-  
ence In the area has brought about  
stability and given residents, who  
have been subjected to threats and  
{ntimidation for past eight- years,  
peace of mind. RS

â\200\230De Haas said she fears the situa-  
tion may deteriorate with the with-  
drawal of the army.

An SANDF source sald that  
although the army. withdrew from  
the area on Monday, the farming  
community has been advised.to con-  
tact them if they receive threats or  
if tHe situation gets volatile. -~ \* .

â\200\224 Political Reporter. !



~ THE NATAL WITNESS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2001

OUR READERS WRITE

~ DP's efforts over  
= jc.apltal, issue

HAVE -enjoyed reading Tony Cubbin's letters on  
the capital issue since he has-come to settle in the

city. While I cannot speak on behalf of the Demo-  
cratic Party (in the context of provincial government)  
nor of the Democratic Alliance (in respect of local  
government), I should like to assure Mr Cubbin that  
the monumental silence to which he refers is not  
entirely accurate., , ' '

" Immediately after the 1999 election, the DP focused  
a great deal of attention on the capital issue. This -  
enjoyed considerable press coverage, especially in the  
light of pre-election statements by local ANC members  
in favour of Pietermaritzburg as the capital. In fact,  
this issue played a significant part in the ANC's elec-  
tion campaign in KwaZulu-Natal. . =

The DP then put these claims to the test in the KZN  
legislature on January 28, 2000, when DP Whip Wessel  
Nel moved that "considering the interests of the \\  
province of KZN and the factors affecting the efficient  
operation of the KZN Parliament, this House resolves  
that the seat of the KZN Parliament shall be the Parlia-  
mentary precinct in Pietermaritzburg-Msunduzi."

The debate is reported in Hansard Volume 2 of

~ 2000, starting on page 462. It makes for interesting, if .  
not always logical, reading. >

The upshot was that it was an ANC member, Felix  
Dlamini, who moved an amendment to the motion in  
which the concept of the seat of the legislature was -  
completely removed. The amendment watered the  
motion down so that it dealt only with the need to  
rationalise the operations of the KZN legislature to  
ensure that it is cost-efficient.

This amendment was carried by 50 votes for, and  
seven (all DP members) against. The original motion,  
aimed by the DP, specifically at re-establishing our  
city as the sole seat of government in KZN, was thus  
gone.

Mr Cubbin and other readers will know exactly how  
successful the implementation of rationalisation and  
cost-efficiency has been in the past year. I agree, the  
time has certainly arrived for a new initiative,

s PR TR R . KEITH OLIVIER  
Pietermaritzburg

N . . 1  
. . N "d

18.Jul.

2001

9:48

INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY

THE State witness who claimed -that  
KwaZulu-Natal African National Con-

- gress (ANC) leader Mr Sbu Ndebele  
and Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini:

were involved in the murder of Non-  
goma mayor Mr Joseph Sikhonde has .

been-shot and wounded in Pretoria. -  
Mr Clifford Nkuna is reported to be  
in a serious condition in hospital.

Inspector. Henry Sithomo told the -  
Mtubatuba Circuit Court, where the  
. Sikhonde trial is in progress, that  
Nkuna was shot on Monday.

He said Nkuna had been in hiding  
in the Pretoria area.

Six-people have been charged with  
the murder of Sikhonde, who was  
gunned down in June last year.

The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal have  
reacted with shock to the alleged  
attempted murder, Party spokesman  
Mr Dumisani Makhaye said in a state-  
ment that Nkuna "was supposed to be  
under strict police protection".

"The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal  
therefore requests that. Safety and -

Security Minister Steve Tshwete and  
Commissioner Jackie Selebi person-

No.4968

.shot in Pretoria

ally constitute a police unit to investi-  
gate the attempted murder of Nkuna  
and the role of certain elements within  
the police who are supposed to be pro-

- tecting him.

Makhaye said Nkuna was "likely to  
expose third-force activities at the  
highest level".

"The ANC believes that it is for this

reason that his third-force handlers  
have tried to eliminate him.â\200\235 Makhaye

aid.

â\200\234We call on both the minister and  
the commissioner to ensure his safety.â\200\235

Inkatha Freedom' Party (IFP)  
spokesman for Safety and Security Mr  
VB Ndlovu said the IFP was dxsmayed  
by the "exccssxve interference in the  
judicial processâ\200\235. '

â\200\234Nkuna should be allowed to give  
evidence to shed light on who  
Sikhondeâ\200\231s real assassins were,â\200\235 he said.

\_â\200\234The IFP calls on-the provincial  
director of prosecutions to ensure that  
Nkuna and other witnesses are placed  
in a witness protection programme so  
that justice can be done and the rule of  
law prevail.â\200\235 - Sapa.

THE MERCURY, We

nesday July 18, 2001

## NKUNA SURVIVES APPARENT MURDER ATTEMPT

Crarets dam s

Gang shoots  
key witness

INGRID OELLERMANN, CHRIS JENKINS

ONTROVERSIAL Kkey witness  
Cliff Nkuna, who alregead that  
top ANC officials and King  
Goodwill Zwelithini were in-

volved in a plot to kill Nongoma mayor

Joseph Siklione, has survived an

apparent murder attempt.

Thirty-nine-year-old Mr Nkuna was  
allegedly shot and wounded in the hand  
by a gang of youths who confronted  
him outside a shop near Pretoria on  
Monday night after apparently firing at  
least six shots at him,

The police are unable to say what the  
motive was for the attack. However, it  
came three days after he gave dramatic  
testimony in court naming ANC provin-  
cial leader \$'bu Ndebele and ANC safety  
and security spokesman Bheki Cele as  
well as the King as having been at meet-  
ings at which Mr Sikhonde's murder was  
allegedly planned.

Reacting last night, the ANC called for  
a national police unit to be formed to in-  
vestigate the shooting. The IFP asked  
provincial public prosecutions director  
Mokotedi Mpshe to ensure Mr Nkuna's  
protection.

Mr Nkuna had refused to enter a state  
witness protection programme during,  
an earlier, his testimony in the Mtuba-  
tuba high court trial of six men charged  
with Mr Sikhonde's murder in June [last  
year.

He told the investigating team he did  
not trust the police and felt unsafe in the  
witness protection programme,

Investigating officer Danic Reyneke,  
who telephoned Mr Nkuna in hospital

CLIFF NKUNA  
To hide with friends

yesterday, said he was fine but scared  
and would be discharged later in the  
day.

He intended hiding with friends as he  
feared for his life. )

The judge, Mr Acting Justice Vahed,  
was informed of the shooting yesterday.

Meanwhile, defence attorney John  
Wills brought an application for all six  
accused to be discharged at the close of  
the state's case yesterday on grounds  
that no reasonable court would convict  
them. He also submitted that Mr Nkuna  
had been a bad witness whose evidence  
could not be relied on. Judgment will be  
given at 10am today,

Last night, IFP safety and security  
spokesman Velaphi ' Ndlovu said the  
fears of KZN Premier Lionel Mtshali had  
been realised by the shooting.

Mr Ndlovu said: "This is a nasty twist  
in the whole saga of the assassination

case of Mr Sikhonde. The 11 expresses  
its dismay with the excessive inter-  
ference in the judicial process."

This ranged from attempts by Mr S'bu  
Ndebele to gag Mr Nkuna from giving  
evidence at the trial, to attempts by  
some biased sections of the media to  
discredit the evidence given in court be-  
fore it had been tested.

The IFP felt that no stone should be  
left unturned in searching for the truth.

"It was foolish to think that the IFP  
recommended that all the accused in the  
case, as well as those named by Mr  
Nkuna, should be regarded as innocent  
unless proven guilty," said Mr Ndlovu.

However, the party questioned why  
people like Mr Ndebele were jumping  
up and down, as if they had ants in their  
pants, in a frenzied attempt to stop Mr  
Nkuna from telling the court what he  
claimed to know about Mr Sikhonde's  
assassination.

ANC spokesman Dumisani Makhaye  
said national Safety and Security Minister  
Steve Tshwele and police commis-  
sioner Jackie Selebi should personally  
constitute a police unit to investigate the  
attempted murder. "

The unit should further investigate  
"the role of certain elements within the  
police who are supposed to be protecting  
him and the forces handling Mr Nkuna".

Mr Nkuna, as a star state witness-in  
the trial of the murder of the late mayor,  
has been an embarrassment to his  
handlers," Mr Makhaye said. "He is the  
man who is likely to expose the third  
force activities at the highest level."

The ANC wanted Mr Tshwete and  
Comin Selebi to ensure Mr Nkuna's safe-  
ty, said Mr Makhaye.