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Ibeki launches huge  
Alex renewal project

President announces seven-year plan to build roads, sanitation, schools, clinics and police stations

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BY MAUREEN ISAACSON,  
SAPA AND REUTERS

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by

On the eve of his historic state visit

to Britain, President Thabo Mbeki \_

rolled up his sleeves yesterday,  
planted a tree and launched the  
R1,3 billion Alexandra renewal

project, a sweeping plan to regenerate

the urban slum that borders  
Johannesburg's affluent neighbour,  
Sandton.

When he arrived at the Alexandra stadium, Mbeki was met by enthusiastic residents as they tried to grasp his hand through the wire-mesh fence surrounding the venue. The renewal project is seen as a blueprint for urban reconstruction

" throughout the country.

But Mbeki and his cabinet colleagues appeared to face criticism for not attending the funeral of 12-year-old Aids activist Nkosi Johnson

at the Central Methodist church in Johannesburg.

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NKOSI'S FUNERAL: PAGE 2

Bongani Khumalo, the presidential adviser on HIV/Aids. â\200\234This young boy lived only a dozen years but his impact is profound,â\200\235 Khumalo said.

In Alexandra, Mbeki made no reference to the subject of Johnson or HIV/Aids, but he touched on the

upgrading of health facilities in

. hospitals such as the Edenvale

hospital and the construction of an additional clinic. -

No more will people have to travel long distances to hospitals in Tembisa or Johannesburg for treatment when they have a hospital on their doorsteps. -

The township is severely overcrowded. Some 350 000 people are packed into a radius of 5,5 square kilometres. Although the government has raised the standard of liv-

. I don't care what position you are in since 1094 - Installing proper

" take in this debate on Aids. I don't -, care what position you take on anti-retroviral drugs, just show this country, show these children some compassion," said Reverend Mvume Dandala, the presiding bishop of the Methodist church in southern Africa, in what appeared to be a reference to the government. | But in an interview last night, Dandadla said he was not singling out the government but addressing ~all South Africans. . \_ Bheki Khumalo, Mbeki's spokesperson, said it was absurd to \* suggest that Mbeki had shunned the funeral. He said Mbeki had made the Alexandra appointment months ago. The government was represented at the funeral by

sanitation in any areas as well as running water, electricity, telephones and street lights - there are still complaints that services are sporadic. There are still areas where 20 families share a single yard and a single tap, while heavy rains result in the flooding of houses and raw sewage can be seen in the streets. Earlier yesterday Mbhazima Shilowa, the Gauteng premier, pledged that his government would build 56 000 houses in Alexandra over the next and that

20000 of the units would be built in areas adjoining the existing township. X

Departing from his prepared speech, Mbeki told a packed Alexandra stadium that the purpose of the

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struggle fought by many South Africans had not been to ensure that

he and his cabinet drove around.in  
Mercedes Benzlg"i¬\201% . Â© 3

â\200\234It was to make sure that the peo-  
ple of Alexandra eradicate poverty.â\200\235

In his speech, Mbeki said that  
over a seven-year period govern-  
ment would:deliver roads, water,  
sanitation, schools and clinics, and  
build police stations.

â\200\234We shall ensure that safety and  
security become a living reality for  
the people of Alexandra and that no  
one need live in fear of violence.â\200\235

At one point Mbeki broke into  
Xhosa to say that he disapproved of  
the fact that people continued to live  
on top of each other in shacks.

â\200\234When we said we wanted a bet-  
ter life for all the people of South  
Africa we meant the people of Alex  
as well.â\200\235

The police and army were out in  
full force for the Mbeki visit. Armed  
soldiers lined-the streets and  
armoured vehicleleg were on standby.

Mbeki has aâ\200\231\$pecial status in

"Alexandra as the son-in-law of the

township through his marriage to  
Zanele, his wife, who was born in  
the township. Mbeki was presented  
with a blanket to symbolise his  
betrothal to Alexandra.

Mbeki was accompanied by  
several senior government officials  
including Sydney Mufamadi, local  
government minister, Essop Pahad,  
the minister in the presidency,  
Ngconde Balfour, the minister of  
sport, and Frank Chikane, the direc-  
tor-general in the presidency. .

â\200\230Mbekiâ\200\231s visit was part of an all-

' day celebration in the township that'

included a music concert featuring  
Bayete, Flaming Souls and the

' African Jazz Pioneers.

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Getting stuck in: President Thabo Mbeki plants a tree during a visit to Alexandra with cabinet colleagues yesterday =~ PHOTOGRAPH: CARA VIERECKL

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THE SUNDAY INDEPENDENT  
JUNE 10 2001

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BY JOHN MATISONN

The ANC is again trying to decide whether to discipline Andrew Feinstein, the controversial ANC MP who abstained on the motion of support for Dr Frene Ginwala, the speaker of the national assembly, and her han-

\_dling of the arms investigation.

The debate caused divisions in several parties, which struggled to find the right way to navigate the untested waters of whether a speaker can put aside the interests of her party while acting as speaker.

Ginwala is a member of the ANC's top bodies, the national executive committee and the national working committee, and attends ANC caucus meetings. - et )

In the end, the ANC and the one\* member Minority Front were the sole supporters of the motion. Most of the opposition parties voted for a multi-party committee to examine the con-

- troversy.

The Feinstein's case has been sent to

ANC party headquarters in Johannesburg for guidance on what to do.

Feinstein has refused to comment on the matter but his decision to abstain seemed inevitable after ANC MP Jeremy Cronin roundly criticised the wording of the original resolution of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa). The Scopa resolution was drafted mainly by Feinstein and Dr Gavin Woods, the chairperson of Scopa. Feinstein was head of the ANC team in Scopa at the time.

Woods did not participate in the debate but Koos van der Merwe, chief whip of the Inkatha Freedom Party, said it was clear that Woods saw Gin-

walaâ\200\231s interventions as interference that had hampered the oversight function of his committee.

â\200\234The IFP does not differ from the stand by the chairperson,â\200\235 Van der Merwe said.

The IFP abstained on the opposition motion calling for a multiparty committee and abstained again on the ANC motion of support for Ginwala.

Woods, who sat in on most of the debate, was not in the chamber during the vote. He said later this was because of pressing business and not as a matter of principle....

The Democratic Alliance opposed the motion only after an internal debate in which several members expressed high regard for the speaker.

The ANCâ\200\231s Dr-PaBJordan opened the debate by arguing; it was possible for her to be an impartial speaker as well as a leader in the ANC because her role was â\200\234to have an open mind, not an empty mindâ\200\235. \*\*

He defied MPs to find examples of where she had not been impartial and said that it was General Bantu Holomisa, the leader of the United Democratic Movement, who should â\200\234be in the dockâ\200\235 for his attacks on the speaker. :

Jordan said â\200\234with the exception of this recent blemishâ\200\235 when Ginwala intervened in Scopaâ\200\231s conduct of the arms probe, the speaker had provided good leadership to parliament.

' ANC to decide on steps against Feinstein

The ANC had intended to include a clause censuring Holomisa in its motion but left it out as a compromise intended to coax some opposition parties to support them.

Cronin, ending the debate, brought about one of the most emotional moments on ANC benches this year.

He said the controversy was caused by opposition parties trying to upstage each other by attacking the speaker.

Referring to Holomisa as â\200\234General Holomisa the Soberâ\200\235 Cronin said his open letter attacking the speaker was â\200\234full of the buzz and excitement of someone who thinks he might just have seized the radio station and is about to take the air stripâ\200\235.

Cronin said Holomisa's attack was intended to impress a party that was unhappy with his leadership and falling apart.

The general has to do something to rally the remaining loyal troops, otherwise he might find himself the victim of a coup, Cronin said.

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Marches against WEF a  
taste of things to come

Continued from Page 1

The WEF gathering, activists say, lived up to the South African Communist Party's predictions of another round of bland assertions.

Indeed, what business leaders have yet to learn from the failed court action by pharmaceutical firms against the South African government is that the time has passed for unilateral, unquestioned business decisions that affect millions of lives. A globalised world also means increased scrutiny of multinationals and a network of rapid-response activism.

Mazibuko Jara of the SACP said the WEF promotes the ruthless logic of the market which rams privatisation, liberalisation, deregulation down the throats of developing countries. As a result of these policies, 80 countries are now poorer than they were in 1990.

While it is unfair to blame all of this on the WEF, they certainly form a corps that pays much attention to moneymaking and has scant regard for the impact of economics on people's lives. Their January forum in Switzerland saw militant protests and a dramatic, and probably excessive, Swiss police presence.

Patrick Bond, a political economist at the University of the Witwatersrand who has just completed a book, *Against Global Apartheid: South Africa meets the World Bank, IMF and International Finance* (UCT Press), said that global apartheid, a term coined by President Thabo Mbeki, was a major international issue.

In the 1980s the Reverend Leon

Sullivan of the United States coined the Sullivan Principles, which identified apartheid as bad and harnessed institutions and vehicles to diminish its efficacy. Archbishop Desmond Tutu said at that time: "We don't want to shine the chains of apartheid, we want to break them."

Mbeki says global apartheid is: systemic and has to be thought, yet:



Mbeki, [minister of finance Trevor] Manuel and [World Bank director Mamphela] Ramphele, as beneficiaries of the struggle against apartheid, have decided to fight in ways that do not abolish global [economic] apartheid.â\200\235

Bond argues that â\200\234global neo-liberalismâ\200\235 - which he says mani-

- fosts itself as rampant â\200\234free-market

ideology that allows social programmes to be cut, the abolition of foreign exchange control, an end to the protection of infant industries and higher interest ratesâ\200\235 â\200\224 damages the developing world.

â\200\234In 1995 Chris Liebenberg [South Africaâ\200\231s then finance minister] and Chris Scholtz [then Reserve Bank governor] abolished our only protection, the financial rand. Since then we have had three currency crashes of 20 to 30 percent.â\200\235

Bond believes the impact of globalisation â\200\224 seen on a more localised level as the cutting off of electricity in Soweto by partially privatised Eskom - is seeing â\200\234the left of the [tripartite] alliance wake up, as our society is going to the highest bidderâ\200\235.

Over the long term, Bond believes these pressures could lead to the collapse of the tripartite alliance, â\200\234because the ANC is finding it difficult to deliver the goodsâ\200\235.

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linging Gasa â\200\230shamesâ\200\231 Qnamĩ\202gsed IFP %

REG ARDE because, her col- tary would be said another, â\200\234and then she

ERpSTrer : leagues said, she was filled no later than might have kept her job as an  
KWAZULU-NATAL'S ruling : August. - == MP. Now she has risked that.â\200\235  
Inkatha Freedom Party is not The following day Mtshali will The Democratic Alliance (DA)  
amused. The IFPâ\200\231s national co-. premier Lionel contest .Gesa's said Gasaâ\200\231s  
appointment was a

challenge -~ in political one she could occupy as  
court. long as she enjoyed Mtshaliâ\200\231s  
IFP . insiders favour

ordinating committee meets in Mtshali said he had  
Ulundi today to consider, among. -accepted Gasaâ\200\231s res-  
other issues, the behaviour of ignation, only to

-errant former education minis---hear - from - her . sald Gasa,WhÂ\$ The ANC demanded an in  
ves-  
ter Faith Gasa. . lawyers a week later . has been offered tigation into Mtshaliâ\200\231s  
The committee isalsolikelyto that she had not FAITH GASA treatment for alco- - announcement  
about Gasaâ\200\231s res. |

' holism, had ent= : ignation in view of her denials,  
barrassed the party and badi: A number of replacements for  
exhausted sympathy. - Gasa have been touted - top-

resigned and wanted

finalise its choice of new educa-  
her job back.

tion minister: Cape Town-based

IFP MP Professor Gabriel  
Ndabandaba.

Gasa has not been seen since  
last week when she failed to  
deliver a speech in parliament

Mtshali was undeterred â\200\224 he  
told top educationalists there  
would be a new minister by the  
end of the month, and the  
vacant post of education secre-

â\200\234We are not amused,â\200\235 said-an\*"ping the list is Ndabandaba and

IFP source on Gasaâ\200\231s attempts to  
cling to the education job.  
â\200\234She should have kept quiet;

ke

.provincial DA leader Roger

Â© Burrows. - arde@nn.indepen-

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resident Thabo

Mbeki leads a dele-

gation of senior

-~ Cabinet ministers

to the United King-

dom next week on a state visit

that is about a lot more than

taking tea with the queen and  
riding in the royal carriage.

Mbeki means business in

keeping the momentum going

in his drive to consolidate sup-

port among developed nations

for the Millennium Africa

Reform Programme (MAP),  
and wants to use meetings  
with British government and  
business leaders to build trade  
ties to new heights, push for  
reform of multilateral institu-  
tions and develop co-operation  
in resolving conflicts on the  
African continent.

The government believes  
that the good rapport between  
Mbeki and British prime min-  
ister Tony Blair and a common  
line of thinking on crucial  
issues will clear the way to  
enlisting the help of the  
Labour government and busi-  
ness leaders in a renewed push  
for investment in South  
Africa.

Mbeki's officials point with  
pride to trade figures showing  
that in 2000, the first year of  
the European Union-SA trade

"deal, the value of bilateral

trade rose to R34 billion, an

. increase of 40% over the previ-  
ous year.

But behind closed doors,

Mbeki

means

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The international racism confereï¬\201Ã©â\200\230e  
Zimbabwe and trade will top the agenda  
during President Thabo Mbekiâ\200\231s visit to  
Britain this week, writes Clive Sawyer

Mbeki and his ministers are  
likely to face hard talk on  
issues such as Zimbabwe and  
South Africaâ\200\231s agreement as  
host country to put the ques-  
tion of compensation for slav-  
ery and colonialism on to the  
agenda of the forthcoming  
United Nations Conference on  
Racism and Xenophobia.

Mbeki and Defence Minister  
Mosiuoa Lekota could also be  
asked for behind-the-scenes

\_insight into the arms deal

saga. There has been wide-  
spread comment on South

Africa being granted a state  
visit relatively close on the  
heels of the 1998 tour by  
Nelson Mandela.

But while that visit had a  
strong feelgood element,  
Mbekiâ\200\231s team are packing an  
agenda strong on technocratic  
substance. Trade and Industry  
Minister Alec Erwin is taking  
a 63-member delegatiofiof his  
own, with stops plamtis both  
in the UK and Ireland, with  
the goal of developing the  
market for South "African  
exports and building foreign

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lThere is more to PreSIdent Thabo Mbekiâ\200\231s visit to  
England than tea with the Queen

direct investment in the coun-

Also playing a key role in  
investment confidence build-  
ing will be Minerals and  
Energy -Minister Phumzile  
Mlambo-Ngcuka. Mbeki is to

open an investment conference and will speak to strategically selected audiences of business people in London and Glasgow.

While in Scotland, he will have a further opportunity to market MAP and counter Afropessimism in an address to the Scottish parliament. His meeting with Blair is a timeous opportunity for Mbeki, who has sought out opportunities for he and his ministers to brief leaders of the Group of Eight most industrialised nations about MAP, prior to his presentation

of the programme to the G8 summit scheduled for Genoa next month.

Mbeki will also discuss with Blair the role Britain could play in economic and social renewal in Africa.

The president is to push forward the crusade by nations of the south for a response to globalisation, which distributes its benefits more equitably, and will highlight the closely related issue of reform of the Bretton Woods financial institutions and the United Nations.

But while Mbeki has packed alot of business into four days of events, the protocol of a state visit obliges Mbeki to participate in a round of royal engagements, including a banquet hosted by Queen Elizabeth 2 in Mbeki's honour.

## OPINION

NE of the early lessons

for the ANC after it

assumed political power

was that the kind of

transformation it envisaged for this country would not be achievable in the foreseeable future unless key personnel sympathetic to the movement's cause were deployed strategically to give impetus to change.

Prior to 1994, it had been imperative to rope in the best talent to run for political office. But before very long, the ANC had changed strategy and a lot of talent that had been lying dormant or under-utilised in Parliament was freed to spread the organisation's influence in other spheres.

Thus former Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa, former Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale and former Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa became businessmen.

Former trade unionist Mr Marcel Golding went to contest the media ownership terrain, while Mr Pravin Gordhan now heads the South African Revenue Service. The ANC's own economics gurus, Mr Tito Mboweni and Ms Gill Marcus have become big wigs at the Reserve

Bank. ,

Mr Danny Jordaan left his Parliamentary seat to play a crucial role in making South Africa a strong force in international football, as was evident when he spearheaded our efforts to secure the first World Cup finals for the

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nsidared  
RIL MADLALA

Why can't 200/231

t we just look for

the most competent person?

African continent.

A purge of conservative elements from the top brass of the South African Broadcasting Corporation ensured that the public broadcaster became more representative of the South African population, not only in its output, but also in the composition of staff.

Opposition parties protested vehemently that in its haste to bring about change, the ruling party did not always hire the best person for the job.

Allegations were rife that nepotism and loyalty to the party had become the necessary credentials, ahead of competence and merit. .

Some of the protests were valid. Indeed, it would not be very difficult to identify some newly appointed

people who have been clearly out of their depth. Mistakes are being corrected as we go along, but that does not detract from the fact that some questionable appointments had been made in the first place.

Inequities

Interestingly, the argument that merit should be the main, if not the only determinant in the employment of civil servants was used to oppose measures, such as affirmative action, which were designed to correct the inequities of the past. Lot

These developments were brought to mind this week as I reflected on two unrelated events in two distant parts of South Africa. In the Western Cape, it emerged that the

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DA might be having a rethink of its attitude that key personnel in the running of the Cape Town municipality should be sympathetic to the Alliance. It will be recalled that when the party won the local government election in the area, it



moved swiftly to purge the city council of officials who had been employed by the ANC, including city manager Mr Andrew Boraine.

Now a report commissioned by the Alliance has prompted it to depoliticise council structures.

The report recommends that competence, confidence and continuity should be the council's key principles for employment. Political allegiance is thus ruled out, although the DA makes an interesting point when it elaborates on what is meant by confidence. It

says political governance should have confidence in its administration, and in the words of Deputy Mayor Belinda Walker: There must be confidence in those in top jobs to implement policies.

This makes it difficult to understand why then the DA had a problem when the ANC wanted to deploy in top jobs those it had confidence in.

The second development involves the IFP in KwaZulu-Natal and its apparent inability to find within its own ranks a suitable MEC for education. Mrs Faith Gasa was the last to go last week. Whether she was pushed or she jumped is not clear yet. Before her, a very competent Mrs Eileen kaNkosi-Shandu left under a cloud amid allegations of nepotism, while her predecessor Dr Vincent Zulu had, by many accounts, not been doing a good job.

Now such a key post in the province remains unfilled while the IFP scraps the party barrel to find a suitable candidate.

Would heavens fall if political parties just looked for the most competent person for the job?

It is a tall order because it would probably eliminate the need for the existence of political parties. The sad reality is that it is power, or the allure of power, that draws people to politics in the first place. That makes politicians unlikely to give up power easily, even if the IFP cannot find within its own ranks a suitable candidate.