

**Thursday, 08<sup>th</sup> October 2009**  
**Page 64 – 92**

<b>A.</b>	<b>Business Day</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.	Gama to face Transnet after court setback	64
2.	Manyi plays down 'conflict of interest'	65
3.	Shiceka warns of shortage of municipal finance skills	66
4.	Why so much is rotten in the state of SA today	67
5.	Selebi 'showed secret file to Agliotti'	68
<b>B.</b>	<b>Daily News (7<sup>th</sup> October 2009)</b>	
1.	Watchdog demands final report	69
2.	Friends no more	70
3.	Continues...	71
4.	IFP calls for full probe of Nedbank fire	72
<b>C.</b>	<b>The Mercury</b>	
1.	Minister's R234 000 splurge	73
2.	Continues...	74
3.	MPs show police officers the door	75
4.	Cosatu members break up meeting	76
5.	I bought shoes for Mbeki, says Agliotti	77
6.	Continues...	78
<b>D.</b>	<b>Sowetan</b>	
1.	ANC is not behind attacks	79
2.	I'm a man of the poor – Malema	80
3.	Mpimpa hotline clogged up	81
4.	Power grab rocks Cope Youth Movement	82
5.	Semenya needs backing	83
<b>E.</b>	<b>The Star</b>	
1.	Top cop 'at Agliotti's beck and call'	84
2.	Continues...	85
3.	Minister' shotel splurge	86
<b>F.</b>	<b>The Times</b>	
1.	We must look to ordinary folk to end political decay	87
2.	Zuma's buzzing hotline shows how bad services are	88
3.	Luxury vehicle cost you another R2.5m	89
<b>G.</b>	<b>The Witness</b>	
1.	Unions picket over labour brokers	90
<b>H.</b>	<b>Isolezwe</b>	



1. 'Wacubuza' ngezicathulo kuMbeki
2. Sezikapakele ehostela izimpi zombango

91  
92



# Gama to face Transnet after court setback

ARTWELL DLAMINI  
Transport Correspondent

TRANSNET said yesterday it would continue disciplinary action against its freight rail division CEO, Siyabonga Gama, after he lost his court bid to stop the action and quash his suspension.

Judge Brian Spilg dismissed the case on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence to prove acting CEO Chris Wells had tainted the process that led to disciplinary action against Gama.

Gama now has to face up to the allegations of irregularities relating to a security tender and contract to buy 50 "like-new" locomotives.

The court ruling places Gama in a difficult position. He now has to face up to his accusers while containing the fallout from his high-profile battle for the Transnet CEO post, for which he was not short-listed.

The ruling also contradicts comments from Cabinet ministers Jeff Radebe and Sipiwe Nyanda, who implied Gama was a victim when they publicly supported him. Radebe described the accusations against Gama as a "miscarriage of justice", while Nyanda said "powerful interests" were trying to stop Gama from taking over as the Transnet CEO.

After the judgment, Gama said he felt "comfortable" that the

court had allayed his fears in connection with the circumstances that led to the disciplinary process and suspension. He said he was prepared to clear his name through the disciplinary processes and "prove my innocence".

Themba Langa, Gama's lawyer, said they would study the judgment. Transnet spokesman John Dlodlu said the internal disciplinary hearing against Gama would take its course with an independent chairman.

Spilg said he found insufficient evidence that Wells had conspired to oust Gama.

Gama had claimed that Wells, in delegating the power to Transnet group human resources

executive Pradeep Maharaj to institute the disciplinary action, had conspired to prevent him from becoming Transnet CEO.

The judge said Maharaj's decision to institute the disciplinary action and suspend Gama was not influenced by Wells, and there was no "perceived bias" against Gama.

Spilg said the Transnet board had endorsed the decision to suspend Gama. Maria Ramos, the former Transnet group CEO, had passed the details of a forensic investigation relating to Gama on to the board.

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## Manyi plays down 'conflict of interest'

KGOMOTSO MATHE  
Staff Writer

DEPARTMENT of Labour director-general Jimmy Manyi was re-elected president of the Black Management Forum (BMF) yesterday after his opponent Bonang Mohale withdrew as a candidate at the last minute.

This means Manyi holds two positions of power — one in the government and one in civil society — raising concern of a possible conflict of interest.

Manyi's role as labour director-general requires enforcement of labour law while the forum is a policy lobby group and represents managers — many of whom are in the private sector that Manyi will be policing.

"I continue to hold both these positions unashamedly. There is definitely no conflict of interest in both these positions," he said.

Manyi said there were two factors at play when considering a

conflict of interest. "First you must declare conflict and manage it."

"I have declared to the BMF that I'm the labour department's director-general, and now I have to manage it," he said.

"Conflict of interest will always happen, it's the name of the game," Manyi said.

According to Manyi, the positions are intertwined.

The forum would not disclose reasons for Mohale's withdrawal.

Manyi said that Mohale, a seasoned BMF member, felt that in the interests of preserving unity it was best that he withdraw from the race.

Mohale, who is the chairman and vice-president of sales and marketing at Shell SA, was not present at the media briefing to comment.

"I want to thank Bonang for allowing the process to run smoothly. I really owe him one, I

Continued on page 2

## Manyi plays down 'conflict of interest'

**Continued from page 1**

think he did what was in the interests of this organisation," Manyi said.

Mohale was reportedly approached by some of the provinces to stand against Manyi. It is understood that he initially declined, citing work pressure, but then agreed.

Manyi is the former chairman of the Commission for Employment Equity, and he represents the forum at Business Unity SA.

Even before taking up the position of director-general, he threatened legal action against companies that did not comply with employment equity targets.

"In both positions, I

have only one mission, and that is to ensure that SA is totally transformed."

Manyi said he believed there would be a lot of collaboration between the department of labour and the BMF.

Gaba Tabane, MD of the BMF, said that he welcomed the news of Manyi's re-election.

"We recommend to corporate SA to take advantage of this opportunity to engage with policy makers in government, and government leaders to take time off to listen to some of the private sector imperatives," he said.

The BMF's KwaZulu-Natal chairwoman Tembakazi Myaka was elected deputy president. mathek@bdfm.co.za



# Shiceka warns of shortage of municipal finance skills

LINDA ENSOR

Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Co-operative Governance Minister Sicelo Shiceka yesterday took a hard line against municipal chief financial officers who lacked the skills to do their jobs, saying if they could not be trained “they should go” and should not have been there in the first place.

A lack of skills is one of the main reasons for the financial mismanagement of local authorities, which results in poor service delivery, fraud and corruption — ills Shiceka is determined to eliminate through Operation Clean Audit 2014, which aims to ensure that all municipalities and provincial departments get unqualified audit opinions.

Shiceka told a meeting of several

parliamentary committees that matters in local government “are not rosy”. He could not understand how chief financial officers and municipal managers continued in their jobs year after year despite negative audit opinions, and he intended to include this in their performance contracts.

He also wanted the law changed so that the appointment of municipal managers and chief financial officers

— and their suspension and dismissal — required the concurrence of the provincial MEC to ensure they had the necessary skills and to prevent municipal managers being suspended when they refused to award tenders in the way politicians desired.

He stressed that the clean audit campaign needed the buy-in of all political parties and appealed to them to put “petty politics” aside.

Meanwhile, Independent Democrats MP Haniff Hoosen dismissed as “ludicrous” Shiceka’s proposal that municipal councillors be paid the same as MPs. “Working on an MP’s salary of around R700 000, it would cost well over R6bn a year to pay the more than 9 000 councillors countrywide. This R6bn would be better spent on poverty reduction.”

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## Too many guns floating around SA, says Zuma

WILSON JOHWA

Political Correspondent

PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma yesterday criticised the level of gun ownership in SA, hinting at the possible tightening of

firearm licence regulations.

Zuma repeated his call for tough action against violent crime, saying criminals should not be allowed more rights than law-abiding citizens. “We need to be firm to those who

undermine the human rights of others,” he said in Pretoria at the official launch of the presidential hotline.

Zuma’s government is pushing for police to get shoot-to-kill powers against violent

criminals, in an overhaul of the criminal justice system.

“This country is too armed. There are too many guns floating around,” Zuma said.

Gun Free SA spokeswoman Sheena Duncan welcomed

Zuma’s comments, saying he was showing that gun control had not fallen off the government’s agenda since the Firearm Control Act was passed.

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# Why so much is rotten in the state of SA today

**M**EDIA reports that President Jacob Zuma met more than 1 000 police station commanders to find out why crime is out of control should be welcomed. What he heard from the commanders made his hair stand on end. Some of our most notorious offenders are police officers. Palpably shocked at such reports, Zuma is exploring solutions to this worrying state of affairs.

To ordinary citizens, this comes as no surprise. Unlike politicians, who enjoy 24-hour security, we all are victims of crime, and we all have our stories of rape, robbery, theft, murder and unsolved crime, made worse by gross police incompetence.

The most disheartening aspect of police incompetence is their failure to do the basics when investigating crime. The ability to provide forensic evidence, improve detection skills and increase conviction rates has eluded our police force since 1999, when Thabo Mbeki took over, simply because he chose to politicise and racialise crime instead of exerting his authority over the criminals with power and conviction.

To make matters worse, the chronic lack of basic resources has paralysed the police from doing their work effectively. Under such circumstances, police officers, except for a few, are tempted to act with impunity, and many have become a law unto themselves, using their powers to empower themselves.

No wonder SA has slipped several notches



Rhoda Kadalie

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Our elected officials fail to lead by example, and corruption has become endemic. Their adherents follow suit

down the Index of African Governance, in line with the deterioration in the Human Development Index. Harvard professor Robert Rotberg puts the slippage down to "the crime rate, the severe decline in the physical integrity rights of South Africans, and growing disregard for the rule of law", especially corruption. Wanton crime has infected the body politic of SA, and its effects are visible everywhere.

Overly bold City Press headlines, asking why we are losing the war on crime, paint a picture of a police force that is so endemically corrupt that cleaning it up will be a futile exercise. The Economist (October 3) lists a range of causes: the apartheid legacy, high unemployment, poverty, inequality, absence of fathers, alcohol and drug abuse, and lack of

education. While all these causes need long-term and sustained sociopolitical and economic interventions, one reason is most often overlooked: our law makers in Parliament are the worst law breakers. Rotten to the core, they are to blame for the crime in this country, and no one is more articulate about this than prisoners, gangsters and drug lords.

Nyami Boo, the fall guy for all those MPs protected in the Travelgate scandal, epitomises what I am talking about. Covering up for the great and the good who were implicated in the scandal, he must, of course, be rewarded, his reward being to retain his seat in Parliament and chair the portfolio committee on defence. The African National Congress has closed ranks around this saga, and the ramifications of covering up the crime of the ruling elite are already haunting us and will do so for generations to come.

The police are acting out their frustrations with a Parliament that fails to be exemplary; with a government that is rotten to the core; and with an unscrupulous Judicial Service Commission that is willing to be the handmaiden of the ruling party. Our elected officials fail to lead by example and corruption has become endemic. Their adherents follow suit, and beat them at their own game.

The result is we are reaping the harvest sown by former police commissioner Jackie Selebi. His was the worst political appointment to a job that needed someone with integrity, moral stature and competence of

the highest order. That he became head of Interpol was an indication of how far that supposedly august body had sunk. Under his command, crime in the police force escalated while he was openly declaring that Glenn Agliotti was his friend, "finish and klaar". When he should have demonstrated leadership, Selebi was allegedly involved in all manner of intrigues and criminal activity. Worse, he politicised the police force to the extent that the lines between the National Prosecuting Authority, the intelligence services and police became horribly blurred.

When Zuma decreed the police should shoot to kill, the gangs responded with revenge shootings in Cape Town and Johannesburg, just to let the government know they are in control. While Zuma's efforts to get to grips with issues troubling our society should be lauded, his doublespeak is troubling.

One cannot speak about honour while condoning dishonour. One cannot speak about accountability while endorsing the unaccountability of party officials. One cannot condemn corruption but reward the corrupt. As long as this happens, we will continue to slip on the international indices that measure good governance, societal health and democratic wellbeing.

■ Kadalie is a human rights activist based in Cape Town and the author of *In Your Face: Passionate Conversations About People and Politics* (Tafelberg, 2009).



# Selebi 'showed secret file to Agliotti'

Another day of astonishing testimony — including shopping trip to buy shoes for Thabo Mbeki

ERNEST MABUZA

Legal Affairs Correspondent

FORMER police commissioner Jackie Selebi did not act on information given to him by UK law enforcement authorities about Glenn Agliotti's drug-smuggling activities, but instead passed the information to Agliotti, the South Gauteng High Court heard yesterday.

The court also heard from Agliotti that Selebi shared with him the contents of a document he believed was from the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) that detailed how businessman Jürgen Kögl said mining magnates Roger and Brett Kebble were paying Selebi.

The prosecution adduced that evidence from Agliotti meant to show that Selebi was guilty of defeating the administration of justice by sharing with Agliotti the secret information from the UK authorities and details of the NIA report.

"It will be shown by the state that this document was sent by UK authorities to the South African Police Service, of which the accused was the head," prosecutor Gerrie Nel said.

Selebi has pleaded not guilty to three charges of corruption and one charge of defeating the administration of justice.

Selebi has claimed that the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) approached several people and offered them indemnity for



**DISHING UP DIRT:** Self-confessed drug dealer Glenn Agliotti leaves the high court in Johannesburg yesterday after testifying in the corruption trial of former police commissioner Jackie Selebi. Picture: WERNER BEUKES/SAPA

crimes such as murder, fraud and drug trafficking in exchange for false statements implicating him.

Agliotti, the prosecution's first witness, reached a plea bargain with the prosecution in 2007. He pleaded guilty to receiving money from an acquaintance in exchange for

transporting and storing drugs. His 10-year jail sentence was suspended for five years and he was also fined R300 000.

Agliotti will appear in court next year, accused of murdering Brett Kebble.

Agliotti said Selebi came to his

offices in Midrand in 2005 with a document containing allegations from Kögl that the Kebbles had paid Selebi. Agliotti said he did not know who Kögl was. "The accused said it was an intelligence report."

In the UK report, Agliotti said Selebi went to his business premises

in Midrand in 2006 where he produced a two-page document.

The document stated that Agliotti went to London with his associate, Clinton Nassif, who was also the head of Brett Kebble's security, and that his movements there were tracked.

"The accused said my movements were being monitored by authorities in the UK," Agliotti told the court yesterday.

Agliotti also testified that he had bought shoes for former president Thabo Mbeki.

"The accused said he wanted to buy the president shoes. I indicated to the shop assistant that I needed to buy size 7 because the president had small and broad feet," Agliotti did not know whether the shoes were presented to Mbeki.

Agliotti also mentioned receiving a copy of an e-mail from Selebi in 2006. The e-mail was sent by Paul O'Sullivan, a former head of security at Airports Company SA, to an official in the NPA.

The e-mail contained notes that O'Sullivan took from a casual source in Nassif's company. The e-mail claims that Nassif bragged that he had paid Selebi R50 000 as he had Selebi "in his pocket".

Selebi's advocate, Jaap Cilliers SC, told Judge Meyer Joffe that Nassif had denied giving Selebi any money at all. "The state knows what it is reading is actually wrong. We all know it is false," Cilliers said.

The trial continues.  
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THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2009 BusinessDay



# Watchdog demands final report

## Agriculture's missing millions

BHEKI MBANJWA

**T**HE provincial legislature's finance watchdog, the standing committee on public accounts, is expected to ask the provincial Treasury to release the long-awaited report on missing millions at the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture.

Yesterday members of the committee agreed to call an urgent meeting with the Treasury to discuss the contents of the forensic audit report.

The forensic investigation was conducted in 2007 after it emerged that the department had overspent its budget by more than R100 million over four consecutive financial years.

Of that amount, about R75m remains unauthorised, partly because of lax financial control measures in the department.

The committee found yesterday that some of the funds could not be properly accounted for because some of the missing documents had not been found.

About 32 percent of the documents requested by the auditor-general could not be obtained from the department, raising suspicion that they might have been deliberately destroyed by corrupt officials who wanted to cover their tracks.

While members of the finance portfolio committee have

been briefed on the contents of the report, it has never been publicly released because the Treasury has argued that its release could have a negative impact on any potential criminal investigations.

Opposition parties, especially the IFP, have dismissed the explanation as an excuse by the ANC to protect some officials who might be implicated in acts of corruption in the department.

Before the elections, the IFP threatened to go to court to force the provincial government to release the report.

The IFP's Alex Hamilton said the release of the report would ensure that those implicated in corrupt activities were brought to book.

### Unpunished

"These people are walking around unpunished. Some have even gone to the extent of being awarded other government tenders in other spheres of government."

John Steenhuisen, the leader of the DA in the legislature, said his party hoped that the report would finally be made public because all parties had agreed.

"It is high time that those people who are fingered in the report are held accountable, whether they are still employed by the government or not.

"Unless we do this we will be sending a wrong message to other civil servants that

this government is soft on corruption."

All parties, however, congratulated the new administration at the department, saying the turnaround strategy being implemented was already bearing fruit.

For the first time in more than four years the department got an unqualified audit report from the auditor-general for 2008/09.

Speaking to the Daily News after the meeting, the acting head of the department, Siddiq Adam, said he and his team had had resistance from within when implementing the turnaround strategy.

"One had to be fearless and ruthless when dealing with these issues because there was a lot of resistance, partly because some people had benefited from the weak internal financial controls in the department."

Adam said the department had reached "a state of anarchy" because of lack of controls.

Agriculture MEC Lydia Johnson said she was pleased that her department seemed to be turning a corner.

She said her administration would work hard to ensure that service delivery was not compromised.

"I know we have an unpleasant history in this department and all of us here do not want to have a repeat of that situation," she said.



# FRIENDS NO MORE

ALEX ELISEEV  
and KARYN MAUGHAN

ONCE upon a time they were close friends, meeting, eating and shopping together regularly. Now Glenn Agliotti and former police chief Jackie Selebi can't even bear to look at each other.

During a long day inside courtroom 4B at the Johannesburg High Court yesterday they failed to lock eyes.

Even when the two men found themselves a metre or two apart, Agliotti swung his back to the former police commissioner whose gaze burnt through his expensive suits.

Inside the witness box, Agliotti was careful to look only at prosecutor Gerrie Nel and at Judge Meyer Joffe, whom he addressed politely as "my Lord".

Selebi, whose life has been shaken by his friendship with the self-confessed drug dealer, looked on from the dock.

## Stare

Yesterday, after Agliotti began making damning allegations against Selebi, the pair walked past each other outside the courtroom. Selebi's stare was firm while Agliotti changed course and found himself at a wrong door, backtracking to find his way out.

When their friendship was exposed, Selebi famously said that Agliotti was a friend, "finish and klaar".

Now it is clear: the friendship is finish and klaar.

Today, once the legal wrangles had been resolved, Selebi's "friend" was due to continue telling the court how he paid about R1 million to buy the top cop's protection for his shadowy friends.

Yesterday it emerged Agliotti's friendship with Selebi was a lucrative investment that earned him millions – if his testimony is to be believed.

As the self-appointed gatekeeper to the country's former top cop, Agliotti commanded massive "consultancy fees" from the Kebble family and former fugitive businessman Billy Rautenbach.

And, as a police informant nicknamed "Piccone", Agliotti also coined R110 000 for his recruitment and for snitching on an R80 million



mandrax deal orchestrated by a mysterious "Madame Cheng".

While testifying that he paid a total of about R1 million to "keep Selebi on board", Agliotti charged the Kebbles \$1 million (about R7.5m) and Rautenbach \$100 000 for access to the then national police commissioner.

He said the Kebbles wanted Selebi's assistance because they had "problems" with the Associated Intelligence Network (AIN) investigative company, and Rautenbach wanted the arrest warrant against him quashed – which he believed was motivated by a conspiracy driven by then prosecuting chief Bulelani Ngcuka.

Agliotti said his efforts to "take care" of Selebi over a period of "a year and a little bit" included



# FRIENDS NO MORE



shopping sprees in Sandton City and expensive designer gifts from his travels abroad. Only the best – Gucci, Louis Vuitton and Hugo Boss – would do.

He further recounted how he and Selebi's wife had shopped together for her birthday present from him: a R10 000 red patent leather Louis Vuitton handbag.

Agliotti said he also gave Selebi R30 000 to host a dinner in Paris that he hoped would assist him in lobbying for the Interpol presidency – a position he won in 2004.

Asked by prosecutor Gerrie Nel how Selebi responded to the payments, Agliotti replied: "he was obviously grateful."

Agliotti told the court about how he had befriended Selebi in the 1990s, and offered to pay a R1 200

medical bill run up by one of his children.

While his initial payments to Selebi were "of no significance", Agliotti said they grew as the years went by and finally reached the highest payment of R200 000. This payment had been made in response to Selebi's claim that he had "a problem" and needed R1m, he said.

Agliotti told how the money was channelled from the Kebble-controlled JCI and CMMS mining companies through an outside company called Spring Lights, and then paid in cash to Selebi.

Most of the money was handed over to Selebi at a company called Maverick Masupatsela, which was owned by his then girlfriend, Agliotti said.

Asked if he had ever been confronted by the authorities about the payments he was making to Selebi, Agliotti revealed that crime intelligence boss Mulangi Mphego had called him to an urgent meeting.

According to Agliotti, Mphego said he had been monitoring "my phone and everyone else, and asked me about the \$1 million (that he was paid by the Kebbles)".

"I denied it emphatically and told him I used the accused's name to secure payment from the Kebbles ... I didn't want Selebi to know the amount of money I had asked for."

Agliotti's evidence further revealed that he had been protective over Selebi out of fear that allowing the Kebbles to have greater contact with the commissioner would be bad for business.

## Dinner

He said he had then reluctantly arranged several dinner dates for Selebi and Kebble, whose "assisted suicide" the state claims Agliotti masterminded.

Agliotti said Selebi had helped arrange for Kebble's complaints to be heard by Mphego and other police officials, and had also made inquiries, at Rautenbach's behest, about whether there was an international arrest warrant out for him.

He was yesterday afternoon about to spill the beans on what Selebi allegedly did in return for his cash and gifts when an error in the State's indictment effectively gagged him.

Lawyers for the state and Selebi were expected today to battle over whether Agliotti can give evidence about how Selebi allegedly showed him a top-secret UK intelligence report about his suspected involvement in international drug smuggling.

Nel is expected to try to persuade Joffe to allow him to lead this evidence, which concerns events outside the time period specified in the indictment against Selebi.

National Prosecuting Authority spokesman Mthunzi Mhaga declined to explain the reason for the apparent mistake, but said the NPA was "considering its options".

Selebi is facing a count of corruption and another of defeating the ends of justice.

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**DAILY NEWS**  
**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7 2009**

## **IFP calls for full probe of Nedbank fire**

**NONDUMISO MBUYAZI**

THE IFP has urged a full investigation of the cause of a fire at a Nedbank building on Monday, saying the incident occurred just after ANC Youth League (ANCYL) leader Julius Malema spoke of teaching the bank a lesson.

The fire started in the basement of Nedbank in Beyers

Naudé Drive, Johannesburg, and staff were evacuated.

"It is unfortunate that this incident occurred just after Julius Malema's irresponsible instruction to the youth to teach Nedbank a lesson," said Velaphi Ndlovu, the IFP's spokesman on police.

"It would be comforting to us all if the police could rule out any connection between

these events," he added.

Nedbank withdrew its sponsorship of Athletics South Africa president Leonard Chuehe admitted that he had lied about sex tests being done on Caster Semenya without her knowledge.

Malema's call to teach the bank a lesson came after he accused them of pulling out because only black

athletes had won medals.

Responding to the IFP's statement this morning, the ANCYL said: "We can't dignify anything said by the IFP". Spokesman Floyd Shivambu then cut the call.

Malema did not answer his phone this morning and did not respond to SMSes.

Nedbank said no one had been injured.



# Minister's R234 000 splurge

CAIPHUS KGOSANA  
& SIYABONGA MKHWANAZI  
POLITICAL BUREAU

**P**OLICE Minister Nathi Mthethwa spent 17 days living in the presidential suite of one of Cape Town's most luxurious hotels, accompanied at various times by five policemen and two departmental officials, racking up a bill for taxpayers of about R235 000.

Mthethwa's stay at the five-star Table Bay Hotel was over a period of weeks during May, June and July, while his official residence was being renovated.

The total cost of his accommodation – the hotel usually charges R25 000 a night for its presidential suite – was just under R85 000, suggesting a special deal was made. Over the 17 days Mthethwa's bill for meals came to R5 843 and he spent R630 on drinks. Other costs – including tips, laundry, valet services and phone calls – came to R2 227.

Deputy Police Minister Fikile Mbalula – whose residence is still being renovated – spent a single night in the hotel. His spokesman Paena Galane said last night that Mbalula had moved out of his superior/luxury room because he was uncomfortable about the high cost. His night cost R3 569.

Mthethwa could not be reached for comment last night. His spokesman, Hangwani Mulaudzi, said he had relayed questions from The Mercury to an official in Mthethwa's office, but had received no response.

Details of the minister's lavish accommodation while in Cape Town emerged late yesterday in a written reply to a DA parliamentary question.

It revealed that three constables – presumably responsible for Mthethwa's protection – two police inspectors and two department officials spent between two and 11 nights at the hotel, in rooms described as superior/luxury.

"Minister's residence renovations" was the reason given for the



stay in each instance. The combined total of nights spent at the hotel comes to 66.

Of the three constables, one stayed for 11 days at a cost of R26 000, another spent 11 days at a cost of R24 000 and the third two nights at R4 700. The two inspectors spent 11 days and seven days at a cost of R24 803 and R29 201 respectively, while the two departmental officials spent four nights



# Minister's R234 000 splurge

at a combined cost of R19 000.

The combined total cost came to R234 902.67.

The DA's shadow police minister Dianne Kohler-Barnard said the minister's stay at the luxurious hotel was a slap in the face for average South Africans.

She said Mthethwa had not taken heed of President Jacob Zuma's message contained in his State of the Nation address to

reduce waste and to "cut our cloth according to our size".

Mbalula's spokesman, Paena Galane, said Mbalula had raised concerns about being accommodated at the Table Bay Hotel because of the costs involved.

When Mbalula travels to Cape Town next week he would be booked into a reasonable hotel in the CBD as his house was still being renovated, Galane said.

However, details emerged yesterday of Mbalula's new official vehicles. He has spent R1.6 million on a BMW 740i and a Mercedes-Benz ML 500 for his Pretoria and Cape Town offices. His new cars come with a host of extras valued at R84 000 – including a rear-view camera and surround for controls, land-change warning, privacy glass and a media interface.



# MPs show police officers the door

GAYE DAVIS  
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

**A** TOP-LEVEL police delegation has been sent packing from Parliament after being blasted for trying to "bamboozle" MPs with a "haphazard" and wholly inadequate presentation on how the SAPS intends implementing a crucial draft crime-fighting bill that would cost billions.

Divisional Commissioner Piet du Toit of the SAPS Criminal Records and Forensic Science Division and his team were booted out of a meeting of the National Assembly's police committee yesterday after being roasted for wasting MPs' time and taxpayers' money.

Committee chairwoman Cindy Chikunga is to write a letter of complaint to National Police Commissioner Bheki Cele, with a copy going to Police Minister Nathi Mthethwa.

"This is wasted time and wasted money by senior (SAPS) managers flying to Cape Town for nothing," Chikunga said.

Criticising the "haphazard" presentation, Annelize van Wyk (ANC), said: "This is a bill that's going to cost a huge amount of money to implement and raises serious constitutional issues."

John Schneeman (ANC) said: "We're not going to sit here and be bamboozled by all sorts of figures flying around."

Approached for comment after being ejected from the meeting, Du Toit said the SAPS had been informed about the meeting only two days earlier.

This was disputed by the committee's secretary, Jeremy Michaels, who told Chikunga the SAPS had been first informed on September 29.

While Du Toit insisted that "we do have a plan", he said Cele had yet to approve it.

The Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Bill first came before Parliament in January and is intended as a cornerstone of the overhaul of the criminal justice system.

It seeks to set up a national DNA database, expand police powers to collect and store DNA

samples and fingerprints, and give the SAPS access to millions of finger and thumbprints stored in the databases of Home Affairs and the Department of Transport's eNatis system.

Shelved before the April elections, the draft bill has become an urgent priority for Chikunga's committee.

At present, for legal and IT reasons, the police can use only the SAPS fingerprint database, the Automated Fingerprint Information System. It holds only around 6.5 million fingerprints – all of convicted persons.

Access to the home affairs and eNatis databases would allow the police to trawl through about 40 million prints for matches.

This, however, raises important constitutional issues – including the rights to privacy, human dignity and bodily integrity.

Also, there is concern whether the SAPS has the capacity to implement the bill, and about human error or fraud leading to innocent people being wrongly convicted.



## Cosatu members break up meeting

CARIEN DU PLESSIS &  
NOMPUMELELO MAGWAZA

THE DA and Cope walked out of a public hearing on labour broking in Germiston last night after it turned into a political rally, flooded by Cosatu members who booed MPs and shouted "voetsek" to speakers they disagreed with.

Tempers rose as about 300 people crammed into the Ekhuruleni council chambers.

Among them were people wearing Cosatu T-shirts who were singing and chanting and brandishing placards, as well as labour brokers and members of the public.

Cosatu president Sdumo Dlamini, Numsa president Cedric Gcina and its general secretary Irvin Jim also attended. Jim appealed in vain to members to be quiet so that the process could "be legitimate".

A very annoyed Cope MP Willie Madisha, the former Cosatu president, bore the brunt of the crowd's disapproval after Cope and the DA last week came out in favour of better regulation, rather than a ban of labour broking.

DA MP Ian Ollis walked out with Madisha after an hour of chaos during which parliamentary staff struggled to bring proceedings under control.

At Isipingo, yesterday, workers from Edcon spent the entire day picketing.

Addressing workers outside the premises, Numsa provincial spokesman Sibongiseni Myezi said the workers should fight against the exploitation taking place in their workplaces.

"We would be happy if the unions help us understand our rights and also help us get permanent jobs," said an employee.

Myeza said a public hearing on labour broking would be held at the Winston Churchill Hall in Pietermaritzburg at 5pm today.



## I bought shoes for Mbeki, says Agliotti

KARYN MAUGHAN & ALEX ELISEEV

**G**LENN Agliotti has testified about how he had Jackie Selebi on call to assist him with everything from a super-model's blackmail problem with "Bad Brad" Wood, to a break-in at a friend's flat.

In his second day of testimony about his "generally corrupt relationship" with the former national police commissioner, Agliotti also claimed Selebi had shown him three top-secret reports in which suspicions about his potential involvement in criminal activities were raised.

Speaking after yesterday's Johannesburg High Court hearing before Judge Meyer Joffe, Selebi appeared unperturbed by Agliotti's evidence, in which the convicted drug dealer also claimed he bought size seven designer shoes for ex-president Thabo Mbeki on Selebi's behalf.

Selebi said "cross-examination will really be the thing here... wait until the cross-examination". He earlier stated that Agliotti could not look at him because "he is telling lies".

After the State won its legal bid to have its self-admitted "embarrassing" date errors in its indictment against Selebi corrected, Agliotti started giving evidence about what he claimed the ex-police chief had done in return for the R1 million in cash and gifts he had given him.

According to Agliotti, Selebi:

- Showed him a top-secret UK intelligence report about his alleged cocaine smuggling activities and warned him that he was being monitored by the British authorities.

- Gave him a copy of an e-mail sent to the National Prosecuting Authority by Selebi's nemesis Paul O'Sullivan, containing allegations – subsequently not persisted with by the state – that convicted drug dealer Clint Nassif had paid Selebi a R50 000 cash bribe. Agliotti claimed Selebi told

him to give the e-mail to his lawyers because it would discredit the NPA by showing that they relied on O'Sullivan for helping with the investigation.

- Showed him an underlined section in an South African intelligence report, which stated businessman Jurgen Kögl had claimed the Kebble family were "paying Selebi" and then asked him to find out who Kögl was. Agliotti said he did so.

Agliotti's evidence about the e-mail provoked the greatest response from Selebi's senior counsel, Jaap Cilliers, who protested that the state's own witnesses, including Nassif, had shown that claims contained in the document were "a bunch of lies".

In an apparent bid to demonstrate how Agliotti effectively kept Selebi on retainer, chief prosecutor Gerrie Nel questioned him about the occasions when he had called on the police chief for help.

### Blackmailed

Agliotti testified that Selebi had agreed to meet with Nassif over international billionaire Eyhab Jumean's claims that he was being blackmailed for £500 000 by ex-*Big Brother* contestant Brad Wood, the ex-boyfriend of his then-wife supermodel Gina Athans.

After hearing of the alleged extortion effort, which Wood has denied, Selebi said he would see to it that the incident was investigated.

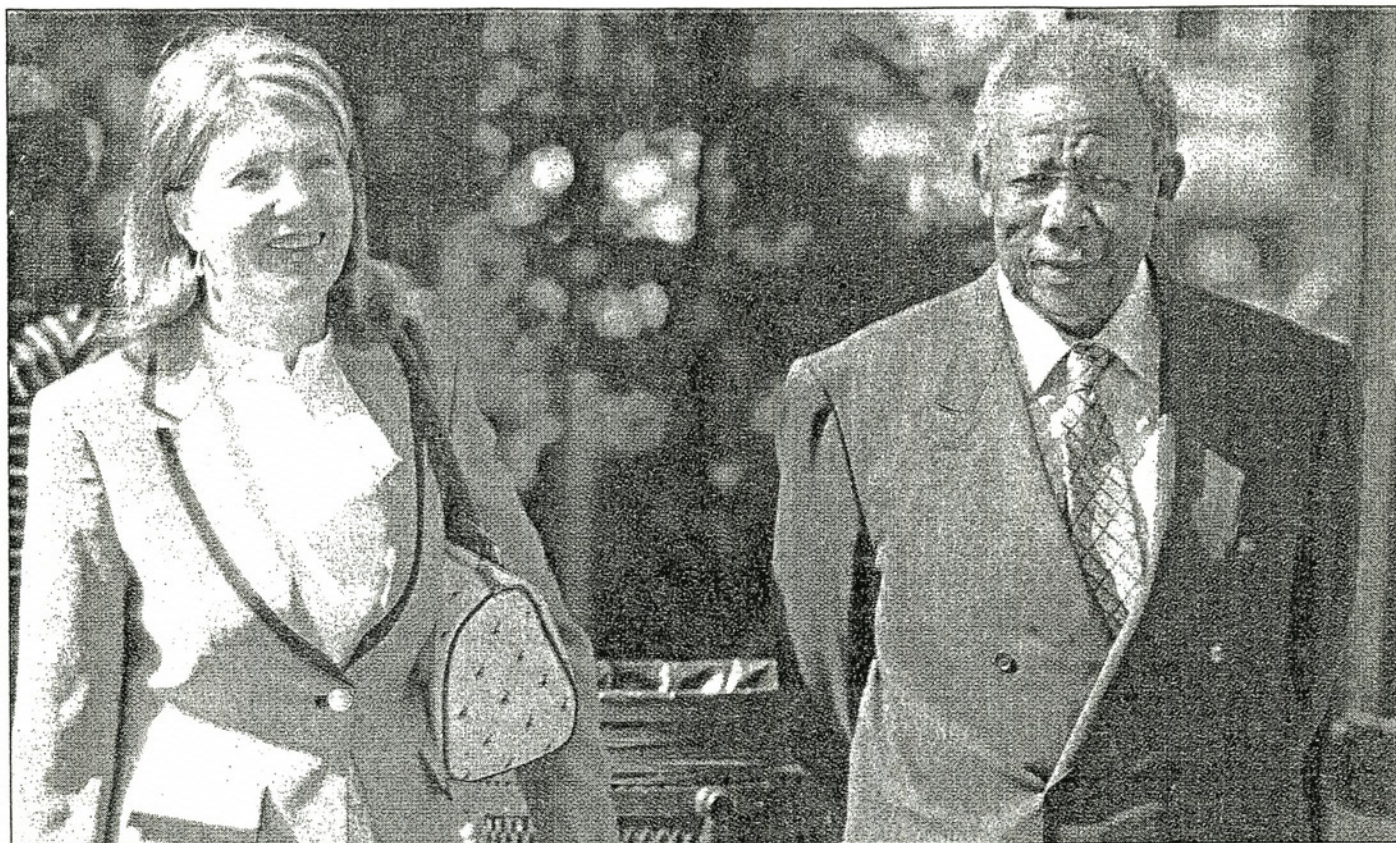
In another incident, Agliotti said he had called Selebi after a flat in the complex he was living in, 200m from the Sandton police station, was broken into for the umpteenth time.

"I called the accused from the scene and asked him please to assist, explaining that this had happened yet again in such close proximity to the Sandton police station.

"When I called the accused, he asked who was the investigating officer on the scene. I enquired and it was a police re-



# I bought shoes for Mbeki, says Agliotti



Former police commissioner Jackie Selebi, right, arrives with his legal team at the Johannesburg High Court this week for his trial over corruption and other charges.

PICTURE: CHRIS COLLINGRIDGE/ILLUSTRATIONS: SIBUSISO DUBAZANA



AGLIOTTI



NEL



CELLIERS



JOFFE

servist by the name of (Aubrey Morris) Shlugman. I spoke to Shlugman and handed the phone to him to speak to the accused," he said. He was unable to say what had occurred between Selebi and Shlugman, who is on the state's witness list.

The final incident recounted by Agliotti involved what he described as an "embarrassing" encounter with a police official

at OR Tambo International Airport.

According to Agliotti, the policeman had stopped him at the boarding gate of his and his family's December 2004 holiday flight to Mauritius and asked him to confirm his identity and provide him with his home address. Agliotti said he complied and then called Selebi from the plane to tell him what

had happened. Selebi asked for the officer's name, which Agliotti was unable to provide. He "left it at that", he said.

Agliotti said he had maintained contact with Selebi on his cellphone, but admitted that when media interest in his friendship with Selebi reached its peak, he had communicated with Selebi through his driver on a "pay as you go" cellphone.

Agliotti also said he had gone shopping with Selebi and paid for a pair of shoes for former President Thabo Mbeki.

He recalled the size as seven and claimed Selebi said the president had "small and broad" feet.

"I asked the shop attendant to put the shoes on my account as I wished to purchase them for the president."



## ANC is not behind attacks

I READ with dismay the article by Andile Mngxitama that insinuates the ANC and the government are responsible for the criminal attacks on residents of Kennedy Road informal settlement.

It's my belief that Mngxitama is abusing the platform given to him by *Sowetan* for God knows what purpose. He decided to be one-sided when writing his article. First, he is alleging that the provincial government and police appear to be in cahoots with ANC militia. I have been following this issue with great interest. Tribalism and vigilantism have no place in South African society.

I wish to bring a few facts to the public's attention. This information was made available by department of transport and community liaison MEC Willies Mchunu, also deputy chairperson of the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal.

Mchunu visited the area and informed a provincial task team comprising the deputy provincial commissioner, the head of community safety and liaison and Ethekwini municipality. The team arranged a stakeholder meeting to hear from community structures regarding their understanding of what led to the attacks.

Among the findings that were made by the task team were that the majority of the community structures and ordinary residents had lost confidence in the ability of the Sydenham police to deal decisively with crime in the area.

There is no CPF sub-forum that works with the police in terms of

crime-prevention initiatives and a curfew has been imposed on residents. It has forced residents not to cook, watch TV, or walk around after seven at night.

Some resolutions that were taken during the stakeholders' meeting were that the SAPS provincial commissioner's office will set up a special police task team to hunt down the criminals involved in the weekend attacks.

This team will exclude officers from the Sydenham police station. The curfew, allegedly imposed on the residents by "the forum", was found to be illegal, inconsistent with the values of a democratic society. It was lifted immediately. It was agreed to place the settlement under 24-hour policing by teams from the provincial public order policing unit and Durban metro police.

Mchunu has also invited people with credible information regarding allegations that the attacks were ordered, or at very least, occurred with the tacit approval of the ANC, so that they can be investigated. This should be done for the benefit of the residents of Kennedy Road.

I am also concerned that Shu Zikode was unable to attend the meetings. I acknowledge that you said he is in hiding. The MEC has shown his willingness to meet Zikode.

Please note that most of the information is available at [www.kzntransport.gov.za](http://www.kzntransport.gov.za).

Mbizeni Musa Mdlalose  
Pietermaritzburg



# I'm a man of the poor – Malema

## 'I SHARE EVERY CENT'

Zukile Majova

DESPITE sharp contrasts in his lifestyle as an upwardly mobile, yuppie politician with a modern home in a leafy Joburg North suburb, ANC Youth League president Julius Malema insists he is one with the poor.

But, with wheels like a Range Rover and frequent visits to exclusive Joburg North eateries, and his love for single malt whiskey – which normally refers to “dated alcohol” – Malema can hardly claim to be an ordinary boy from Limpopo.

Malema says he does not see anything wrong with being rich while claiming to represent the poor.

The yuppie politician, who recently partied up a storm during his house warming in Sandown, denies being the owner of any company.

“I wish I had 50 companies. There is nothing wrong with that. And I wish all of them were making money and with that money I would help the poor because that’s who I am. Every cent I have I share with the poor people.”

He told a media conference last week that journalists merely sought to demonise him and did not bother reporting about the good work he did for various poor families.

“You may not report about it but I do that every day. I build houses for poor women, the latest being a church I

am building in Limpopo. The church was burnt down because of differences in the leadership of the church. In the last 10 years, they were attending in a shack and I will be opening that church.

Malema says he relies heavily on donations from Good Samaritans to help those in need.

“We are happy that there are still such businesses in South Africa – unlike Nedbank.”

He told *Sowetan* two Good Samaritans had already offered to help the youth league build a modern home for Semenya.

Last week he announced that the ANC Youth League would double its prize money for gold medallist Caster Semenya from R60 000 to R120 000.

Later this month Malema is set to host a gala dinner for Semenya and fellow medallists Mbulaeni Mulaudzi and Khotso Mokoena.

Malema says he is a “product of the struggle”.

“I was born to a poor woman. I was raised in villages. I am a product of the struggles of the people in the squatter camps.”

Malema also claims he has no political ambitions to be in parliament or in government.

“I am not a parliamentarian and I will never be. At least in the next 20 years, I will never go to parliament or be a minister. I don’t have those ambitions.”

When he took over from former youth league president Fikile Mbalula, Malema announced he would pull the league out of business, disband its investment wing and put all the league’s assets in a trust to drive youth development.

**GENEROUS:** ANCYL president Julius Malema



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[www.sowetan.co.za](http://www.sowetan.co.za)



# Mpimpa hotline clogged up

**Zinhle Mapumulo**

THE presidential hotline is still clogged up with calls from concerned citizen but few of them have actually been attended to.

At the launch last month in Pretoria of the presidential hotline, 17737, Zuma said: "We are working to address this challenge to ensure that we give every call the attention it deserves."

But yesterday President Jacob Zuma said the government was trying to deal with people not getting through to the presidential hotline due to high call volumes.

He said the fact that some people could not get through should not be seen as a problem, but rather a success since it indicated the number of people wanting to voice their concerns to their government.

"We will continue to improve the service each day until we reach a stage where each South African is able to obtain quality service with ease, as it should be."

The hotline was piloted on September 14.

An agent at the call centre this week said they received on average 530 calls an hour. "Most of them are complaints

about corruption and poor service delivery. We also get compliments and suggestions on how we can improve our services," Khakhu Nesongozwi said.

She said callers were promised feedback from relevant departments within three days, but admitted that in most cases it took longer than that because of investigations relating to the complaint.

"If a person does not get any feedback they are allowed to call in again and enquire about what had happened regarding their complaint. We do get a high number of people calling again wanting feedback."

The hotline and public liaison staff in the presidency are backed by 43 public liaison officers in all government departments and offices of premiers. They have the responsibility of following up the public enquiries and complaints lodged and ensure that all are attended to efficiently.

Citizens can also fax their complaints to 086-681-0987.

In the first three hours of its operation, the "mpimpa hotline", as it has become known, was bombarded with more than 2 7000 calls, with 2 500 received in the first hour.



**HELLO: President Jacob Zuma listens to a caller while viewing call volumes on the log screen. PHOTO: NTSWE MOKOENA**

Zuma answered the first call from a woman in Mount Frere, Eastern Cape, who complained about the ill-treatment she received from a local magistrate's court. Nesongozwi could not say if the complaint had been dealt with.

Housing issues included unfinished RDP houses, the slow pace of housing delivery and corruption at municipalities.

There were many queries relating to corrupt officials at the Home Affairs and Land

departments, unfair dismissals and general unemployment problems.

Zuma said the hotline was aimed at improving service delivery and was not a public relations exercise.

Calls from Gauteng made up 30 percent of all calls received, followed by Limpopo, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape. The Northern Cape and Mpumalanga had registered the lowest number of enquiries. - *Sapa*





BATTLING: Malusi Booi

## Power grab rocks Cope Youth Movement

Anna Majavu

INTERNAL fighting has plagued the Cope Youth Movement since its president, Anele Mda, was suspended two weeks ago.

Three sources from opposing factions in Cope said that Malusi Booi, the national youth coordinator, was battling to block Sipho Nghona, Cope's national youth spokesperson, for the top spot.

Two Cope sources in the Lekota faction claimed that Booi had replaced Mda as Mbhazima Shilowa's preferred candidate for

the youth movement leadership.

But a third source from the Shilowa faction said Shilowa was still backing Mda.

The sources told *Sowetan* that Booi had taken advantage of Mda's suspension to "purge the national structure of the Cope youth", and accused Booi of lying to Cope leaders that youth members had disbanded their structures.

They alleged that Booi had arranged a meeting this weekend to set up a new youth structure, but invited only youth "he is closely associated with".

The Lekota grouping reportedly

wants businessman and Black Management Forum member Sipho Nghona to be the youth leader.

But a Cope central national committee member from the Shilowa camp said: "Lekota has for a long time wanted Nghona to take over but Nghona has been getting rejections more than acceptance from the youth."

Nghona has declined to comment, saying he would only do so after the weekend meeting.

Booi denied the allegations, saying he had invited all Cope provincial structures to the weekend meeting.

## Blow to brokers

Zukile Majova

AS COSATU took up the fight for the scrapping of labour brokers yesterday, the ANC in Gauteng has also called on the government to ban labour brokers.

ANC, Cosatu, SACP and Sanco said they had "utter contempt in the manner in which labour brokers have undermined workers' rights and labour legislation".

The alliance partners said labour brokers allowed "employers to shift the burden to employ workers permanently, with benefits".

SOME time ago someone (in the media, I guess) started the false rumour that Julius Malema is a dunderhead moron.

The rumour has spread so fast and wide that nobody is pausing to question its veracity. Is the man stupid or reckless?

It all started around the time when the firebrand youth leader made the sensational claim that he and his followers would "kill for Zuma".

He was subsequently forced to apologise, albeit reluctantly.

But Ju-ju Baby was not done yet. He followed up with clanger after clanger, never failing to amaze and excite.

He said (now President) Jacob Zuma's alleged rape victim had had a good

time; told former president Thabo Mbeki to his face he was "the main problem with this country"; DA leader Hellen Zille has stacked her cabinet with her boyfriends and a whole lot of unpalatable things.

While all this was happening, someone leaked what were said to be Malema's matric results, which revealed that he had performed pathetically in woodwork and mathematics. In mitigation, I suppose there are many brilliant leaders who are not good carpenters and are hopeless at figures.

Lately, Malema has leapt to Caster Semenya's defence and wagged a



Charles Mogale

threatening finger at Ned-bank for withdrawing its sponsorship of athletics in the country.

All that (and more) might be careless speak, disrespectful, arrogant, reckless, tactless, insensitive ... but it is not stupid.

But then, "stupid" leaders sometimes become powerful presidents. Uganda's Idi Amin was one such.

The story goes that once, when Uganda was facing a serious financial crisis, Amin declared: "What do you mean there's no money?"

We have lots of paper, lots of ink ... print more money!"

If Malema is "stupid", what would today's generation make of one Patrick Mphephu, a now departed president of the make-believe Republic of Venda?

Stories about Mphephu's gaffes are legendary. He wore oversized tuxedo suits, a clown's hat and thick-rimmed glasses that made you wonder what had damaged his eyes because he was unschooled – it was not like he had read stacks of books.

When he could not remember the right word, he called the finance minister "the Minister of Money", the minerals and

energy minister "Minister of Lights" and foreign affairs minister "Minister of Overseas".

The one *faux pas* that shot him into instant infamy was when he was interviewed on TV about the possibility of Venda opting for independence.

Mphephu answered glibly: "Transkei did it. Bophuthatswana did it. So why can't we do it?"

Then came the occasion when he was interviewed about the economy of his homeland.

"Who says Venda is poor? We have bananas, we have paw-paws, and we have ten-rand-million."

Not very clever, hey?

## 'Stupid' leaders sometimes become powerful



# SEMENYA NEEDS BACKING

Thursday October 8 2009 SOWETAN



**IDO LEKOTA**  
Political  
Notebook

**ON TUESDAY** I listened attentively to ANC

general secretary Gwede Mantashe assuring Caster Semenya's family of the ruling party's support for the athletic wonder girl.

"The youngster needs support. We are going to fight to ensure that she continues to run as a woman," Mantashe said.

Last month Sports and Recreation Minister Makhekisi Stofile was even more forthright about the support the ANC-led government was prepared to give to South Africa's golden girl.

Stofile threatened to go to "war" if the IAAF excludes the 800m gold medallist because she is a "hermaphrodite".

"I think it would be the third world war. We will go to

the highest levels to contest such a decision," the minister was quoted as saying.

It is common knowledge that politicians have a penchant for verbosity whenever they want to express their strong feelings about an issue.

I was, however, struck by the usage of the war metaphor by Mantashe and Stofile.

Also of interest was how the ANC and ANC Youth League have not articulated what they would actually do to ensure that Semenya continued to run as a female athlete if indeed it could be scientifically proven that the level of testosterone in her body gave her an unfair advantage over other female athletes.

Instead we have had ANCYL president Julius Malema threatening fire and brimstone against those who argue that Semenya is a "hermaphrodite".



**WONDER GIRL: Athlete Caster Semenya**

As usual, the South African public has been called on to support this "great unexplained" idea of supporting Semenya.

There is in fact a perception out there that the ANC and ANCYL are engaging in political posturing.

Those who hold this view believe that the ANC and its youth wing are politically milking a situation in which Semenya's rights have been infringed by Athletics South Africa and the IAAF.

To correct those in the public holding the view that the politicians are once again engaging in a game of "smoke and mirrors" there are a few practical things that the ANC and the ANCYL can do.

Firstly they must come out against the use of the word "hermaphrodite" when describing Semenya or anyone else who is found to have the abnormal biological make-up that she has.

(Semenya is said to have internal testes without ovaries and an uterus. She is also said to have a high level

of the male hormone testosterone that could give her an unfair advantage over female athletes.)

The word "hermaphrodite" is archaic and has been banned by the medical fraternity. The accepted medical terminology is "intersexed".

In fact, according to Johannesburg-based gynaecologist Dr Herman Netshidzivhani, the newly accepted terminology used to describe Semenya's condition as "abnormality of gender development or differentiation".

So instead of questioning whether there is a Sepedi word to describe a "hermaphrodite" the "young lions" and their mother body should be educating the South African public about these new developments towards understanding Semenya's condition.

By the way, the Sepedi name for "hermaphrodite" is

not *setabane*. It is *sekgeramatona*. But like its English version, this name is derogatory and demeaning and should therefore not be used.

Most importantly, if the IAAF eventually rule that Semenya cannot compete with female athletes because her condition gives her an unfair advantage, the politicians must put their money where their mouths are and offer to pay for her surgical conversion into a woman.

Netshidzivhani explains that this can be done by surgically removing the internal testes and introducing more female hormones into her body.

The advantage is that Semenya has external female genitalia, says the doctor.

Lastly the ANC must support any legal action taken against ASA, the "suits" who illegally sent Semenya for a gender testing, and the IAAF for the insensitive manner in which it handled her case.



## Top cop 'at Agliotti's beck and call'

KARYN MAUGHAN  
AND ALEX ELISEEV

**G**LENN Agliotti has testified about how he had Jackie Selebi on call to assist him with everything from a supermodel's blackmail problem with "Bad Brad" Wood to a break-in at a friend's flat.

In his second day of testimony about his alleged corrupt relationship with the former national police commissioner, Agliotti also claimed Selebi had shown him three top-secret reports in which suspicions about his potential involvement in criminal activities were raised.

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Selebi said "cross-examination would really be the thing here ... wait until the cross-examination". He earlier stated that Agliotti could not look at him because "he is telling lies".

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According to Agliotti, Selebi:

- Showed him a top-secret UK intelligence report about his alleged cocaine smuggling activities and warned him that he was being monitored by British authorities.

- Gave him a copy of an e-mail sent to the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) by Selebi's nemesis, Paul O'Sullivan, containing allegations – subsequently not pursued by the



GLENN AGLIOTTI

State – that convicted drug dealer Clint Nassif had paid Selebi a R50 000 cash bribe. Agliotti claimed Selebi told him to give the e-mail to his lawyers because it would discredit the NPA by showing they relied on O'Sullivan for helping with the investigation.

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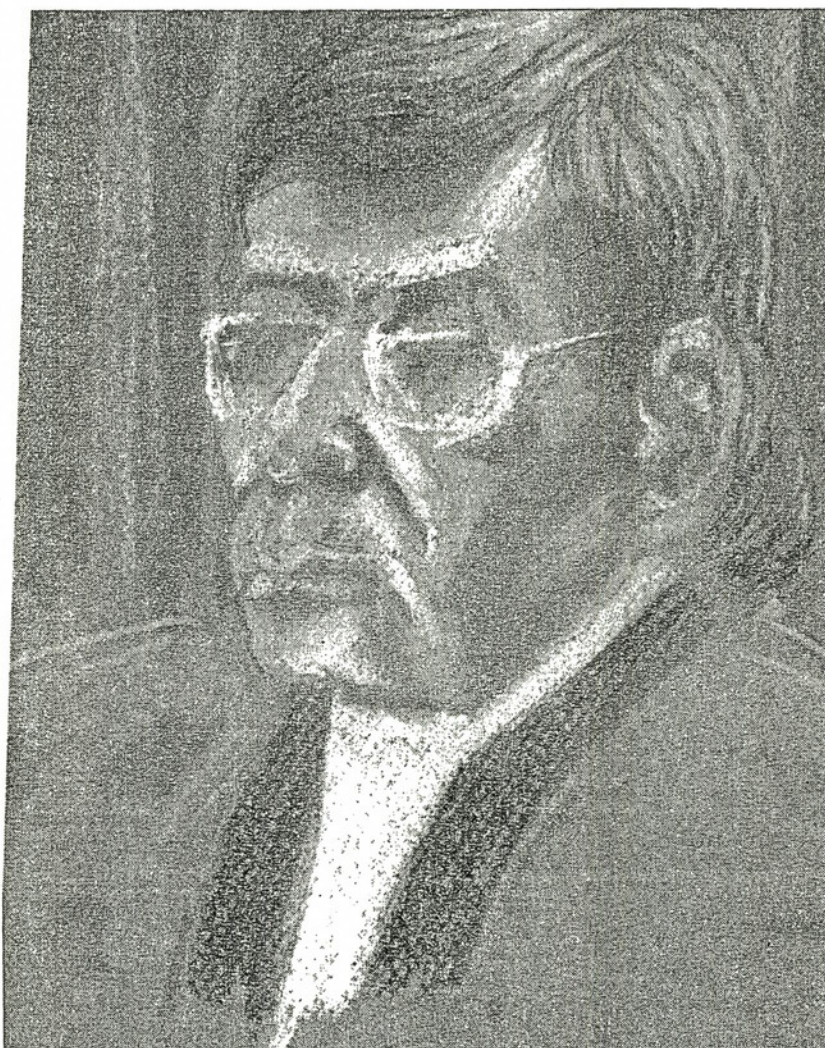
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Agliotti testified that Selebi had agreed to meet Nassif over international billionaire Eyhab Jumean's claims that he



## Top cop 'at Agliotti's beck and call'



**IN HOT SEAT:** Judge Meyer Joffe, who is presiding in the Jackie Selebi trial. The State won its legal bid to have its self-admitted "embarrassing" date errors in its indictment against the former top cop corrected.

ILLUSTRATIONS:  
SIBUSISO DUBAZANA

was being blackmailed for £500 000 (about R5.9 million) by former *Big Brother* contestant Wood, the ex-boyfriend of his then wife, supermodel Gina Athans.

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# Minister's hotel splurge

CAIPHUS KGOSANA AND  
SIYABONGA MKHWANAZI

**P**OLICE Minister Nathi Mthethwa has spent 17 days living in the presidential suite of one of Cape Town's most luxurious hotels, accompanied at various times by five policemen and two departmental officials, racking up a bill for taxpayers of about R235 000.

Mthethwa's stay at the five-star Table Bay Hotel was over a period of weeks during May, June and July this year while his official residence was being renovated.

The total cost of his accommodation – the hotel usually charges R25 000 a night for its presidential suite – was just under R85 000, suggesting a special deal was made. Over the 17 days, Mthethwa's bill for meals came to R5 843 and he spent R630 on drinks. Other costs – including tips, laundry, valet services and phone calls – came to R2 227.

Deputy Police Minister Fikile Mbalula – whose residence is also still being renovated – spent a

single night in the hotel. His spokesman, Paena Galane, said last night Mbalula had moved out of his superior/luxury room because he was uncomfortable about the high cost. His night cost R3 569.

Mthethwa could not be reached for comment on his cellphone last night. His spokesman, Hangwani Mulaudzi, said he had relayed questions from The Star to an

official in Mthethwa's office.

Details of the minister's lavish accommodation emerged late yesterday in a written reply to a DA parliamentary question.

It revealed that three constables – presumably responsible for Mthethwa's protection – two police inspectors and two department officials spent between two and 11 nights at the hotel in rooms

described as superior/luxury.

"Minister's residence renovations" was the reason given for the stay in each instance. The combined total of nights spent at the hotel came to 66.

Of the three constables, one stayed for 11 days at a cost of R26 000, another constable spent 11 days at a cost of R24 000 and the third spent two nights at R4 700. The two inspectors spent 11 days and seven days respectively at a cost of R24 803 and R29 201, while the two departmental officials spent four nights at a combined cost of R19 000.

The combined total for the rooms, meals, drinks, tips, laundry and valet services, and phone costs came to R234 902.67.

DA shadow police minister Dianne Kohler-Barnard said the minister's stay at the luxurious hotel was a slap in the face for the average South African.

"His decision to do so constitutes an act of complete self-indulgence, at a time when the economy is suffering and the government is trying to cut back on

fruitless and wasteful expenditure," she said.

Kohler-Barnard said Mthethwa had not taken heed of President Jacob Zuma's message, contained in his State of the Nation address, to reduce waste and to "cut our cloth according to our size".

Galane said: "He (Mbalula) had a problem being accommodated at that hotel. Ever since that time, he has moved out of any expensive hotel at his own request."

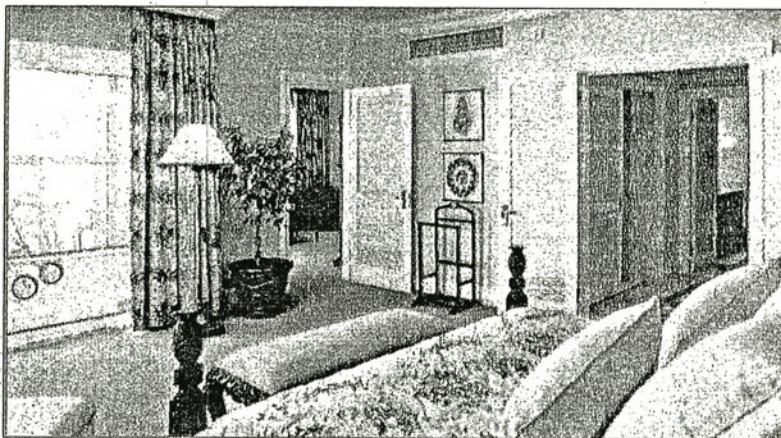
He added that when Mbalula goes to Cape Town next week, he will be booked into a reasonable hotel in the CBD.

Details also emerged yesterday of Mbalula's new official vehicles. He has spent a total of R1.6 million on a BMW 740i and a Mercedes-Benz ML 500 for his Pretoria and Cape Town offices.

Mbalula's new cars come with a host of extras valued at R84 000.

Galane said his boss had done everything by the book in buying the vehicles.

He added that Mbalula would return the vehicles if the cabinet decided he should do so.



**OVER THE TOP:** The Table Bay Hotel's Lion's Head suite usually costs R25 000 a night, but Nathi Mthethwa seemingly received a discount.



# We must look to ordinary folk to end political decay

WHAT is eating the nation? Where did we go wrong? Why are we repeating mistakes perfected by failed African states? Didn't we learn from Robert Mugabe's failures?

Poor leadership, dictatorship, corruption, poverty, endless wars, hatred and greed have derailed Africa's growth.

As the last country to be liberated, we are supposed to be wiser. Listening to Julius Malema's rantings, you can't help but feel sad for the country. You ask yourself if this is the face of the future. Is this the best we have?

The same youth league that blessed us with Nelson Mandela's sharp intellect is

torturing us with Malema's mental bluntness.

On the sporting field, the ASA leadership sees nothing wrong with supporting its flawed president.

Cry, the abused citizenry. South Africa is bleeding.

From the South Gauteng High Court, we hear horror allegations about a trusted police chief bought for R1-million by a mafia kingpin.

What has become of us? Has freedom corrupted us?

In Free State, the premier has money to buy 10 luxury sedans for his cabinet, but no cash for ARVs. In Sakhile township, the mayor has new wheels, while starving masses have no toilets. Talk about

misplaced priorities.

Our president thinks the only people fit to serve the nation are his close friends. What is stopping local leaders from filling positions with their loved ones?

The voters have no say. The Polokwane revolution only changed the driver and passengers — same rot, new beneficiaries.

The opposition parties are no different. They are dead. Like bubble gum, Cope promised so much and delivered so little. The DA is singing the same, tired songs without providing any new answers to the ANC's self-serving leadership. And internal squabbles have made

the IFP irrelevant.

Our docile Parliament failed to protect our democratic institutions and state enterprises from ruling-party politics.

Like other African countries, lack of leadership is our biggest challenge. We must shoulder the blame for the current state of affairs. By keeping quiet in the face of Malema's rantings and Chuene's lies, we indirectly support mediocrity.

The electorate defines leadership. Those who betray our values have no business leading us. It is the ordinary people who will liberate this country from political decay.

— Dr Lucas Ntyintyane, by e-mail



## Zuma's buzzing hotline shows how bad services are

**P**RESIDENT Jacob Zuma's recently launched hotline is jammed. According to Zuma himself, many of the people who call the hotline looking for government help are unable to get through because the line is so busy.

"We are working to address this challenge to ensure that we give every call the attention it deserves," the president said yesterday. "We will continue to improve the service each day until we reach a stage where each South African is able to obtain quality service with ease — as it should be."

Zuma said the high demand should be seen as "a success", because it showed the public's enthusiasm about the hotline and people's eagerness to communicate their concerns to government.

But the high volume of calls to the hotline also tells a troubling story of growing frustration among citizens with the failure of many local governments, provincial administrations and national departments to deliver services.

Zuma said most of the calls relate to housing, water and electricity complaints. These are the responsibility of municipalities. If most of our municipalities were functioning properly, we would not have thousands of people turning to the Presidency for help.

Co-operative Governance Minister Sicelo Shiceka has his work cut out trying to fix all that is wrong with our municipal system.

At least he seems to have his finger on the pulse. Yesterday, he announced an unprecedented audit into the competence and qualifications of all chief financial officers in municipalities across the country. This, he hopes, will be a first step towards rooting out badly qualified officials who block service delivery. The skills audit, we hope, will soon be extended to city managers and other key managerial positions in all municipalities.

**The skills audit, we hope, will soon be extended to city managers**



# Luxury vehicles cost you another R2.5m

Two deputy ministers splash out big bucks to drive around in style

SALLY EVANS

TWO deputy ministers have joined the government's luxury car shopping spree.

Deputy Police Minister Fikile Mbalula is the latest member of President Jacob Zuma's government to confess to a taste for expensive German cars.

According to a written response to a question from the Democratic Alliance, Mbalula spent a total of R1.6-million on a BMW 740i to use while he is in Gauteng and a Mercedes Benz ML500 with off-road trim and special seats for when he is in Cape Town.

It also came to light yesterday that Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Rejoice Mabudafhasi has spent R900 000 on a new, fuel-heavy BMW X5.

The disclosures come in the wake of warnings by Minister in the Presidency Collins Chabane that lavish car allowances would be "reconsidered as a part of a review of government spending".

A ministerial task team, consisting of Chabane, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan and Minister of Public Service and Administration Richard

Baloyi has been established to look at government spending in the context of the economic meltdown.

The DA revealed that the cost of Mabudafhasi's vehicle includes

about R13 000 for the optional extras of a leather sports steering wheel, extended light package and tow-bar with removable head.



The DA's Lindiwe Mazibuko said:

"This kind of wastage is outrageous — this is one of the most expensive vehicles purchased by a Cabinet minister yet."

Cosatu spokesman Patrick Craven said: "We cannot see the justification of spending so much money.

"It proves once again that people

in public office are looking after themselves, rather than those they represent."

To date, cabinet ministers have spent R39-million on their cars.

Among the government's big spenders are Free State Premier Ace Magashule, who spent R1.3-million on his Mercedes Benz S600, Communications Minister Sphiwe Nyanda who spent more than R2.4-million on two BMWs and Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande, who spent R1.1-million on his BMW 750L.

Other senior officials who have spent more than R900 000 on their cars include 10 Free State MECs, who spent R970 000 each, and North West MEC for public works Mahlakenk Mahlakenk and North West MEC for housing Desbo Se-fanyetso each spent R900 000.

Thursday October 8 | 2009 The Times





PHOTO: THANDO MGAGA

Workers picket at Trotech Engineering Africa in Mayor's Walk in protest against labour brokering yesterday.

## Unions picket over labour brokers

### THANDO MGAGA AND SAPA

CONGRESS of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) affiliates picketed nationwide yesterday to have labour brokering outlawed, and they threatened strikes if the practice is not ended.

In Pietermaritzburg, picketing went ahead without incident. However, in Durban, police reported that factory workers vandalised property.

"We hope to intensify the action depending on the outcome of the public hearings," said National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) spokesman Lesiba Seshoka.

"We cannot rule out the possibility of a complete shutdown of the economy if our demands for the end of labour brokering are not attended to."

Unions have described the practice of labour brokering as "human trafficking" and "slavery", saying their practices are the opposite of decent work.

Cosatu called for a day of picketing as part of a global worker protest organised by the International Trade Union Confederation.

"Here in South Africa, the focus was on labour brokering, which Cosatu has vowed to see outlawed," it said.

The trade union federation accused labour brokers of undermining unions by making workers transferable and difficult to organise. It said employers frequently look to labour brokers to provide scab labour to break strikes.

"Labour brokers are also basically anti-trade union."

Protesting factory workers

smashed windows in a Durban industrial area.

Police spokesman Captain Khephu Ndlovu said more than 1 000 workers downed tools yesterday.

"The workers were supposed to picket during their lunch time, but they embarked on a massive march," said Ndlovu, adding that no arrests were made.

In Pietermaritzburg, workers at Trotech Engineering Africa picketed in their lunch time.

Numsa shop steward Lionel Fortein said workers employed through labour brokers are always the first to be laid off when the company has to cut costs. He said the workers serve two employers, the labour brokers and Trotech, and that workers want to be employed by Trotech.



# 'Wacubuza' ngezicathulo kuMbeki

## INTATHELI YESOLEZWE

**U**FAKAZI ophambili emacaleni abhekene nowayengu-Khomishana wamaPhoyisa, uJackie Selebi, ukuqinisekisa izolo eNkantolo eNkulu yaseGoli ukuthi wathengela owayenguMengameli wezwe, uMnuz Thabo Mbeki, izicathulo.

UGlenn Agliotti utshele inkantolo ukuthi wathenga lezi zicathulo esitolo sakwa-Grays endaweni yomtakabani iSandton, eGoli.

"Ngazithenga izicathulo ngithengela owayengekhomishana nezinye okwabe kungezomunye umuntu," kusho u-Agliotti.

Umshushisi uGerrrie Nel umbuzile ukuthi kwabe kungubani lo omunye umuntu.

"Sabe sikwa-Grays, ummangalelwa ebheka izicathulo ayefuna ukuzithengela uMengameli. Kwenzeka ukuthi nginaye ngalelo langa," kusho yena.

Uthe kwaphoqeka ukuthi abheke izicathulo ezincanyana ngoba uMbeki ngumuntu ongemude futhi nonyawo lwakhe aluvulekile.

"Kwakufanele athenge isicathulo esingusayizi seveni ngoba uMengameli wayenonyawo oluncane. Baqhubeka basikhombisa abanye osayizi ngabe sengibuza umsizi wasesitolo ukuthi abeke leso sicathulo ngaphansi kwe-account yami ngoba ngangifuna ukuzithengela uMengameli," kunaba u-Agliotti.

Izolo bekungusuku lwesibili u-Agliotti efakaza emacaleni amabili enkohlakalo nelilodwa lokuzama ukuphazamisa ukusebenza komthetho abhekene noSelebi.

NgoLwesibili u-Agliotti uveze ukuthi wakhokhela uSelebi imali elinganiselwa ku-R1. 2 million eyabe ivela kuye enye ivela kuso zimayini owabulawa, uBrett Kebble, nakowabe eyisikhulu se-Hyundai, uMntu Billy Rautenbach.

U-Agliotti utshele inkantolo nokuthi phezu kokuba kwabe kukhona umbiko wezinhloli zase-UK mayelana nokulandelwa kwakhe ngokushushumbisa izidakamizwa kodwa umbutho wamaphoyisa kuleli awuzange umqonde ngalokhu.

Utshela inkantolo ukuthi uSelebi wamvezela umbiko mayelana

nezinhloli nowabe ubika ngokuphuma kwakhe engene kuleli naseLondon.

"USelebi wayefuna ukungazisa

ngokuthi iziphathimandla zase-UK ziyangilandela. Ngamtshela ukuthi akukho okumele kungikhathaze ngalokho," kusho yena.

Yize uSelebi kuthiwa wanqaba ukumkhombisa u-Agliotti lowo mbiko kodwa kuthiwa wathunyelwa ngamaphoyisa ase-UK kuSelebi.

## Luyalungiswa ucingo lukaZuma

UMENGAMELI wezwe, uMnuz Jacob Zuma, uthi uhulumeni uzama ngazo zonke izindlela ukulungisa indaba yabantu abangakwazi ukungena kulayini wamahhala wokubika izinkinga.

"Kukhona esikwenzayo ukulungisa lesi simo ukuze wonke umuntu oshaya ucingo athole ukulalelwa ngenkinga yakhe," kuphawula uZuma ngesikhathi kwethulwa

ngokusemthethweni le nombolo yamahhala ethi 17737 izolo.

Lo layini wamahhala wokubika izinkinga waqala ukusebenza ngoSeptemba 14 ngesikhathi usahlolwa. UZuma ubuye waphawula nangezigezameko eziningi zokubulawa kwabantu kuleli athe zidalwa wukuba khona kwenqwaba yezibhamu ezisemthethweni nalezo ezingekho emthethweni.



# ICosatu isabisa ngombhikisho ozomisa nse yonke into

## INTATHELI YESOLEZWE

### UMFELANDAWONYE

wezinyunyana, iCongress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), ususabise ngokuthi uzongenela ukhukhulelangoqo wombhikisho ozokwenza kunganyakazi lutho uma kungavalwa ukusetshenziswa kwezi-

nkampani ezifunela abantu imisebenzi, ezaziwa ngama-labour brokers.

Le nyunyana ikhala ngokuthi lezi zinkampani zihlukumeza abasebenzi ngokuthi zithole izimali ezinkulu bese kuthi abasebenzi bathole amakinati. INational Union of Mineworkers (NUM), engaphansi kweCosatu, ithi kuzoba nzima

kakhulu uma ungaqedwa lo mkhuba.

Okhulumela le nyunyana, uMnuz Lesiba Seshoka, uthe uma kuqhubeka lokhu bangase bathathe isinqumo sokuwugqisa umnotho wakuleli.

Izolo abasebenzi benye yamafemu eThekwini baphahlaze

amawindi ale femu bekhala ngokuthi kuvalwe ukusetshenziswa kwalezi zinkampani.

Okhulumela amaphoyisa, uCaptain Khephu Ndlovu, uthe abasebenzi ebebehlome ngezagila nezinduku bangene kule femu kwancane indawo, baphihliza amawindi bashisa namathayi emgwaqeni.

UNdlovu uthe abasebenzi bebekade beshaya itoyitoyi kusukela ekuseni ngo-8. "Bangaphezu kuka-1000 abasebenzi ababeke phansi amathuluzi babhikishela ukusetshenziswa kwezinkampani ezitholela abantu imisebenzi ngoba bethi ziyabaxhaphaza.

# Sezikapakele ehostela izimpi zombango

## CELANI SIKHAKHANE

**K**UKHALWA ngezimpi zemibango ezisuka emakhaya okuthiwa sezidlule nenqwaba yemphefumulo ehostela KwaMashu, nazo okuthiwa zinomthelela omkhulu ngokwenyuka kwezibalo zokufa kwabantu kuleli lokishi.

Lezi zimpi kuthiwa ziqala ezindaweni zasemakhaya zigcine sezikapakele nasehostela lapho kuhlange-nyela khona wonke umuntu.

Abantu abahlala kuleli hostela baveze ukuthi sekuna-

bantu abacuthela abanye njalo ngezikhathi zantambama abasuke behlomile.

"Kunzima ukuhlala lapha ngoba alipheli isonto kungabulawanga muntu, abanye balalelwa unyendle esiteshini sesitimela uma bebuya emsebenzini, kanti abanye babulawelwa khona lapha ngaphakathi," kuchaza omunye wabahlala ehostela.

Uthe iningi labantu abafayo abesilisa okuthi uma sekuvela kutholakale ukuthi

bekubangwa izinto ezenzeka emakhaya abasuka kuwo.

Uqhube wathi isikhathi esiningi kusuke kubangwa izintombi ezasala emakhaya kanti abanye kusuke kuwumbango wengoma ebanjalo ngesikhathi samaholidi.

Ukukhala kwabantu abahlala ehostela kulandela inkulumbo yeSilo naso esiveze ukuthi nakuba izibalo zithusa ngobugebengu KwaMashu kodwa akusibona abantu bakhona abenza lokhu, kodwa kunabantu abasuka kwezinye izindawo.

Induna yesinye sezakhiwo engathandanga ukudalulwa ithe isimo asisihle ngoba uma uke wakhombisa ukukhala ngabantu abanodlame uyabhekiswa kokunye ubulawe.

"Ngisho amaphoyisa azithola esenkingeni yokubopha abasolwa ngoba abanye banele benze okubi bese bebalekela ezindaweni abadabuka kuzo ezisemakhaya. Kunezindawo esezaziwa lapha ukuthi zinabantu abanodlame futhi abahlale bekuqhakambisa

ukuthi basuka kuziphi izigodi ngakho angeke bathintwe," kuchaza le nduna.

Ngesikhathi ilanda ithe ihostela ligcwele abantu abasuka ezindaweni eziningi okubalwa kuzo ezingaphe-sheya koThukela KwaMaphumulo, kuze kuyoshaya eMsinga.

USuperintendent Vincent Mdunge uthe nakuba ekhona amacala abikwayo ehostela kodwa uma sekuboshwa kuvela ukuthi umsolwa owakhona KwaMashu nokwenza kube nzima ukusho

ukuthi abantu abenza amacala akusibona abakhona.

Uthe kungaba yiphutha uma kungakhalwa ngamahostela ekubeni iningi lawo selikhombisa ukuthula kanti seligcwele nabantu basemalokishini.

"Phambilini bekwaziwa ukuthi ubugebengu basemahostela budalwa abantu abasuka ezindaweni zasemakhaya kodwa manje akulula ngoba sekukhona abavele basuke emalokishini bezohlala ehostela," kuphetha uMdunge.