

Nats are like rats abandoning ship, says Viljoen

CAPE TOWN. — The National Party were like rats abandoning a ship, Freedom Front leader General Constant Viljoen said yesterday.

The party was putting its own interests above those of the nation, he told Sapa in reaction to the news that the NP would quit the government of national unity at the end of June.

The whole concept of a GNU, to which the FF had been opposed, had one value: it was a good transitional mechanism, and could help the country over difficult times.

Now in a difficult economic period the NP were

abandoning ship "like rats".

"This is worrying," he said.

The NP's action was illogical: on Wednesday its leader, F W de Klerk, had told the National Assembly of the need to support the GNU for the sake of the economy and the rand.

Yet he had now suddenly decided otherwise.

"One can only deduce from this that the NP is deeply divided and must pay a price to secure unity within its ranks for having voted in favour of a weak

education clause and the constitution as a whole," Gen Viljoen said in a statement.

What was also illogical was the NP's claim that it would now be able to play a better opposition role, as the party had failed to oppose the ANC at any other time.

"The NP's action is tantamount to attempting to rearrange the deck chairs of the Titanic," he said.

It had now sentenced itself "life imprisonment in a system which they helped create" and in

which they would always remain the minority party.

"Any claims to being able to make any impact through this step after yesterday's endorsement speech by Mr De Klerk and the subsequent support for a majoritarian constitution, are not only contradictory but also factually flawed," he said.

The NP had capitulated once again. It had made a poor showing in the constitutional process and, with an eye on the local elections and the 1999 general elections, was now trying to put up a strong performance.

"All these points seen together is tantamount to admitting the failure of the NP objectives in accordance with their mandate of creating a permanent power-sharing model in South Africa," Gen Viljoen said.

The NP's withdrawal from the GNU did not affect the FF, which was an independent party.

"We will just continue on our own," he said. — Sapa.

THE CITIZEN

10 MAY 1996

Imbizo now unlikely: Mandela

CAPE TOWN. — President Mandela said yesterday a planned traditional Zulu mass gathering he would attend in hopes of bringing peace to KwaZulu-Natal appeared unlikely after the attack last month on the family of Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini.

A preparatory meeting on April 12 between Pres

Mandela, Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, King Goodwill and tribal chiefs to prepare the "imbizo" — a gathering of the Zulu nation — failed when traditional leaders loyal to the Zulu-nationalist IFP strongly opposed it.

The king had proposed that he, Mandela and Bu-

thelezi, would share the platform at the imbizo in a joint call for an end to the violence.

More than 20 000 people have died in 11 years of civil strife between followers of the African National Congress and the IFP.

Pres Mandela had remained optimistic, however, saying he hoped

things could be sorted out at a second preparatory meeting.

He said yesterday that although there had been "exaggerated expectations" of the imbizo, the failed meeting had been "very good ... notwithstanding the negative reactions of some traditional leaders".

But the attack on a resi-

dence near Durban of Zwelithini, in which a niece of the king was killed and six members of his family wounded, including one of his wives, "has now set things back," Pres Mandela said.

Pres Mandela said he was confident peace would be achieved in the troubled province. — Sapa-AFP.

Six ministerial positions left vacant by NP's withdrawal from Cabinet

DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1996

ANC eyes top posts

End of the honeymoon

African National Congress members are in line for promotion after the withdrawal of the National Party from the Cabinet, reports VASANTHA ANGAMUTHU, BARBARA COLE and GREG ARDÉ.

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela has started discussions within his ruling party to fill the six ministerial posts left vacant by the NP's withdrawal from the Cabinet.

Government sources said Mr Mandela was likely to await a decision by the Inkatha Freedom Party on whether it would follow NP leader Mr F.W. de Klerk out of the Cabinet before finalising details of the Cabinet reshuffle.

Mr Mandela has, however, already squashed suggestions that he might give the deputy presidency vacated by Mr de Klerk to IFP leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

"There is no provision in the interim constitution for that," he said.

The ANC's national executive committee meets as scheduled this weekend. The NP's federal executive committee meets next week to decide on the party's positions in provincial government.

Balance

Mr Mandela is expected to follow ANC policy and ensure that the new Cabinet is representative of all South Africans.

This means he will strive for a race and gender balance in appointing new ministers.

ANC deputy ministers could be moved up and ANC chairpersons of committees could be appointed as deputies.

The positions which will be

vacated and the likely new appointees are:

- Minister of Agriculture Dr Kraai van Niekerk could be replaced by Deputy Minister Mrs Angela Didiza.

- Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers by Deputy Minister Bantu Holomisa;

Pik's post

- Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha's vacancy will make place for chairman of the portfolio committee Mr Marcel Golding either as the Minister or as deputy if recently appointed IFP Deputy Minister Susan Shabangu is promoted;

- Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Provincial Affairs Mr Valli Moosa will almost definitely replace Mr Chris Fisser, creating an opening for chairman of the portfolio com-

mittee Mr Pravin Gordhan as Deputy Minister;

- Deputy Welfare and Population Development Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi could succeed Mr Patrick MacKenzie.

- It is unclear whether the ANC will retain the General Service portfolio which was created only to find space for a NP minister in terms of the proportional representation requirement of the interim constitution.

There is much interest in what the IFP is going to do now. Chief Buthelezi said he would not like his party to take its cue from the NP and leave the Cabinet.

The IFP holds three ministerial and two deputy ministerial posts. Leaving the Cabinet would free Chief Buthelezi from maintaining a united front with the Cabinet on issues on which he clearly differs.

If the IFP stays in the Cabinet, it should secure at least one more ministerial post.

THE National Party's withdrawal from the Government of National Unity will have enormous consequences. A party that has been in office almost 50 years cannot be withdrawn without throwing immediate stress on the less experienced parties left behind. Although the NP's contribution to overall policy was limited, its expertise in government provided continuity and stability.

More significantly, the withdrawal marks the end of a promising phase of common purpose, a harnessing of skills and energies in the national interest and a placing of objectives such as economic growth and social upliftment ahead of party interests. It was this approach - formalised in the Kempton Park agreement - that made possible the smooth transition of 1994 and subsequent economic recovery.

It was worth pursuing. It was supposed to run until 1999. The country will undoubtedly pay a price for the switch to a confrontational government versus opposition line-up, which will inevitably become acrimonious and bitter.

But when the African National Congress ruled out enforced coalition in the new constitution, the die was cast. The NP's only course was to leave the government and mobilise opposition, seeking to defeat the ANC in 1999.

It knows that an essentially white party has no future in South Africa today. It will seek a realignment of all groupings presently outside the orbit of the ANC and, as the core of the new formation, will mercilessly exploit the ANC's difficulties in delivering on its promises, compounded as they are by the weakness of the rand. It will seek nothing less than a return to power. The ANC will resist mightily.

The 1999 election campaign will begin about July. It will be highly stressful. South Africans can brace themselves for a rocky ride and strong doses of economic austerity.

Comment

It had to happen

Sooner or later it was going to happen.

The NP was always going to leave the GNU, for the coalition government itself had a shelf life set to expire in May 1999.

The NP has decided to quit the marriage of convenience. Frankly, the NP could only lose by delaying the divorce. Its constituency was already leaving in annoyance at its reduced powers.

De Klerk, upset because the ANC had turned down NP proposals for a continuation beyond 1999 of power-sharing in some form, chose yesterday to announce that his party will leave the coalition on June 30 to go into opposition. Predictably, markets reacted negatively, the rand continued its downward slide, and foreign governments and potential investors expressed concern.

That reaction is understandable, for there are people to whom the NP's presence in the GNU represented stability.

Some in the civil service and the security forces slept better at night knowing the NP was at least part of the Government.

There is no need to panic. As De Klerk himself pointed out, the basic economic policies of the Government are sound; fiscal discipline is a gospel and the ANC is blessed with considerable talent to lead the country into the future. We agree with De Klerk that the NP will "serve the national interest more effectively by concentrating fully on a responsible opposition role, untrammelled by co-responsibility within the GNU".

The timing of the NP's announcement might be unfortunate, coming as it does a day after the adoption of the final constitution and when the rand is depreciating. But it is too easy to claim the party is being petulant. This decision was important for the NP itself, and was not taken in a fit of pique.

To paraphrase Cosatu's Sam Shilowa, we cannot have our politics held ransom by foreign jitters or pessimistic market speculators.

It is not often this newspaper carries its editorial opinion on its front page. This week we have done it twice, on two matters of national importance.

We applauded the birth of the constitution on Wednesday. Today we congratulate the NP for a tough decision taken well ahead of the 1999 general election.

Having agreed on the rules of the game, it is wise to get the real play under way.

THE EDITOR

THE CITIZEN COMMENT

NP out

WE had hoped that the National Party would not quit the government of national unity at this time, with the rand under attack and overseas and local investor confidence at a low ebb.

But the party has decided it should pull out — a very serious step that cannot be explained as pique over the way in which the NP was treated in the constitutional negotiations, although this had much to do with the timing.

The fact simply is that the NP, as a junior partner, could not influence an ANC-dominated cabinet on important issues — and its presence in the cabinet was, therefore, no more than window dressing rather than for the purpose of achieving true consensus.

At the same time as it played this ineffectual role in the cabinet, the party was stymied as an opposition party, NP ministers having to accept cabinet decisions that were contrary to the party's wishes, while the party could not effectively challenge these decisions, since its ministers were party to them.

In the event, the NP was not able to make its voice heard effectively in the cabinet or in the political world outside it.

There are those who say that by quitting the government, the NP has done the opposition and country a disservice, since its presence in the cabinet gave the government a wide acceptance that would be lacking without it; at the same time it was able to give foreign investors and governments the feeling that South Africa was truly on the road to reconciliation under President Mandela and his government of national unity.

The country, so the argument goes, is bound to suffer a further erosion of confidence with a likely one-party government ahead of it.

The opposite view is that lacking clout in government, the NP was giving a false image of a government of unity that was, in fact, never truly united.

And, so this argument goes, the NP will now be able to fight the political battle more effectively outside the government in a truly opposition role that has eluded it until now.

Although nobody is saying so, the last straw was the contemptuous way in which the ANC treated the NP in the final negotiations on the constitution.

The three disputed clauses — property, labour and the lock-out — were unsatisfactorily settled and the ANC had good reason to be pleased with the outcome.

However, the NP has only itself to blame for its dismal handling of the negotiations.

As for the ANC, it clearly did not appreciate that its triumph in the negotiations would finally drive the NP out of the government.

Mr De Klerk's acceptance of the constitution, while strongly criticising its serious flaws, shows the NP was no longer in the mood to be pushed around by the ANC.

The IFP, unlike the NP, managed to be in government and at the same time a vigorous opponent. It will no doubt have to follow the NP out of the GNU, if not now, then later.

We are thus heading for a fully-fledged ANC government, but since the ANC has virtually been the government, there is unlikely to be any major difference.

The GNU is breaking up three years ahead of time, the ANC will be running the government without reference to any other party, and the NP will be able to fight the political battle without being curbed by its presence in the government.

The NP will never be the government again, but if it can become a strong, hard-hitting and questioning opposition party, it can still play a major role in the country's affairs and perhaps recover some of the support it has lost.

As for overseas and local investors and foreign governments, they should not panic — the ANC is forced to accept the restraints imposed by the global economy, it has shown, in many ways, a surprising moderation (certainly it has not tried to rush the country into extreme socialistic programmes), the policy the government has followed until now is an ANC policy and this will continue, and it cannot wreck South Africa or the economy.

We may have difficult times ahead of us, but South Africa is strong enough to progress to the better life Pres Mandela envisages for all its people.

Our advice then is: Don't panic. After a period of uncertainty, we will move forward again to a common destiny in a wonderful country rich in promise and achievement.

GNU was not united

THE government of national unity (GNU) was that in name only.

Not only was there open and blatant in-fighting between all the parties that made up this un-united government.

You also had open hostility, both verbal and real, between the ANC as the dominant party in government and the IFP as the representative of the largest tribal group in South Africa.

With crime so out of control, is it any wonder that foreign investors are treating the rand with contempt and the country as if it was afflicted with the plague?

The demise of the rand is the international investment community's vote of no confidence in South Africa, its government and its economy.

It is my opinion that the rand will reach R5 to the US dollar by the June 30 and R6 to the US dollar by the end of the year.

V VASSELEOU
Parktown

Little attention to submissions

SO, after long hours, days, months, of wrangling, the ANC and NP in particular, and some of the lesser political parties have finally reached consensus on the constitution.

During all this bickering and debate very little if any attention was given to the two million submissions made by the public.

"Our" constitution, that

is to serve us, the people, has been written and approved by a minority group of politicians, with their own interests in mind.

There has been no consultation with those of us who made submissions.

In fact, for all we know, after initially counting the submissions for statistical purposes, the Constitutional Assembly

may have put them all in the incinerator.

To me it looks like the call to the people to make their submissions was only political gamesmanship to claim democratic participation.

How can the people be happy with a constitution that has not been submitted to them for their approval?

A ROBERTSON
Germiston

THE CITIZEN

10 MAY 1996

Rand plunges: Bank rate hike

By Ian Smith
and Reuter

ANOTHER blow to battered investor and business confidence was dealt yesterday as the National Party announced it was quitting the government of national unity, pushing the country closer to another interest rate hike.

This time many economists believe the Reserve Bank will raise the bank rate by two percentage points, possibly after markets close today (Friday).

The NP's move helped push the rand down to 4,55 against the dollar yesterday, only three cents short of its all-time low, and it caused panic on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, where

the industrial index dived 184,2 points bringing its loss in two days to 4,82 percent.

In late trade the rand recovered to 4,4850, but dealers said it was still highly vulnerable as foreign investors remain pessimistic about the NP's withdrawal.

Dealers said that even if the Reserve Bank did not increase the bank rate again after the one point hike on March 16 to 19.50 percent commercial banks might go it alone on a

prime rate increase to protect their margins.

The last interest rate increase came when the rand fell to its all-time low against the dollar of 4,58, and some economists said then it was too little too late to stem the outflow of cash from the country.

The fall in the Reserve Bank's gold and foreign exchange reserves by R2,37 billion to R11,7 billion announced on Wed-

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likely

Rand plunges

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nesday after heavy capital drain is also adding pressure for a rate increase

"I'm betting on a week-end rate rise increase and I think at this stage you probably going to get a two percentage point increase," Reuter quoted Mathison and Hollidge economist Liz Farquharson as saying.

The rand had a roller coaster ride yesterday toughing a low level of 5,54 to the dollar from the previous day's close of 4,4825.

But by late afternoon the currency was recovering as markets digested a move which Business South Africa said was "a further stage of normalisation of South Africa's politics".

Finance Minister Trevor Manuel predicted the rand would now find a level, stressing the break-up of the two-year-old government with the departure of the National party on June 30 would not change policy.

Pres Mandela himself told a news conference

the government remained committed to "sound economic policies of fiscal rectitude and other measures to promote growth and development".

Several economists and dealers agreed the latest slide in the rand was overdone.

Fears of a new rate rise, hard on the heels of a one-point increase to 16 percent on April 26, delivered a body blow to the stock market, with industrial shares index plunging another 2,3 percent yesterday after shedding 1,5 percent on Wednesday.

Analysts said they were downgrading their expectations for industrial stocks in line with a slowdown of the economy.

"Year-on-year growth in the industrial index, which last year reached over 30 percent, will slow to about 10 percent in two years' time," said one analyst.

Government long bonds also lost ground, but were off their lows by the close, with the R150 issue yielding 16,685 percent from 16,60 percent on Wednesday.

Foreign exchange dealers said the fog of political uncertainty might now be starting to clear, and the rand could improve in the weeks ahead.

First National Bank chief spot foreign exchange dealer, Tony van Dyk, said he believed the rand might recover from 4,35 to 4,45 in the short to medium-term now.

Nick Barnardt, strategic economist with BOE NatWest Securities, said markets had over-reacted to a move which was always on the cards, sooner or later.

"I find it a bit surprising that the markets have responded so vehemently to the break up of the government of national unity. The GNU was very useful to ensure a smooth transition, but its days were always numbered."



DEPUTY President and National Party leader, F W de Klerk, announces his party's withdrawal, from the end of June, from the government of national unity, at a Press conference in Cape Town yesterday.

Picture by Sasa Krulj, AP.

THE CITIZEN

10 MAY 1996

CAPE TOWN. — The government of national unity's policies would not change because they were premised on the needs and aspiration of all the country's people, President Mandela said yesterday.

Addressing a news conference in Cape Town, he

said this applied to all areas of endeavour, underpinned by the Reconstruction and Development Programme to improve the quality of life of the people "through sound economic policies of fiscal rectitude", and other measures to promote growth and development.

"These policies will not

change. Instead, they will be promoted with even more focus," he said.

Deputy President F W de Klerk announced the NP's withdrawal from the government of national unity at the end of June, saying the decision should be seen as an important step in the growing matu-

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THE CITIZEN

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'Policies won't change'

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ity and normalisation of democracy in South Africa.

The NP's withdrawal reflected the fact that the party "recognises that our young democracy has come of age, and would need a vigorous opposition unfettered by its participation in the Executive".

"We respect their judgement on this matter, as well as the party political considerations which precipitated their decision," Pres Mandela said.

However, the government firmly believed that the NP had a "continuing responsibility" to contribute to the process of eradicating "the legacy of apartheid which they created".

"As such, we hope that their decision to play a more active role as an opposition party does not mean obstructing the process of transformation or defending apartheid privilege."

Unity and reconciliation did not depend on enforced coalitions among parties.

This was the course the government and ANC

had chosen to pursue in the interests of the country.

"It is a course that we will pursue with even more vigour in the coming months and years."

He thanked Mr De Klerk and his colleagues "for the constructive role they played in the government of national unity".

"I am confident that we shall continue to work together in pursuit of the country's interests, and that their withdrawal will have the effect of strengthening, rather than weakening, their commitment to the country's political, security and economic interests."

The National Party announcing the NP's decision to withdraw from the government of national unity at the end of June. Mr De Klerk said the NP had felt for some time that its influence in the GNU had been declining.

The ANC had been acting more and more as though it no longer needed multi-party government.

The NP's dual role as partner in the government of national unity and as the main opposition party had been difficult

cult to sustain.

"We have done so thus far in the interest of the country," he said.

However, the NP's decision should be seen as an important step in the growing maturity and normalisation "of our young democracy".

"We believe that the development of a strong and vigilant opposition is essential for the maintenance and promotion of a genuine multi-party democracy."

"Since the new constitution does not provide for the continuation of any form of joint decision-making in the executive branch of government, we have decided that the time has come for us to play our full role as the main opposition party."

The NP's withdrawal follows a special meeting of the party's federal executive early yesterday morning and a report-back to caucus members.

Mr De Klerk said the rand's value would improve following the National Party's announcement that it is withdrawing from the government of national unity.

"I am satisfied the rand

will now improve its position," Mr De Klerk said after making the announcement.

"I am distressed that rumours of our withdrawal from the GNU have had such a negative effect on the value of the rand."

"The framework of economic realities within which any government in South Africa would have to operate will not change as a result of our withdrawal," Mr De Klerk said.

The market would continue to make its presence felt and would continue to pass its judgment on the management of the economy.

The announcement of the NP's withdrawal was being made now so the market could make its evaluation on facts and not on rumours.

The basic economic principles of the GNU were sound, and the NP had no reason to believe the ANC had any intention of deviating from the course that they had been co-instrumental in charting. The party believed it would be able to exert greater influence on economic policies from outside of government, he said. — Sapa.

IFP still in GNU

DURBAN. ~~The~~ Inkatha Freedom Party was not reconsidering its continued participation in the government of national unity, IFP secretary-general, Dr Ziba Jiyane, said in Durban yesterday.

The IFP was responding to National Party leader F W de Klerk's announcement that the NP would withdraw from the GNU at the end of June.

"The IFP reserves its position over its membership of the government of national unity," an IFP statement said.

Dr Jiyane said that "nothing has changed" as far as the IFP was concerned, and its participation in the GNU was not under review.

The IFP's role in the GNU was an issue that was raised from time to time during the party's national council meetings.

"The IFP is a democratic party and does not make snap decisions, but will consider

IFP still in

FROM PAGE 1

the political situation carefully in the normal way in the national council of the IFP."

"It seems that the National Party has finally woken up to the reality of today's politics and now sees what the IFP saw with great clarity in 1993 at the beginning of the constitution-making progress.

"At that time, and

throughout the process, the National Party pursued power sharing in the centre at the expense of real and democratic sharing of power through federalism. They are now left with nothing.

"They have learnt the most important lesson in South African politics — you can't trust the African National Congress," the statement concluded. — Sapa.

IFP told to respect const~~X~~

CAPE TOWN. — The Inkatha Freedom Party should respect the new constitution, Constitutional Assembly chairman Cyril Ramaphosa said on Wednesday.

Speaking on the SABC television programme Focus, he said the party, which boycotted negotiations on the constitution,

had excluded itself from a history-making process. "My heart goes out to them," he said.

Mr Ramaphosa did not think anyone should seek to challenge the constitution once it had been certified and become the supreme law of the land.

However, Mr Ramaphosa said he welcomed

the intention of other parties, including the Democratic Party, to challenge particular clauses in the Constitutional Court.

This meant that when the judges eventually certified the document "they and all of us will be certain we have a good constitution". — Sapa.

By KAIZER
NYATSUMBA
Political Editor



Outgoing Deputy President FW de Klerk stunned members of his party's parliamentary caucus when he told them, a few minutes after he had walked into a caucus meeting shortly after 10.35 yesterday morning, that the National Party's federal executive council had decided earlier in the day that the NP should withdraw from the Government of National Unity.

Well-placed NP sources said

When De Klerk moved that the NP should quit the GNU, the party's federal executive was split almost down the middle

although the possibility of withdrawal from the GNU had been discussed over the past two weeks, most NP MPs and senators did not expect a decision to be taken on the matter until around August.

"They were shocked. They could not say anything. They were not expecting it," said the source, a member of the the federal executive council, the party's highest decision-making body.

The Star was also told that the NP was divided along racial lines over whether to vote in favour of

the final constitution adopted on Wednesday. Most white NP MPs were against it, "but blacks felt they could not vote against so fundamental a document as the new constitution", said the source.

The blacks won out and the NP joined the ANC and PAC in voting in favour of the constitution. The big decision on the NP's future in the GNU was left in abeyance.

The source said the decision to quit the GNU was taken by the NP's 23-member federal council when it met early yesterday morn-

ing, without the knowledge of most NP MPs "because we did not want to alert the media".

When De Klerk moved that the NP should leave the GNU, the council was almost divided down the middle, with 10 members - including most of the NP's six ministers and three deputy ministers - opposed. The other 13 members of the council, including De Klerk, favoured a withdrawal.

Once the decision had been

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All the Nat caucus drama

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taken, De Klerk and his federal executive colleagues went to the caucus meeting, which starts at 10.30am on Thursdays, the source said.

"When we walked in it was tense because they (members of the caucus) did not know that the federal executive had met first thing in the morning.

"We walked in at about 10.35. Caucus members suspected there was something wrong because we were late, but they knew that withdrawal from the GNU was

Political Correspondent Jovial Rantao reports that the NP caucus meeting had, as usual, started with a prayer.

After weeks of discussions, caucus members had come to accept that a time would come when a decision would be taken to leave the GNU, especially after the ANC refused to include a clause that would have ensured the NP's continuity as a government partner.

"We were prepared for this," a senior NP official told The Star. "We knew it was coming."

De Klerk told the caucus he was convinced it was an opportune moment for the NP to decide. He felt it was not in the NP's interest to allow speculation about its future in the GNU to go on.

"He said we should take the decision now so that the world can know, the markets will react, absorb the impact and stabilise," the NP official told The Star.

Once De Klerk had left, caucus members debated the implications of a decision to stay or quit.

"He (De Klerk) said it's time for the NP to go from here and continue with building the party and continuing with its vision and mission," said the official.

one of the options being debated. They did not know the decision would be taken so soon, because the federal executive was meant to address the issue at its meeting next Tuesday," said the source.

"Everybody sat down. When the chairman, Myburgh Streicher, said we were not going to hold a usual caucus meeting and that he was going to call on the party leader to talk to us, people were more tense. De Klerk started explaining that we will have to do it (leave the GNU) now or wait until 1999. He told them about the federal council's decision and there was shock. He said that from the caucus he was going to tell President Mandela about our decision and then hold a press conference.

"Because we did not want a leak, we said everybody should stay there. We waited in the caucus meeting until 12.30, when De Klerk began addressing a press conference," the source said.

THE STAR
10 MAY 1996

NP pull-out will put pressure on rand: ANC

CAPE TOWN. — The National Party's decision to quit the government of national unity would exert pressure on the rand and negatively affect the country's dwindling reserves, African National Congress Western Cape leader Chris Nissen said yesterday.

"This is as a result of the uncertainty and nervousness being experienced by foreign investors in whose minds NP leader F W de Klerk has created the impression that while he and the NP are in the GNU, their investments are

safe," Mr Nissen said in a statement.

He said the fact that the NP had withdrawn placed a question mark against their patriotism.

Foreign investors should realise that the ANC was in charge of the economy, he said. "It is under the ANC that foreign investors have and will continue to find security."

Mr Nissen said the action by the NP was against the people of South Africa and would have an impact on the momentum gained in the reconstruction of the country's economy.

Mr De Klerk earlier said the rand's value would improve following the NP's announcement.

He said the announcement of the NP's withdrawal was being made now so the market could make it's evaluation on facts and not on rumours.

"I am satisfied the rand will now improve its position. I am distressed that rumours of our withdrawal from the GNU have had such a negative effect on the value of the rand," Mr De Klerk said. — Sapa.

NP had weakened itself: Analyst

CAPE TOWN. — The National Party had underperformed and weakened its position while in the government of national unity, political analyst Professor Lawrence Schlemmer said yesterday.

The party had underperformed in relation to the expectations of its constituency, he said in reaction to NP leader F W de Klerk's announcement that his party would withdraw from the

executive at the end of June.

"The National Party, as a member of the GNU, has made concessions which its supporters have perceived to have undermined their interests. The party itself has weakened in the process."

It had found it was suffering a "net loss in political currency", Prof Schlemmer said.

"Now at least they can go ahead as an opposition party."

On the effect that the NP withdrawal would have on the other minority party in the cabinet, Prof Schlemmer said the IFP would find it very difficult to remain.

"This puts them (the IFP) in an embarrassing position because they have been the more energetic opponents (in the cabinet). Now they have to stay in when the conciliatory party pulls out!"

Unlike the NP, however, the IFP had handled the contradiction of being both a partner and oppo-

sition partner more easily, Prof Schlemmer said.

The government of national unity had always operated in a way which had "reduced the concept of consensus to a very minimum".

"A spirit of consensus was lacking. It was a very combatant relationship," Prof Schlemmer said.

On at least three major occasions Mr De Klerk had been humiliated and the cabinet had never really functioned on a true consensus.

"It was never really accepted by the middle-levels of the ANC that they should attempt to co-operate with the fathers of apartheid.

On the effects of withdrawal on investor confidence, Prof Schlemmer said investors would react negatively.

"We will lose investor confidence not because they don't like the ANC, but simply because they know the government's policies will now become more liberated and less consistent." — Sapa.

When Winnie talks, the pot plants give up the ghost

And Pik's eloquence saves the day at constitutional talks

Mineral and Energy Affairs Pik Botha came to the rescue of this week's special Cabinet meeting on the local government elections in KwaZulu Natal, Sauer hears.

A proposal by Thabo Mbeki that the election be delayed until a date next month was spoken with such conviction by Botha that even Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and his team were persuaded to accept.

Botha argued that South Africa was in enough trouble as it was, and that another crisis was the last thing that this country needed.

In the event it worked, as the multi-party meeting agreed unanimously to the postponement.

Meanwhile, Mbeki has had a busy time recently with the constitutional talks.

Little wonder that when the time came for him to write his constitution adoption speech, Mbeki had not even made a start by Wednesday morning, just hours before the CA was due to meet to pass the bill.

It turns out that the deputy president had stayed up all night, producing a speech of such lyrical splendour – with the catch phrase of "I am an African" – that Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal was moved to compare it to speeches by the likes of Winston Churchill.

The CA talks produced more than a few laughs. One of the best, though, was from National Party senator Alex van Breda who coined a new name for the ANC's tough negotiator, Essop Pahad. He calls him simply "Deadlock". Pahad qualified this, saying among his ANC colleagues he was known as "Give and Take".

A constitutional committee debate on education should have left little doubt that most politicians send their children to private schools. When the Democratic Party proposed at the last moment that the state should continue to subsidise private schools, the proposal was accepted with such alacrity that it may as well have been a joint ANC-NP proposal. And when ANC education spokesman Blade Nzimande explained that the concession did not only benefit schools like the elite Kearsney College in KwaZulu Natal, DP leader Tony Leon exclaimed: "That's a good school!" Leon, of course, is an old boy of that school.

After all the fuss he made about the CA's adoption party being arranged before the constitution had been finalised, it was nice to see Leon among the other guests at Parliament's Fernwood Estate on the historic evening. Even ANC MPs who never miss an opportunity to pillory Leon were impressed with his speech to the CA. Chairman Cyril Ramaphosa, who clashed with Leon on more than one occasion, was moved to comment that Leon had "added spice". But Deputy President F W de Klerk was deemed to have made a particularly churlish speech. Journalists who watched him alongside President Mandela asked: "What is Michael Caine doing up there with Mandela?"

Winnie Madizikela-Mandela may have many talents but horticulture does not appear to be one of them. Outside her parliamentary office this week was a box of very dead pot plants. Commented one journalist: "Winnie's been speaking to her plants again." One of her allies, Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa leader Phatekile Holomisa, is due to have his appeal against an ANC decision to suspend him for indiscipline "reviewed" this week. Talk in Parliament is that Holomisa may soon resign his post.

Hector Sauer

Cyril and Roelf

One of the enduring images to come out of this testing period of political transition is surely the "team photograph" of Cyril Ramaphosa and Roelf Meyer, two political adversaries who walked the extra mile for the sake of peace in our land.

In Kempton Park two years ago, they were the key figures who made the interim constitution possible. The two men were again at the centre of the Constitutional Assembly negotiations which led to the miracle adoption of our final constitution this week.

We congratulate both of them for their efforts. Roelf Meyer, as NP secretary-general, is staying on in politics, but he resigned some time ago as Minister of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development. Cyril Ramaphosa, chairman of the Constitutional Assembly, has opted for a business career. He is still ANC secretary-general, but perhaps not for much longer.

We also bid farewell to another central player in the world of trilaterals, bilaterals and one-on-one meetings. Leon Wessels, as Ramaphosa's deputy in the Constitutional Assembly, made an important contribution to the constitution. He has decided to quit politics. We wish them all well.

De Klerk spells out thinking

The Star ... Friday May 10 1996

behind shock announcement

SAPA

Cape Town

Here is the full text of Deputy President FW de Klerk's announcement that the National Party is to withdraw from the Government of National Unity on June 30:

"The National Party decided at a meeting of its federal executive committee on Thursday morning to withdraw from the Government of National Unity with effect from June 30 1996. It reached this decision, after careful consideration, for the following reasons:

- Our decision should be seen as an important step in the growing maturity and normalisation of our young democracy.

- We believe that the development of a strong and vigilant opposition is essential for the maintenance and promotion of a genuine multiparty democracy. Since the new constitution does not provide for the continuation of any form of joint decision-making in the executive branch of government, we have decided that the time has come for us to play our full role as the main opposition party.

- Continued participation in the Government of National Unity would complicate and impede our ability to work towards the realisation of the vision that our party adopted on February 2 1996.

- The NP has, since the inception of the negotiating process, attached the greater importance to power-sharing. The new constitution contains no provisions for the continuation of any form of joint decision-making in the executive branch of government. I told President Mandela during the negotiating process that the failure to include any such provision in the new constitution could lead to our withdrawal from the government. Mr Roelf Meyer also conveyed the same message on a number of occasions to Mr Ramaphosa. Now that the ANC has opted for a simple form of majority rule – despite the complexities of our society – we have reached a natural watershed in the transformation of our society. It would be unnatural to continue in the GNU while everybody knows that the principles on which it rests have already been discarded in the new constitution.

- The National Party has felt for some time now that our influence within the Government of National Unity has been declining. The ANC is acting more and more as if they no longer need multi-party government.

- Although we reached broad agreement on the new constitution, it nonetheless failed to bridge the fundamental differences that exist between us and the ANC-SACP-Cosatu alliance on a number of important questions. These questions include the role of the trade unions; abortion and the death penalty; and the unqualified protection of private property.

- The National Party's dual role as partner in the Government of National Unity and as the main

“
**NP's dual
role has
been
difficult
to sustain**
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opposition party has been difficult to sustain. We have done so thus far in the interest of the country. We feel that the stage has now been reached where we will be able to serve the national interest more effectively by concentrating fully on a responsible opposition role, untrammelled by co-responsibility within the Government of National Unity.

I should like to make the following comment regarding the timing of the NP's decision:

- We are proud of the role we have played in facilitating the transition and promoting reconciliation. We remain as dedicated to that and nation-building as ever. The time has come, however, for us to reassert our own identity as a strong and vigorous party in our own right.

- The GNU is now functioning effectively. Its ANC members are now established in their portfolios and believe that they are the experience and confidence to continue on their own. The three

us, on the one hand, and the ANC-SACP-Cosatu alliance on the other, the opportunity to develop clear alternative identities and platforms before the elections. It also means that the ANC will have to assume full and sole responsibility for their policies and actions.

- We do not intend to leave the Government precipitately. We have decided that our withdrawal should take effect at midnight on June 30. This will provide President Mandela with adequate time to appoint successors and for our ministers to hand over their portfolios in good order.

It will also allow us to deal with our budget votes in Parliament before the winter recess and to make the necessary arrangements for the closure of our offices and the redeployment of our personnel.

- I am distressed that rumours of our withdrawal have had such a negative effect on the value of the rand. I should like to give the international and domestic business and banking communities the following assurances:

- The basic economic policies of the GNU are sound. We have no reason to believe that the ANC has any intention of deviating from the course that they themselves have been co-instrumental in charting.

- We have reached the point where we will be able to exercise greater influence on the economic policies of the Government by publicly adopting a vigilant and critical role than by exercising our diminishing influence behind the scenes within the GNU.

- The framework of economic realities within which any government in South Africa would have to operate will not change as a result of our withdrawal. The “amorphous entity” of the market will continue to make its present

ANC alliance like it, the market will continue to pass its judgments on our management of the economy. No government can afford to ignore these judgments.

I am, accordingly, confident that a more realistic view of our economic prospects and the basic stability of our economy will soon be restored.

Although we intend to play a vigorous opposition role on issues where we disagree with the Government, it will be a responsible role. In particular, we will continue to give our wholehearted support to the Government's efforts to promote economic growth, to alleviate the plight of the poor, the deprived and the unemployed; and to build a strong and united

**We will
eventually
become the
country's
biggest party**
”

colleagues within the GNU for the manner in which we were able to co-operate in the decision-making process. This was a positive approach and served the best interests of South Africa.

We need a strong and confident opposition. We intend to supply it – and we intend to work towards the vision that I sketched for our party in February this year.

We will further consolidate our position as a party based on values rather than ethnic affiliation; we will expand our support among all South Africans and particularly among black South Africans; and we will eventually become the largest party in South Africa.”

6 ministers, 3 deputies will have to vacate seats

By **KARIN SCHIMKE**
Political Staff

Six ministers and three deputy ministers – some holding key portfolios in the Government – will have to vacate their seats in the wake of yesterday's announcement that the National Party is pulling out of the coalition. This is over and above the loss of one executive deputy president, in the person of NP leader F W de Klerk, from the tripartite leadership of the Cabinet.

Ministers John Mavuso (General Services) and Patrick McKenzie (Welfare and Population Development) served the shortest terms in the Government of National Unity, both having been appointed to their respective ministries in March this year, soon after former Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg announced his resignation and the Cabinet was reshuffled. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, at present Deputy Minister of Welfare and Population Development, is most likely to replace McKenzie, based on her experience.

Mavuso's portfolio, having been created for Chris Fisser of the NP when Derek Keys was replaced with the non-political Chris Liebenberg as finance minister and a Cabinet position was then owed to the NP, is likely to be dissolved in a newly formed Cabinet.

Pik Botha, who has been called "the ultimate political survivor" after having been the world's longest-serving foreign affairs minister, first assumed that position in 1977. When Mandela became president, Botha was appointed Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister. His post could be filled by two highly competent ANC members, most probably Marcel

ANC contenders in wings

Golding who at present heads up the National Assembly select committee dealing with this department. The other candidate is Susan Shabangu, who just recently became Botha's deputy minister.

Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism Dawie de Villiers was appointed to the Cabinet for the first time in 1980. His deputy, Bantu Holomisa, has proven himself to be dedicated to the environmental and tourism issues and is a very likely candidate for succession.

Kraai van Niekerk was appointed as Agriculture Minister by De Klerk in 1991. His deputy, Thoko Msane of the ANC, is the youngest member of the Cabinet and is relatively inexperienced.

A possible contender for Van Niekerk's position is Trish Hanekom, a veterinarian with a BSc degree from Unisa, whose main area of work in the Gauteng legislature to date has centred on agricultural policy.

NP rising star Chris Fisser served most recently as Minister of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development (which he took over from Roelf Meyer). His ANC deputy, Mohamed Valli Moosa, has shown himself to be highly skilled and experienced – particularly in recent local government elections – and is the most obvious candidate to replace him.

Deputy Justice Minister Sheila Camerer will also have to leave her post and is likely to be succeeded by ANC stalwart Willie Hofmeyer.

Deputy Minister of Land Affairs Fanus Schoeman could be replaced by the outspoken Baleka Kgosisile who serves on the land affairs committee and Blade Nzimande, chairman of the select committee on education, is a strong contender for deputy minister of education after Renier Schoeman leaves.

SA's ugly image abroad

Individually, there can be few among us who would tolerate it should someone else recommend to our prospective house guests that they ensure their own self-protection by toting handguns. Unfortunately South Africa felt it necessary to prescribe its rules for handguns.

Delegates to the G7 conference on the revolution in global communications and computer technology in Midrand next week have been told that it is safe to drink the water, but not to swim in rivers because of bilharzia – and informed of the rules for bringing handguns into the country. It could be argued that not telling them the rules would be irresponsible.

That visitors from any part of the globe should think of arriving here packing revolvers like characters in a third-rate Western movie is bad enough, that people from the world's seven richest countries should even consider it is numbing.

It beggars the imagination to reflect on the impact this sort of perception can have on all forms of traffic with South Africa – trade, tourism, culture, sport ... And it shames the country that this is how it and a criminal element gaining in notoriety with every week are viewed in other parts.

Movers and shakers in politics and business must realise their best efforts to win international respect and become competitive on world markets will be handicapped unless there are irrefutable signs that the tide of lawlessness in our society has been halted and turned round. How this is to be achieved has been exercising the minds of security experts for years. Politicians are acutely aware of the need to beat crime. And business is taking active steps to lend its muscle to wage the battle.

Success for their efforts cannot come soon enough. In the immediate term, we must hope that our visitors from the G7 countries will return home with good cause to be less apprehensive than they are now. Perhaps it would be wise for future visitors to be told that guns are unwelcome, and should they feel unsafe they could always buy one.

Constitution not a battering ram

The Star... Friday May 10 1996

DP leader Tony Leon presents his view on the new constitution to Parliament

I too make claim to being an African, not just by birth but by choice. There can be few more exciting places to live anywhere in the world.

Others have spoken of their origins and journeys into the new South Africa. Three generations ago my great-grandparents fled the oppression of a distant country on another continent. They came to a country where rights were granted to the few, but denied to the many. I am humbled and privileged today to be part of a process rectifying that historic wrong – and extending those rights.

Standing here before you today, I cherish the privilege conferred upon very few people – a chance to speak to the nation about a new dawn, about the ties that bind us all to a new democratic destination and, specifically, to make a judgment call on the constitutional road map we have drawn to guide us on this long, never-ending journey.

The completion of a constitution, institutionalising the rule of law – the highest law of the land – marks our most significant contribution to effecting the dream of a democratic nation.

The Democratic Party asked a simple question: Is the new constitution democratic? In many aspects the answer is affirmative. It entrenches, most importantly, a true separation of powers. For the first time in our history the executive is to be checked by a democratically elected legislature and by an independent judiciary. Representivity, accountability, transparency and public participation – words never before attributed to South African governance – are sprinkled throughout this document. Its Bill of Rights is one of the most liberal in the world.

However, the Democratic Party also asks: Is it appropriate to the demands of a deeply divided society, a young democracy not yet characterised by political tolerance and individual responsibility, wary of international partners, or a parlous currency?

We have several reservations about the Bill of Rights and will be obliged to draw the attention of the Constitutional Court to

these exceptions. We question the propriety and constitutionality of the Limitation Clause, the Property Clause, and especially the Labour Relations Clause as they stand.

Granting unfettered rights to strike unchecked by rights to lockout gives trade unions extraordinary power. Cumulatively viewed, the labour relations provisions place organised labour in a privileged position above the reach of both the legislature and economic constraints. Indeed, it could be said that this constitution confers on Cosatu enough power to make or unmake governments and to break the economy.

That is why we will be going to the Constitutional Court; because we believe these clauses negate the promise of the constitutional principles of equal protection and parity for labour and business.

One of the Democratic Party's fundamental principles has been to advance the devolution of power and the creation of a federalist state. We were the lone voice countering the natural inclinations of others, towards strong central government. We stood alone in the Constitutional Assembly in representing the views of millions of

South Africans who share this desire. In the face of many odds, we carried the torch for all the federalists in South Africa.

Having mentioned our reservations, let me now claim our contributions. This constitution represents in a real way a triumph for the fundamental ideas of the Democratic Party. We have contributed substantially to perfecting this document, to both its clarity and to its substance, especially in the following areas:

- The protections for spheres of local government in our constitution are among the best in the world;

- The Bill of Rights is a graceful contribution to basic civil rights, particularly the rights to life, security of person, privacy and administrative justice;

- Of concern to all South Africans with our endemic and epidemic crime rate, the DP alone succeeded in ensuring constitutional empowerment for municipal and provincial policing;

- This constitution allows our citizens access to information previously denied us;

- Submissions of the Democratic Party on government financial management send a message to the international community of fiscal responsibility and innovation.

Our decision to support or oppose this constitution was fundamentally based on our deep-seated commitment to South Africa and its people. We want South Africa to succeed. We want our people to prosper. We want our democracy to take root.

We want our currency to stabilise and investor confidence to improve.

In the final analysis, however, this constitution will fail if it is used as a battering ram to invade the fundamental freedoms of our citizens in pursuit of political ideology or social engineering or pernicious egalitarianism which forsakes justice and liberty.

We want South Africa to walk the road ahead with a common purpose, a common road map, under our common flag. Despite our misgivings on individual clauses, we support this constitution and all that it represents.

May God guide us on this journey and may God bless South Africa. *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika.*