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# ANC claims Inkatha reneged on accord

Jaspreet Kundra

In a possible step towards a political realignment, the African National Congress's leader in KwaZulu-Natal, S'bu Ndebele, has attacked the Inkatha Freedom Party for reneging on a post-election promise to give the ANC more provincial cabinet posts.

ANC sources view Ndebele's criticism as a strategic move to put some distance between the two parties, and a step towards a provincial alliance with the New National Party. It comes against the background of the ANC's burgeoning relationship at national level with the NNP.

Ndebele tabled a long list of grievances with the IFP at an ANC provincial general council meeting over the weekend, which he said should be resolved to maintain peace in the province. At the same meeting, he also hinted at developing his party's relationship with the NNP.

Ndebele drew comparisons with the Western Cape, where the DP has four MECs despite having only five members in the legislature. In KwaZulu-Natal the ANC has four MECs compared to Inkatha's six and the premier's post — when both parties have 34 legislature members.

The ANC in KwaZulu-Natal is apparently considering entering a partnership with the NNP, which has three seats in the legislature and may acquire more if floor-crossing legislation is introduced. With the likelihood of the ANC taking charge in the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal remains the only province outside ANC control.

The ANC and the IFP signed a coalition agreement after the general elections in June 1999. Central to this was the provincial constitution, which it was agreed would address the issues of a balanced provincial cabinet and the role of the monarchy.

At the weekend meeting Ndebele complained that the legislature's constitutional committee, responsible for drafting the provincial constitution, did not meet for over a year after July 1999. He claimed the chair of the committee "had instructions to either not convene

the committee or filibuster, but in any case render this position a shambles".

IFP national spokesperson Musa Zondi said Ndebele should raise these issues with his provincial counterparts in the IFP. He said the IFP was committed to drafting a provincial constitution and dismissed allegations of reneging on its promise.

IFP sources say that according to a resolution adopted by the party's national council earlier this year, the constitution should be ready by March next year. Moses Khubisa, chair of the constitutional committee, said the issue was being discussed in ANC-IFP meetings.

Ndebele paints a revealing picture of the 1999 post-election negotiations with the IFP: "The ANC had put forward the view that the executive was led by the IFP, the legislature had to be led by the ANC with the IFP as deputy. Essentially, the IFP put the case that it already had six MECs based on its majority status of 1994 to 1999. The ANC on the other hand had three MECs." The ANC, he notes, was considerate in not seeking immediate balance, as it would force the IFP to remove MECs. But, "even as we were negotiating with the IFP team appointed by its president, another team was attempting an accommodation with the DP", says Ndebele.

The IFP, Ndebele states, effectively lost the elections in June 1999: "The only basis for ruling is an electoral mandate. Without an electoral mandate to govern the only other way to retain some power is through a mutual agreement with another party... The IFP has neither an electoral mandate nor an agreement."

IFP sources have in the meantime attacked the ANC for using King Goodwill Zwelithini as an "asset, when he clearly is a liability".

Zondi has in the past indicated that the IFP envisages a "ceremonial head-like role", in line with Queen Elizabeth II's position, for Zwelithini to be inscribed in the Constitution. The IFP alleges that Zwelithini has been promised a "chief executive king's position" by the ANC.



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Gauteng deputy chair Angle Motshekga. Photo: Karel Prinsloo/Sunday Times

## ANC Gauteng moves to eliminate internal rifts

**Bongani Majola**

The desire to heal historic breaches in the Gauteng African National Congress is seen as a key motive for the elevation of Angle Motshekga — wife of former Gauteng premier Mathole Motshekga — to deputy leader of the provincial party.

At the Gauteng ANC conference last weekend she was elected provincial deputy chairperson in a move that raised eyebrows.

As expected, Gauteng Premier Mkhazima Shilowa was installed unopposed as chairperson.

Another rising provincial figure, David Makhura, was elected unopposed as secretary. Makhura was appointed to the provisional party leadership in Gauteng after the faction-ridden Gauteng executive committee was disbanded last year.

Motshekga's election is widely seen as a strategic manoeuvre to placate the camp formerly associated with her husband.

Mathole Motshekga's election as premier precipitated years of internal party wrangling that was exacerbated when he was forced out of the premiership by national ANC leaders in 1999.

Angle Motshekga, Gauteng MEC for Social Services and Population Development, beat MEC for Housing Paul Mashatile — once a key opponent of her husband — to the deputy chairperson's post.

She this week hotly denied being a stalking-horse for her husband. "I met my husband in politics. I'm in the

struggle in my own right and I'm my own person. I can run for and win the deputy chairpersonship with or without him, because I have a long history of activism in the ANC."

She has in the past been seen as the power behind the throne when her husband was a political force.

Angle Motshekga shot to prominence as a teacher-activist in a United Democratic Front affiliate, the National Education Union of South Africa. After a stint in the civics she became deputy secretary of the ANC Women's League in Gauteng.

It was the backing of the league that won her her latest position, she says.

"My candidacy was sponsored and supported by women delegates."

Makhura has had a meteoric rise within the ANC. The former South African Students' Congress president cut his political teeth in the trade union movement, where he serves as deputy secretary general for the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union. Last year he lost a neck-to-neck contest for the presidency of the ANC Youth League to Madusi Gigaba.

Delegates at the weekend conference clearly saw him as having played a pivotal role in ridding the Gauteng ANC of internal strife. After he delivered his secretarial report they rose to their feet and drowned him in tumultuous applause.

A surprise omission from the provincial leadership is MEC for Finance Jabu Moleketi. Earlier punted to succeed Shilowa as chairperson, he did not make it into the provincial executive.



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Dan Maluleke (left) admits there are cultural differences in the DA. Photo: Trevor Samson/Business Day

## Black DA leaders admit race discord

Jaspreet Kindra

Senior Democratic Alliance leader Dan Maluleke has conceded there are "cultural" differences between white and black members of the DA, and that the two groups perceive South African politics differently.

Maluleke, a Democratic Party MP, said he is planning a workshop to provide a "chance for Tony Leon and others to acclimatise" themselves with the culture of the African DA members. Maluleke spoke to the *Mail & Guardian* after fronting a DA press conference in Johannesburg this week which emphasised that the DA is not a white elitist party and is making inroads in black communities. Similar conferences, also addressed by only black speakers, were simultaneously held in Durban and Cape Town.

Maluleke's comments were echoed by a DP member of the Gauteng legislature, Themba Sono, who found "vast" cultural differences between blacks and whites in the DA. "We come from different political backgrounds and experiences. It will take quite some time before the meeting

of the minds, hearts and souls of the blacks and specially English-speaking white South Africans," Sono said.

"Because of their experience of discrimination, blacks are very sensitive to any perceived white superiority. This flows into our political culture."

He said: "When Defence Minister Mpsiloa Lekota says there is more cultural affinity between Afrikaners and Africans, he is telling the truth."

In his official statement at the DA's Johannesburg media conference, Maluleke said people in the ANC and the media liked to pretend that the DA was an exclusive white club that served only elite whites. "This is profoundly insulting to the DA's many African public representatives. It is also untrue."

Maluleke said that since the beginning of the year the party had launched, or was in the process of launching, 146 branches in black communities. By May next year it would have 250 black branches.

The *M&G* has seen a DA notice sent out on behalf of the party's labour affairs spokesperson, Nick Clelland, to white senior DA councillors

informing them of the press conferences. It reads: "Across the country the leadership wants to show the face of the party ... Nick wants as many councillors as is possible to attend — to show their support for the DA, the vision of the DA, the DA leader and our black DA members, who may well be feeling vulnerable. The message will be to counteract the racial tag the NNP is trying to stick to the DA."

The notice adds that Clelland, a former parliamentary adviser to DA leader Tony Leon, needs three party members at the press conferences to speak in an anecdotal way about how the DA is growing.

NNP leader and former DA member Vincent Thusi described the conferences as a "veiled attempt by the DA to hide its true colours. The party's internal problems can only be resolved if black people feel they own it," he said.

Criticising DP elder statesman Helen Suzman for saying the NNP's withdrawal from the DA was "good riddance", Thusi said Suzman's comment "stigmatises black members and the Afrikaner community who voted for the NNP".



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# Try the KZN model

## A SECOND LOOK

**Jaspreet Kundra**

After five years of exposure to politics in KwaZulu-Natal, spending a week at the national Parliament was an eye-opener. It was amazing how unsophisticated and aggressive the debate was in Cape Town. Attacks from either side were often personal and ineffective if intended to change the other side's position.

With a new alliance being formed between the African National Congress and the New National Party, and the Democratic Alliance weakened by a split, the KwaZulu-Natal legislature stands out as a beacon for coalition politics. Almost all the country's political parties are represented in the provincial legislature and, irrespective of their status, have managed to influence positions or initiate government actions.

The ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party head a coalition government in KwaZulu-Natal. The opposition comprises the Democratic Party, the NNP, the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) and the United Democratic Movement.

You might find the DP or NNP provincial leader supporting positions taken either by the ANC or the IFP in order to keep the coalition intact. As a staff member of the legislature points out: "The need to maintain peace in a province with a long history of political violence involving both the ANC and the IFP prevails over everything else."

But that does not mean the opposition in the province has become a lapdog. The DP, the NNP and even the ACDP have managed to raise

issues of public overspending. All have been effectively brought to the attention of the provincial auditor-general who has initiated investigations in many instances.

Adversarial politics are not limited to the opposition. The most heated debates in Pietermaritzburg and Ulundi have often involved the ANC and the IFP — often leaving the media wondering whether the partnership would last until the next day.

Off the floor of the House, there is always acknowledgement that the IFP will continually raise issues surrounding the strengthening of provincial powers or voice concern over the diminishing importance of traditional authorities.

Incompetence and allegations of corruption in the departments are dealt with by the still non-partisan public accounts committee chaired by the IFP's Mike Tarr, who often criticises IFP ministers.

The legislature heard a graphic account of child abuse from Umkhonto weSizwe veteran and ANC MP, Bhekizizwe Cele and the heart-rending account of how former Inkatha "warlord" Thomas Shabalala lost his daughter to Aids. And therein lies the explanation of why politicians work together in the province.

The majority of MPs have been exposed to the evils of political violence. They feel personally responsible for maintaining peace.

Thus the underlying concern in every action is to keep the province functioning and make it a success.