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TheIFP and the bA making eyes at each other, the PAC ma Boers, the U

Drew Forrest

The . Inkatha Freedom Party is reassessing its cooperation pact with the African National Congress, and sees no insurmountable barzier to closer ties with the Democratic Alliance, IFP leaders said this week.

This {s the first sign that Inkatha .

anger over its perceived mistreat

ment by its coalition partner could boil aver into a party realignment.

Asenior [nkatha source; who asked

not to be pamped, signalled some

" urgency. â\200\234Politics boils down to nurm-

bers; decisions must be made ingood

time for the 2004 election,â\200\235 he said.

Apparently responding to the

mounting chorus of [FP. complaints,

the ANC's legkotla at the weekend.

passed 2 motion reaffirming cooperation with the IFP, based on the "shared interests of the parties" mass

constituencies\200\235, and callirig for the -

strengthening of . the parties\200\231 1999 cooperation pact. i

* ANC \200\230presidency head Smuts Ngonyama said there were bound to be \200\234ups and downs" in a eooperative arrangement between parties that did not necessarily share ideologies. However, he would be "very

surprised" if the IFP pulled out.

But DA provineial leader Roger Burrows said his party had established an internai committee to examine prospects for a rapprochement with the IFP. This would sound out the \200\234various\200\235 views of DA members.

Relations between the DA dnd [FP in KwaZulu-Natdl have not always been cordial. The'DA complains that the IFP has consistently backed the ANC in the Durban metro, notably on the provision of Aids drugs.

Actions of DA legislature member Belinda Scott, seen as \200\234belittling the IFP and its leadership\200\235 are said

to have been raised at a meeting between party leaders last year,

DA leader Tony Leon said his party was \200\234a little gun-shy of alliances", given last year's DA split. However, he had a good personal relationship with IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi. and the partfes already

* co-governed seven municipalities in . KwaZulu-Natal.

\200\234There have been no formal discus-

_sions, and any forward movement \200\230would. need considerable explo-

ration. But there is no reason why it shouldn\200\231t happen,\200\235 LÃ©on said. The DA's central project was stronger

apposition, and the IFP had to decide where it stood on this.

Buthelezi and ANC president Thabo Mbeki's mutual antipathy, aggravated by ANC filibustering of the Immigration Bill and conflict over Buthelezi's Director General of Home Affairs, Billy Masetlha, is well known.

"However, Soyice said the IFP also resented the importance the ANC attached to its pact with the New National Party and its failure to consult the IFP of planned floor-crossing legislation, which could jeopardise the IFP's control of KwaZulu-Natal,

Policy differences between the ANC

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and IRP are becoming more marked
and more openly expressed, in part
reflecting an LFP move to claw back
some of the white support it has shed
since 1994.

At its recent national council meet-
ing, Buthelezi rapped the government
on Aids, Zimbabwe and the rand.

This week KwaZulu-Natal Premier -

Lionel Mishali announced he would
implement the court judgement
ordering the government to supply
anti-retroviral drugs to HIV-infected
pregnant women â\200\224 although there
appeared to have been a subsequent
climb-down on this,

Commentators said the IFP would think very carefully before sacrificing the national visibility of its three

*Cabinet ministers. The senior IFP

source said a breach with the ANC — might compromise reconciliation in KwaZulu-Natal, i

But he said: "This should not weigh too heavily in thinking about other options. The ANC stance on HIV/Aids is untenable; we're in cahoots with 2

party that's telling people: "Die; die, die!" It's giving us terrible problems in KwaZulu-Na

The source said the IFP was coming round to the view that matters would

not improve while Mbeki was ANC leader. "My suspicion is that his strategy is to contain Buthelezi, as [Robert] Mugabe contained [Joshua] Nkomo in Zimbabwe."

Some ANC leaders, including!a.cob !

Zuma and Kgalema Mpanthe.

remained committed to the relationship, he said.

"We're in cahoots with a party that's telling people 'Die, die, die!'"

He underscored that a recent ANC national executive committee meet-

ing, Minister of Social Development:

Zola Skweyiya protested that the ANC's primary and historical ties were with the IFP, not the NNP.

Striking a notably conciliatory note on the DA, the source said the IFP "had no reason to refuse the hand of friendship" and the parties could work together "providing we agree on a programme".

The DA's mainly white leadership and large white following were not an issue, he said, as "they are South Africans. We believe in non-racialism

and a nation-building programme

that makes whites feel at home?
Although there were no major policy differences, the IFP would want a clear definition of where the DA stood on traditional leadership, the source said. There were also differences over whether Pietermaritzburg or Ulundi should be KwaZulu-Natal's capital. Leon conceded traditional leader-

ship stood at the top of the IFP's*

agenda, while it was close to the bottom of the DA's. Burrows suggested the matter could be resolved by agreeing to disagree or through an inter-party committee of experts,

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Leon has adinitted there are rum-
blinga-about his leadership of the

party in the wake of last yearâ\200\231s walk-
out by the New National Party. .

* Ripression/ apf â\200\234discontent have
â\200\230emÃ©tged In the Western Cape and
Gatiteng reglony of the DA, where
- Leon's â\200\234abryisiveâ\200\235 stylÃ© find his â\200\234Inac-
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membets hrp inhappy with his per-
. celveq teridÃ©nty to surround himself
â\200\230with lke-minded lfeutenants,

In Gauteng there s a perception
that the DA has become excessively

â\200\230preoccupied with the Western Cape,
where it has lost control of the provin-
clal government and may take further
losses in the Cape Town council,

" However, â\200\230party .insiders believe
Leon will be elected unchallenged
wheni the DA | formallylaunched at

;8 00nresd In Johannesbirg in Apri,

5 kkrioWisdgng the discontentment,

al/aon said he would â\200\234hope there is
some rumbling iri the party, { donâ\200\231t like
anunchalleriged leaderâ\200\235 He ncepted
that he had td tuke responsibiity for
the expulsion of former Cape Town
mayor Petet' Marals, which precipi-
tated the party split, and he ncepted
the court ruling that Maraia had been
ilegally ousted, However, he insisted,
he had acted on the best possible
legal advice. Everyone, Including NNP
leader Mafthinus van Schalkwyk,
knew there had been widespread criti-
cism within the alliance of Marals's
role as mayof, " -

Leon acknowledged that the NNP
brÃ©akaway hes damaged the alltance,
conceding that the DA would have to

work hard this year to win back the support ft won in the December 2000 local govÃ©rnment elections and expand its support base among black voters,

* The mast immediate challenge will be the lifting of the antl-defection clause at local government level, This will enable NNP members to leave the DA, under whase banner they were elected, without losing thelr seats in the 21 councils the alliance controls in the Western Cape. :

â\200\234On all available evidence, the bulk will remain with us,â\200\235 Leon said, inalst-Ing that â\200\234f donâ\200\231t want people to stay In the DA urider sufferanceâ\200\235

' Seyenity councillorors will have to leave 'thie DA t Join the NNP or the ANC If it s to lose dontrol of Cape Town, The DA calculates that between 12 and 16

" councililors ate on fts â\200\234dodgy Mstâ\200\235 1t also belleves the removzl of floor crossing restrictions at national level | will lead to the defection of â\200\234about a dozanÃ© NNP MPx in Pariamane

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election approaches. The Mail & Guardian spoke to opposition leaders this week

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famed for its slogan â\200\234one settler, ane
bulletâ\200\235 was disclosed by PAC secretary
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â\200\230Ka Plaatjie said the appeal to .
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Afrikaans-medinm publications, such
as Beeld and Rapport, and a segies of Â©
â\200\234talk shopsâ\204ç. The aim was to counter
the impression that the PAC was anti- -
white. This, he said, had been â\200\234un-
wittinglyâ\200\235 created by events ranging
from golf course and farm attacks to
the â\200\234one settler, ane bulletâ\200\235 slogan and
threats to drive whites into the sea.

Be had made lis first tentative step -
in the new direction by medistingina -
dispute between two senior Afrikaner

academics ata coBiegein the East Rand.

The PACHad also taken up the case of

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Ka Plaatjie szid the PAC was in the
process of â\200\234repositioning itselfas the

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suthentic voice of the African people,
and reviewing most of its policiesin an
attempt to make them resonate with

The policies, to be unveiled mid-next

manth, remained centred onland The -

refrain â\200\234fand first and everything shall
followâ\200\235 would be â\200\234unpackedâ\204ç to vari-

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added value only and expmopriation for

development and increased owner-

ship of land for tribal areas. It is not

clesrhow this will speal towhtes, . -

The party is opposed to the govern-
-ment pians to reduce the umber of

tertiary institutions. It would like to

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