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BUSINESS DAY, Friday, August 15 2003**Leon resubmits DA proposals on AIDS epidemic**

DEMOCRATIC Alliance (DA) leader Tony Leon has called on government to follow its promise of rolling out anti-retroviral drugs to prolong the lives of HIV/AIDS sufferers with "real deeds". He repeated the DA's 2001 proposals to help government speed up the process. These included the removal of VAT on AIDS drugs and all the medicines on the essential drugs list; legislation to amend the Patents Act to permit the production of generic antiretroviral drugs; and the declaration of a national AIDS emergency, which would, in accordance with international agreements, allow patent rights on life-saving drugs to be bypassed. Leon said these measures were still worth cabinet's consideration. *Hopewell Radebe*

**Tony Leon**

Mail & Guardian August 15 to 21 2003

Let's make the Aids plan stick

Mail & Guardian readers can be excused for feeling a little puzzled by developments in the government's HIV/Aids policy last week. "Thabo, Manto deepen Aids row", M&G posters bellowed on Friday. "Government acts on Aids", other media assured us a day later.

Both were on the mark. Prompted by mounting concern about the potential election fallout, and driven by enlightened ministers, there was a Cabinet U-turn on drug treatment for Aids sufferers. But as last week's Aids conference highlighted, denialism persists. For this reason, it is essential to ensure that the proposed national treatment plan actually takes place and that, as far as possible, its implementation is removed from the suffocating hand of the denialists.

How does South Africa ensure that the heel-dragging that followed the April 17 2002 "about-turn" does not repeat itself?

The first requirement is "earnest money" — without an upfront government funding commitment, nothing will happen. By the end of September, the date by which the Ministry of Health must produce an operational plan, the government must have publicly earmarked a budget for at least a year of the national treatment programme. This must cover the cost of the national management framework and the programme implementation unit proposed in the Treasury-Health Department task team report. In the form of the R3-billion Aids contingency fund announced by Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel in this year's Budget speech, the money is lying in government coffers, waiting to be used.

Though abused by denialists to stall and obstruct, cost concerns are legitimate. Drug prices have fallen significantly, but a national procurement team, including non-governmental interest groups, must be set up as quickly as possible to negotiate the lowest possible drug prices, irrespective of patent status.

A major difficulty confronting the plan is treatment education and counselling. Here again it is critical for the government to welcome and create space for the widest possible spectrum of knowledge and experience. The point is that Aids activists, and health workers and professionals of conventional views, should no longer be viewed as political mischief-makers out to undermine government — their cooperation will be pivotal to the success of the treatment plan.

Perhaps the most worrying feature of the task team's report is its suggestion that nothing should happen for a six-month period while government gets its ducks in a row. As this deadline falls after next year's election, the fear must be that the treatment plan will slip down the agenda. In any case, such a delay is simply unwarranted if sufficient political will exists.

By end-September, a range of public hospitals and clinics should have been identified where the treatment programme can kick off pretty much at once. These should include the numerous private facilities where anti-retrovirals are already being administered. These centres should be expanded, and the invaluable experience they have gleaned disseminated throughout the public health sector.

The government has taken an important step forward, and deserves praise for this. But as in every area, it is South Africans' democratic responsibility to help the government to remain true to its word.

Mail&Guardian August 15 to 21 2003

**"We have buried comrades
in the past who have been
ashamed to publicly use anti-
retroviral drugs." — anonymous
African National Congress member**

Mail&Guardian August 15 to 21 2003

Verbatim

"I think this is going to translate within months into many lives saved ... There is a long hard road ahead and at least we've now embarked on it." — Nelson Mandela, on the government's announcement on providing anti-retroviral drugs



SOWETAN Friday August 15 2003

Shaka 'was a feminist'

By Phindile Xaba

KING Shaka was hailed as the trail-blazer of women re-energisation, what could be referred to as the modern day male feminist at the King Shaka Awards launch at the Gold Reef City.

Princess Ntombizosuthu Zulu, one of the three Zulu princesses who have initiated The Legacy of King Shaka Projects, and chief executive of the project, said she has great respect for the legendary king.

"Men like King Shaka were willing and able to use women's positive energy for the collective good of humanity. During his reign there were three distinct women who were recognised as powers behind the throne, his mother Nandi kaBhebhe, his aunt Mkabayi kaJama and his partner Pham-patha," she said.

All three were later named as chiefs of their own groups.

Cultural activist and playwright and member of the board Duma ka Ndlovu said this type of history has to be taught in schools.

"Unless we recapture and rediscover our heritage, we are a doomed nation. Let us learn to find what we have before we borrow from others," Ndlovu said.

Also at the launch was Credo Mutwa who stressed that whatever has been taught to Africans by white colonialists was distorted.

"King Shaka was the unifier, he was a visionary who wanted to unite African tribes".

ISOLEZWE, ULWESIHLANU, AGASTI 15, 2003

Osopolitiki besifazane mabazibambe

MHLELI: Njengoba amaqembu akha uhlu lwabazongena emaphalamende, bekungakuhle abesifazane ke babambe isimilo. Sekukaningi sibona izinto ezinyantisayo lapho abanye besifazane belahla izimilo

ngenxa nje yokufuna ukungena ephalamende.

Zibambeni nje, uma ufanele wukungena ohlwini, uzongena ngaphandle kokuzehlisa isithunzi.

**S Modise
Ethekwini**

UMAFRIKA August 15-21, 2003

Ufakazi uchaza ngokubulawa koweNkatha

NONHLANHLA SHANGASE

ONGUFAKAZI wenkantolo othi wayekhona kubulawa izikhulu ze-Nkatha ngezikhathi zodlame lwezopolitiki ngo 1995, uthi uMnuz Russel Ngubo obushelwe lamacala wakha itulo lokuba abulawe ukuze kungabi khona ozobampimpa.

Abamangalelwa sebebonke ngo-Mnuz Ngubo (42) waseNapierville, eMgungundlovu; uMnuz Velaphi Donald Khumalo (34), wakuMazambane Road, KwaCaluza, eMgungundlovu; Mnuz Thulani Excellent Xaba (30), odonsa ngelinye lokubulala; Zwelihle Howard Dlamini (34) wakwa J-1166, KwaMashu, eThekwini; Mnuz Dumisani Solomon Mshengu, (owaziwa ngo-Mzi) waseMgodini Location, eMgungundlovu noMnuz Thamsanqa Obedient Memela (38) waseNapierville, eMgungundlovu.

Kuthiwa babulala oMnuz Nash Protas Ngubane noMnuz Amon Zwelikude Mshengu ngezikhathi ezehlukene.

UMnuz Nhlanhla Ngubane ongufakazi wenkantolo, nowabe eyiphoyisa, utsehe iNkantolo eNkulu yaseMgungundlovu kuleli sonto ukuthi washayelwa ucingo nguMnuz Xaba naye ongumangalelwa, futhi owayeyiphoyisa.

Uthe uMnuz Xaba wayemcela ukuba bazokhuluma ngokubulawa kukaMnuz Nash Ngubane, isikhulu se-IFP eMpendle.

Ukumbulala

Uthe wamtshela ukuthi bona oMnuz Xaba babefuna ukumbulala angafakazi ngoba base bezwile ukuthi abaseshi babemnxenxa ukuba abe ngufakazi wenkantolo.

Ufakazi uthe watshelwa nguMnuz Xaba ukuthi oMnuz Ngubo babakha itulo lokuba abulawe ngoba kunguyena uMnuz Ngubo ayengamethembi ebantwini ayekade enabo kubulawa uMnuz Ngubane. Uthe kwamethusa lokhu, wacabanga ukuthi nakho ukubizwa nguMnuz Xaba kwakungenzeka kube ngelinye lamaqhinga okuba abulawe.

Echaza ngokubulawa kukaMnuz Nash Ngubane, ufakazi uMnuz Ngubane uthi bafika emzini kaMnuz Ngubane bazichaza njengamaphoyisa. Babehamba ngemoto yamaphoyisa. Uthe uMnuz Ngubane waphuma nesibhamu ebavulela.

Ufakazi waveza isitiliketi sakhe sobuphoyisa, wamecela ukuba asibeke phansi isibhamu uMnuz Ngubane, aveze ilayisensi.

Wakwenza lokho, baqhubeka base-sha endlini bathola esinye isibhamu ahangayitholanga ilayisensi yaso, base bethi kuMnuz Ngubane makangene evenini bayomphonsa imibuzo mayelana naso.

Uthe bahamba naye baya kwenye indawo lapho abafike bamdonseta phansi eceleni kwemoto, bamphoqa ukuba alale ngesisu.

Uthe uMnuz Ngubo nguyena owavulela kuqala inhlumvu kuMnuz Ngubane, nabanye abamangalelwa badubula, bamshiya efile.

Uthe yena wadubula ngalesi sibhamu abe esithathe kuMnuz Ngubane esasingenayo ilayisensi.

Uthe ngakusasa bezwa ezindabeni ukuthi kwakukhona isikhulu se-IFP esasitholakale sifile, futhi kwakusolwa ukuthi sasisithathwe ngamaphoyisa ekhaya.

Ufakazi uthe ngosuku olulandelayo uMnuz Ngubo wamshayela ucingo, wambonga ngomsebenzi owawuhamba kahle. Waphinda wamyalala ukuthi angalinge ayixoxe le ndaba, ngisho kumngani wakhe osondole kangakanani.

Omunye owothule ubufakazi phambilini kuleli cala uMnuz Mphendukelwa Skhosana otshela inkantolo ukuthi uMnuz Ngubo wamecela ukuba amaze ekubulweni uMnuz Ngubane noMnuz Mshengu.

Uthe babuye baxabana noMnuz Ngubo owamxosha lapho ayehlala khona ezindlini zasejele.

UMnuz John Wills omele uMnuz Ngubo uthi uMnuz Skhosana woxoshwa ngoba ezame ukudlengula indodakazi kaMnuz Ngubo.

Uthe kodwa babuye bezwana ngoba uMnuz Skhosana waxolisa, wathi wayekade edakiwe. Liyaqhubeka.

THE MERCURY
Friday August 15 2003

Business, govt green law meeting called off

TONY CARNIE

COMMUNITY and environmental groups in KwaZulu-Natal are worried that business lobby groups are working behind the scenes to water down environmental protection laws they see as a stumbling block to economic expansion projects.

The concern was reinforced with news that provincial Environment Minister Dumisani Makhaye and business and industry groups were planning to meet at the Westville Hotel in Durban today to discuss environmental impact assessment (EIA) laws.

But the meeting has been postponed indefinitely, apparently because of a poor response from industry representatives.

Makhaye, government officials and the Chemical and Allied Industries Association had all been given time slots to address the workshop, while only a limited number of environmental watchdog groups were invited and were not asked to make presentations.



MAKHAYE

Last year, former provincial environment minister Narend Singh raised the possibility of "streamlining" EIA regulations, while Durban Growth Coalition co-chairman John Barton also complained that several development projects in the Durban area were being delayed for environmental reasons.

On the other hand, groups such as the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance say they have lost confidence in provincial government officials, who have rejected only one EIA application over the past five years.

Denial

But Sarah Allan, who manages the provincial EIA process, denied suggestions yesterday that there were attempts to weaken green development laws.

"This is not the case at all. We are trying to encourage business to incorporate environmental authorisation into their decision making at an early stage rather than trying to impose unreasonable time frames on us at the last moment."

Allan said the EIA process often took more time because of the need for administrative justice and to give affected parties a fair chance to respond.

"Communities were not specifically invited to the (Westville) seminar as it is geared to the business and industry sector to encourage them to incorporate the need for environmental authorisation into their business planning."

She said another seminar was planned for August 23 for communities, non-governmental organisations and civic associations, but that was also cancelled yesterday.

THE MERCURY
Friday August 15 2003

Cartographer to re-map Aids data

TONY CARNIE

A SOUTH African map-maker has started work on a major project to plot the spread and distribution of HIV/Aids in sub-Saharan Africa.

Though researchers have detailed statistics on HIV/Aids, the mapping project by academic Ray Pillay could add a new and important visual dimension to help understand the progress of the disease.

Pillay, a cartographer and lecturer at the University of the North in Polokwane, said he hoped to use computerised mapping and geographic information system (GIS) technology to produce HIV/Aids maps of South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and 10 other African countries.

By presenting complex data in a visual format, policy makers could benefit from a more readily understandable picture of the disease at national, provincial or district level.

"Many people don't like to talk about the ghastly consequences of HIV/Aids, but maps could, for example, predict whether there are enough hospitals and clinics in the worst-hit areas, and even if there are enough cemeteries to bury the dead."

"In five to 15 years, this could have catastrophic proportions in some places."

Pillay, who will outline his

proposals at the International Cartographic Conference in Durban this morning, noted that sub-Saharan Africa was the current epicentre, with more than 23 million cases of HIV/Aids at the beginning of 2000.

To put this into perspective, he said, 70% of the world's HIV infections were located in an area which was home to just 10% of the global population.

Computerised mapping techniques could yield vital clues about HIV, including the presence of localised "clusters" or entirely random distribution patterns.

Pillay said recent research suggested that Aids claimed 5 500 men, women and children in Africa every day, yet there were important differences on a country by country level, by gender and age.

KwaZulu-Natal had the highest prevalence rate (about 32% of people) while Limpopo appeared to have the lowest prevalence (about 13%).

Using data from the South African Department of Health and the United Nations, Pillay hopes to "re-map" HIV/Aids data which goes back to 1997.

"We need to see what it is doing. Where is it moving? Who is affected most, men, women or children?"

The scale and duration of the project will depend on funding.

THE MERCURY

Friday August 15 2003

SUSPECT APPREHENDED WHILE ON DUTY

Policeman killing: colleague arrested

XOLANI MBANJWA

A 35-YEAR-OLD policeman was arrested yesterday in connection with the killing of KwaDukuza police captain Vincent Khumalo, who was gunned down while on duty on Tuesday night.

Members of the Serious and Violent Crimes Unit in Richards Bay arrested the suspect while he was on duty in Eshowe.

Police spokesman Jay Naicker said the policeman was taken in for questioning and "would be formally charged within the next 48 hours".

Khumalo played a pivotal role as a "peacemaker" between the Maphumulo Taxi Association and the Stanger Taxi Association because of a feud over routes and the use of the Stanger taxi rank.

KwaZulu-Natal Transport Department conflict manager Themba Gumbl said yesterday that Khumalo's death had "affected negotiations"

regarding the taxi violence.

"His death is a great loss. We needed a person like him. He was able to get all parties to the negotiating table," he said.

"He succeeded when there was conflict between the Mandeni and Stanger taxis and he was going to succeed with this feud."

Khumalo, 36, was in uniform when he was shot three times.

Tensions

Naicker repeated that Khumalo's murder was probably not linked to the taxi violence which has claimed 10 lives in KwaDukuza in the past two weeks.

"At this stage there is no indication that the murder is connected to the tensions in the taxi industry in KwaDukuza."

However, Naicker said police "suspected" that more arrests were to follow.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to resolve the feud within the taxi industry in the area, the Kwa-

Zulu-Natal Department of Transport, KwaDukuza Municipality and the northern police services met at Durban Central police station yesterday.

Provincial Transport head Kwazi Mbanjwa said: "Because of the mounting loss of life and the sensitivity of the issue in the area we will not divulge the outcome of the meeting as yet".

He said "major" problems had been identified during the meeting.

The outcome of the high-profile meeting, which was attended by all KwaZulu-Natal SAPS commissioners, would be divulged soon, said Mbanjwa.

Maphumulo Taxi Association chairman Phillemon Xhakaza said those involved in the loss of life should be severely punished. Chairman of the Stanger Taxi Association Daliso Sangweni said they had lost all hope after Khumalo's murder.

"We don't know the way forward. Khumalo had the way forward. He had the ability to stop the bloodshed."

THE NATAL WITNESS, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2003

Renovations

WHEN public monies are expended on the maintenance and/or upgrading of buildings, no matter how exalted the personages inhabiting them, it's essential that the buildings be regularly inspected on the public's behalf by qualified persons. Only in that way is it possible to assess the state of repair, the efficacy of current maintenance work, the need for possible refurbishment, and so to calculate the outlay necessary for completion of the work required.

So it's entirely reasonable that, prompted by a list of renovations to King Zwelithini's Nongoma palaces submitted to the KZN Premier's portfolio committee, the committee should decide to visit and inspect the buildings. This should, surely, be a matter of course — the right, practical and common sense thing to do.

However, it appears that it is self-evident to everyone but the IFP MPP Blessed Gwala, outraged, described the process of inspection as "degrading towards the king's image and cheap politicking". He seemed to have the idea that the committee's inspectors (whom he labelled as "politicians") would be poking about in the palaces, prying into the king's personal affairs and somehow publicly degrading him. Gwala seemed to think, also, that the inspection process was politically motivated, presumably related to next year's elections, and was under the impression that the proposed inspection was something offensively peculiar to KZN.

What is offensive is that following this outcry the inspection has been put on hold. Let us hope that the renovations, too, have been put on hold so that it can be properly decided whether or not the palace embellishments deserve the expenditure of public money.

BUSINESS DAY, Friday, August 15 2003

KwaZulu secures EU grant for rural projects

Nicola Jewrey

KwaZulu-Natal Correspondent

DURBAN — KwaZulu-Natal had secured a \$37m grant over five years from the European Union (EU) to harness sustainable projects, and promote economic development in rural areas, economic development and tourism department head Mel Clark said yesterday.

The investment will be distributed through the provincial development support programme, an initiative that creates an investment friendly environment for skills development, and HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis awareness projects.

Nearly two-thirds of the EU funds have been earmarked for enterprise growth and HIV/AIDS mitigation projects in areas that have been ravaged by HIV/AIDS. In some places 90% of the population is unemployed or unemployable.

Initially the project would focus on four district municipal regions, Umkhanyakude and Uthungulu in the north and Umgungundlovu and Ugu in the south.

Medium-term plans involved expanding the support programme throughout the province.

Clark said the programme would dovetail with existing initiatives and "balance opportunities" in areas concerned.

Emphasis would be given to job-creating projects, particularly with community involvement.

He cited the Mabibi Development Company project in the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park as an example. The R5.7m investment was a joint venture between provincial development agency Ithala Development Corporation and community structures, Mabibi Development Trust, Isivuno and Isibindi Africa, with the community holding a 68% stake in the luxury tourism facility.

Meanwhile, Economic Development and Tourism MEC Roger Burrows said the province had secured one charter flight contract and was closing another two in moves that would bring nearly 40 000 international tourists to KwaZulu-Natal by May 2005.

These deals follow others concluded by Tourism KwaZulu-Natal in the past two years. A deal for another seven charter flights for January and February is still being negotiated.

BUSINESS DAY, Friday, August 15 2003

Counter-claim not enough, says Peter Marais

FORMER Western Cape premier Peter Marais told the Cape High Court yesterday that a R2,5m defamation counter claim he had lodged against former MEC Freda Adams was insufficient. "No amount of money could ever make good the loss in image, integrity, good name, political career... I move on the world's stage," Marais said. *Sapa*

I'll show mine if you show yours

Idasa is planning legal action to force political parties to disclose private donations

Marianne Merten

Five of the country's largest political parties face litigation to compel them to reveal their sources of private funding.

Lawyers acting on behalf of the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa) will send letters informing the African National Congress, Democratic Alliance, New National Party, Inkatha Freedom Party and African Christian Democratic Party of the impending court action by the end of the month.

Not one of the country's 13 political parties represented in Parliament dis-

closed anything after Idasa requested them in October to do so, citing the Promotion of Access to Information Act. Now Idasa is launching its legal action as a public interest campaign.

"There comes a point when we have to use the rights in the Constitution," said Richard Calland, head of Idasa's Right to Know campaign. "We recognise political parties need public and private funding. What we are asking for is an end to the secrecy and some level of regulation. Political parties must become less dependent on large, secretive donations."

Although South Africa has comprehensive anti-corruption measures, what was still missing were regulations on private political donations, he said.

Political inequality is at the heart of the action, said Judith February, manager of Idasa's political information and monitoring service.

She said if powerful and wealthy interests are able to buy influence, there is the danger that the poor and others without resources are not being heard. And in the context of South Africa's stark socio-economic inequalities it was crucial to avoid such a situation, she said.

The issue of private political funding first arose in 1994. Three years later, when Parliament passed the 1997 Public Funding of Represented Political Parties Act, the government committed itself to look into private political funding. Last year Idasa submitted a draft Bill proposing among

"We recognise parties need public and private funding. What we are asking for is an end to the secrecy"

other things the disclosure of private donations over R20 000, either once-off or accumulative, a year.

The DA did not reply at all to Idasa's request in October. The ANC and NNP sent lawyers' letters saying that as private entities they were not compelled to disclose unless Idasa proved its interest and right to this information. The United Democratic Movement and Pan Africanist Congress each replied they did not receive private funding.

During SAfm's *After Eight Debate* this week concerning private party political funding, none of the participating parties – the NNP, DA, African Christian Democratic Party, IFP and Independent Democrats (ID) – would reveal their private donations unless every political party did the same. The ANC declined to take part in the SAfm debate at all.

However, during the debate it also

emerged that the ID, formed earlier this year and not part of the public interest campaign, appears to have had a change of heart after its earlier promises of transparency about its funding. ID Gauteng leader Themba Sono said the party supported disclosure, but would await regulations.

In contrast, all of the top 13 Johannesburg Securities Exchange-listed companies have replied to a similar request for disclosure on political donations. And it is understood at least one of those has presented a code on political funding to its board for consideration.

Gencor became the first company to disclose donations to the NNP and then Democratic Party between 1994 and 1998, followed by Anglo Platinum revealing roughly equal donations to the top five political parties. Richemont replied such donations were banned since 1998.