

Saturday, 6th February, 2010

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DAILY NEWS
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5 2010

Zuma's son 'content' with polygamy

PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma's children are "content" to share their father with "20 or more" siblings, according to his son, Duduzane.

"We as a family are content with the polygamous nature of our household," he said yesterday.

"We are content to have 20 siblings or more."

Duduzane said his father had his children's blessing to add to the brood. "It is my father's right,

within the context of his culture, to have as many children as he wishes.

"As a citizen of South Africa, my father has the same right to privacy and to practise his culture as any other citizen."

He said many of the Zuma children were adults who could help raise the younger ones.

"We love our father and are very proud of the loving, fair, just, prin-

cipled and dignified manner in which he heads up our family," Zuma's son said.

"I have decided to make this statement to demonstrate to the world that Mr Jacob Zuma's children are real people with feelings, emotions and personalities and not just faceless statistics."

This week the president, who has three wives and a fiancée, confirmed that he had a relationship

with Sonono Khoza, daughter of World Cup local organising committee chairman Irvin Khoza, and that they had a daughter last year.

Yesterday, the president's spokesman, Zizi Kodwa, said Zuma had cancelled his public engagements for the next two days to rest after a "hectic" schedule. - Sapa

**TRADITIONAL LEADER DEFENDS
ZUMA: PAGE 2**

Traditional leader defends Zuma

KEITH ROSS

THE way of life of President Jacob Zuma – including his polygamous marriages – has been defended by the head of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa, Nkosi Phathekile Holomisa.

Holomisa said that in many ways, Zuma's conduct and lifestyle were an affirmation of the African way of life.

But he declined to comment specifically on recent reports that Zuma had fathered a child out of wedlock with Sonono Khoza, a daughter of soccer boss Irvin Khoza, dismissing the issue as a "family matter".

Holomisa praised Zuma for the open way he led his life.

"He does not see any contradictions. He is a leader. He is a world leader himself. He knows what is happening in other parts of the country. He knows some of the things that are happening under the carpet.

"And yet he knows that at the same time in our culture

you do these things in the open, you follow procedures that are laid down by years of practice, so that there is nothing dishonourable in what you do," he added.

Holomisa made these comments during an interview on the SAfm radio programme *After Eight Debate*, about the contradictions between the modern and the traditional ways of life.

He has recently written a book, *According to Tradition: a Cultural Perspective on Current Affairs*, in which he deals with many of these related issues.

Holomisa said there was a great rift between the African urban and rural way of life.

"People in the urban areas have been disorientated. They have been forced to abandon their ways of life."

He said the urban townships did not offer the homesteads in which Africans were supposed to live. "They are foreign. They are not even foreign, they are creations of apartheid."

Holomisa berated the pres-

ent government for perpetuating this system by building more such township houses. "That is one thing I do not understand with our government.

"When they take charge of governance they decide to perpetuate the inhumane ways apartheid imposed upon us."

He said people living in such conditions could not lead their lives in the way they were supposed to as Africans, without a livestock kraal or space for their children to play.

The livestock kraal, he said, played an important part in the lives of African families. It was the place where the spirits of the ancestors resided and where family members went to commune with them.

"You are forced to have cemeteries that are far away from your homesteads, so when you want to commune you find it difficult," he said.

Holomisa added that township life had led to cultural change and a breakdown in traditional values and this had even affected the rural areas.

THE INDEPENDENT
on Saturday
6 February 2010

Worst nightmare for Zuma's spin doctors

The president's refusal to apologise or exercise personal restraint has divided the nation he wooed

JANET SMITH

WEARILY, a rather small voice replied: "Yes. This is Nosipho." It came from inside a raucous gathering somewhere, but it sounded as if Nosipho Ntwanambi, the deputy president of the ANC Women's League (ANCWL), had just woken up.

The moment she heard it was a journalist calling, Ntwanambi raised her voice to slightly shrill audibility: "Are you the same person who called me on Monday?"

"No, we've never spoken before."

Her voice got smaller again. "Oh, okay..."

Earlier in the week, Ntwanambi had told Sapa: "With many African people it is not right to have an extramarital affair if you have committed yourself to a marriage, but many men are known to have these relationships."

The purpose of this call was to try to have a proper discussion about the furor around the birth of President Jacob Zuma's latest child.

Over the last year, journalists have realised that the

women's league has put its denures in a glass next to the bed, rising only to defend Caster Semenya, and then slipping under the covers again. But there was no harm in trying.

Ntwanambi sighed: "Why do you want to know? Mmm? Even if you say that the president has a friendly manner with the media because you have all been to his weddings and so on, what right does that give you to have to know everything?"

Interested

"It is like this: the president, our president, will tell you what he wants you to know and he won't tell you what he doesn't want you to know. What do you think about that?"

"Now listen to us," – and she did not say who "us" might be – "we are not interested in this."

And that was the end of that.

These are the facts: Zuma, who is already married and engaged, has had a baby with a lover to whom he may or may not be married in terms of customary law. The announcement of the birth immediately trig-

gered cries of hypocrisy as the president was internationally praised just two months ago, on World Aids Day, for turning his back on the denialism of the Thabo Mbeki era, and for advancing a firm code of faithfulness. That code is the same one the government is desperately trying to get across in its national Aids campaign, using the ANC Youth League to repeat its mantra of one boyfriend, one girlfriend.

The news about Zuma's infant daughter has been the biggest story of the week at home, and was also covered as far away as New York and Jakarta.

If he is married to 39-year-old Sonono Khoza, as the alleged birth certificate for their child seems to show, Zuma did not choose to share the joy with the media.

Khoza herself denied her entire pregnancy a day before the president took responsibility for it and left her rather dimly exposed. But these events have, in turn, left the media somewhat confused.

Gradually getting used to Zuma's turnaround on what was an adversarial relationship with the press for years be-



CUSTOMARY: President Jacob Zuma and Thobeka Madiba, his fifth wife, dance at their wedding in Nkandla in KwaZulu-Natal on January 4.
PICTURES: INDEPENDENT ARCHIVES

fore he took office, the press has warmed to a president who even went so far as to allow us to document and take wedding photographs of his wives, Nompumelelo Ntuli and Thobeka Madiba, dancing in the brittle beauty of Nkandla.

Those otherwise intimate scenes were published everywhere, understood as an extension of Zuma's openness with the media which has also seen him speak confidently about his polygamy, most recently on a global stage with *Newsweek's* international editor, Fareed

Zakaria. Suddenly, though, the president's advisers insisted Zuma has a right to privacy.

Franz Kruger, who teaches media ethics at Wits and is on the press ombudsman's panel, is among the many experts who disagree with that position. He reflected this week on a very different outcome in 2008 when caretaker president Kgalema Motlanthe successfully defended himself to the ombudsman after the media published allegations that he, too, had fathered a love child by a much younger woman.

"Motlanthe had and has consistently been intensely private about his personal life. Zuma hasn't.

"That's one difference. Another difference is that, right from the word go with the Motlanthe story, there was doubt about its truth. The Zuma story contained a number of details that made it seem true. It very quickly became clear that what wasn't coming from the Presidency was a denial, whereas with Motlanthe, almost immediately there were doubts about the woman claims.

Another big difference is the history around Zuma's rape charge when he was heavily criticised for what it displayed about his attitude to relationships and sex. These are not things the media has dreamt up. In the language of media ethics, there is a legitimate basis to argue for public interest."

Meanwhile, the four days it took for the president to release a statement and the obfuscation from Luthuli House and the Presidency that happened in between, has made Kruger wonder if there won't be another shift in the media's relationship with Zuma.

"I don't think there has been a tone of 'okay, we've finally got him' creeping into reporting, but this may mark the end of a honeymoon."

Even if the love child was exactly what the whingers needed – a chance early in the year to lash a popular president – it also proved how Zuma fascinates. He commands public opinion. He is at the core of gender politics. Most importantly, he is completely in charge of his own party.

As Kruger says: "The inner ANC politics are quite hard to unravel, but Zuma's power is in his ability to unify different groups. But, I am sure, behind closed doors, people are uncomfortable, at least about the PR damage that's been caused. How far that goes, and what happens with it, is hard to say."

A senior account executive at one of South Africa's top PR companies, who prefers not to be named, has described this week as "the worst nightmare of a spin doctor".

"Those representing somebody who holds such a high position, whose actions really affect the entire nation, cannot go ahead and say there will be no comment into his personal life.

"None of us would wish to be in the Presidency right now, but their communication is very critical and they failed there. They want to endorse the view so far that he is a man of his word, but what has happened contradicts that.

"They have helped to put him in a tough situation.

The president's spin doctors need to have it come across that he is in control of himself and that he is prepared to make sacrifices that would involve personal restraint.

"If the rest of us must control ourselves, surely the president must be able to do that.

"A lot of us now feel that Zapiro has been exonerated and vindicated after all the flak he took for criticising Zuma's morals all the time."

But still, supporters of Zuma's privacy won't lie down.

Perhaps Mbulelo Mandlana, the president of the South African Students Congress, got

the tone of his supportive statement wrong when he said: "We condemn the irresponsible reports on President Zuma's personal life by journalists who have no respect for the elderly.

"As students we view the public discussion of such aspects of old people's lives as embarrassing and un-African."

After all, some might see a dislocation between Zuma's obvious virility and being described as elderly.

But Mandlana won't budge.

"We have noted the very interesting appetite of the South African media about the sexual life of the president of the republic, and we regard it in bad taste.

"Believe me, if you go to a young person of 18, 19 years old, they are not going to tell you that the loveLife campaign has made them have one boyfriend or one girlfriend.

"The only reason that happens is that their mothers would kill them if she knew they had multiple partners. So it is not true that people are influenced in terms of their morality by what you say about the president or any other public official's private life.

"But our standards are determined by closed community practices, particularly in the rural areas. We listen to our parents, not to you."

And with Zuma described by ANCYL president Julius Malema as the father of the nation this week, that view is perhaps too good to be true.

As students we view the public discussion of such aspects of old people's lives as embarrassing and un-African

Mbulelo Mandlana
Sasco president

THE INDEPENDENT
on Saturday
6 February 2010
What next, Zuma?

TEN months ago Jacob Zuma spoke to this newspaper. He was on the cusp of leading his party to another landslide election victory and waiting in the wings to become the nation's fourth president. He was charming, eloquent, confident and totally unapologetic. He had weathered incredible personal storms and dramatic public humiliations.

Zuma's message to the country was straightforward: in him the voters had a man who had weathered much, including the state's bid to have him charged in court – and had prevailed.

It was the same argument he used against critics wondering who the official first wife would be for the man who was about to become Africa's best known polygamist. Once again, Zuma said in effect: "Judge me by my cultural standards, do not impose yours upon me."

It was a fair comment. It is testimony to his innate charm that he won the entire country – and indeed the international community – over to respecting his culture as he took more wives.

It is further testimony to the goodwill he engendered that we commended his December

1 call committing the country to a new vision and approach in the war against HIV/Aids.

And then the bombshell dropped – the revelation of Zuma's lovechild, born out of wedlock, the 20th he has sired, that we know of. The response has been unequivocal. The country is disgusted and deeply ashamed of our president.

To its eternal discredit, the tripartite alliance has remained mute while the president, after days of denial, has confirmed the initial report and then castigated the media for

its prurient interest in his personal life.

Again, the defence of customs and practice has been used. This time though, it does not work because, by his own acts and admissions, we have a president who seems to be a serial philanderer. The man who has overcome unprecedented obstacles has been undone by his own lusts and appetites.

The question now is how the country deals with issue amid the growing suspicion that child number 20 might not be the last instalment of this saga.

Official reported to Zuma hotline

Sexual harassment complaint denied

SIBUSISO NGALWA

THE NATIONAL Department of Transport is faced with a sexual harassment case after a complaint to the presidential hotline against a senior official – who is also a priest.

The official, Reverend Themba Vundla, is a chief director in the department.

Vundla was previously cleared of a similar but unrelated case while working as director of protocol for former KwaZulu-Natal premier Shu Ndebele.

Vundla joined the national department soon after Ndebele's appointment as a cabinet minister.

The complainant – who works at the KwaZulu-Natal premier's office – lodged a complaint with the Presidential Hotline last year, apparently after not having any joy internally.

The complainant, whose name is known to Independent Newspapers, switched off her phone when contacted yesterday.

She had earlier asked to be "called later" because she was in a meeting.

Vundla confirmed that he was aware of the "painful" allegation against him by his former subordinate.

"The allegation has no foundation whatsoever... She was unhappy that I had reported her for not doing her work," said Vundla – claiming that the complainant had been absent from work for a total of 25 days during September and October last year.

Vundla said he became aware of the complaint after he was contacted by the Presidential Hotline last month.

Vundla said the department was investigating the complaint, and he had given them his side of the story.

But the department's acting director-general, George Mahlalela, although not denying the existence of the complaint, put the ball back in the KwaZulu-Natal government's court.

"Vundla is still an employee of the province. He was seconded to us from KZN, so the province is doing the investigations," he said.

Vundla is in charge of road safety campaigns, added Mahlalela.

During his time in KwaZulu-Natal, after joining Ndebele in the premier's office in 2004, allegations were levelled against Vundla by his then secretary.

But Ndebele later cleared Vundla of all wrongdoing following an internal investigation. The former secretary later lost her job.

At the time, Ndebele said Vundla's secretary had said "she felt she was hugged too closely", adding that they had found no evidence of sexual harassment.

KwaZulu-Natal acting director-general Roger Govender said he had interviewed both Vundla and the complainant, as required by the Public Service Act.

Govender said he was waiting for a written submission from the complainant before taking the matter forward.



PHEW: Sheryl Cwele looks worried before being granted bail yesterday.

PICTURE: S' BONELO NGCOBO

Cwele granted R100 000 bail

SHERYL Cwele, wife of State Security Minister Siyabonga Cwele, was granted bail of R100 000 by the Pietermaritzburg High Court yesterday.

After hearing arguments from Cwele's lawyer and the State prosecutor, Judge Sharmaine Balton said she was satisfied that the minister's wife would not evade trial or interfere with State witnesses.

"I am very concerned about the period that she will have to wait. It is unacceptable that the applicant should languish in prison too long before the start of the trial," Judge Balton said.

The State had earlier indicated it would be ready for trial in October.

There were scenes of joy among Cwele's family and friends when it was announced she would be released on bail.

The bail application hearing was attended by Minister Cwele and many friends and relatives.

The minister's appearance came as surprise because it was mentioned in the court papers that the Cweles had been estranged for five years.

"The allegation is a lie. It does not exist. They spent the

holiday together in Mozambique in December," said Cwele's lawyer, Mvusi Ngubane.

Sheryl Cwele and Frank Nabolisa, a Nigerian arrested last month, face three charges.

These are: dealing or conspiring to deal in drugs; procuring a woman called Charmaine Moss to collect drugs in Turkey; and procuring another woman, Tessa Beetge, to smuggle 9kg of cocaine from South America.

Brazilian police arrested Beetge in Sao Paulo on June 13, 2008.

They found 9.2kg of cocaine concealed in her baggage. She is currently serving an eight-year jail sentence in Sao Paulo for drug trafficking.

The judge said although Cwele knew about the investigation as far back as March 2009, there was no evidence she tried to influence the State witnesses or flee the country.

"The applicant knew that she was likely to be indicted after accused number two (Nabolisa) was arrested in December but she did not leave the country," the judge said.

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Cwele must surrender her three passports

FROM PAGE 1

Judge Balton said the court had taken into consideration that Cwele was married in community of property which meant she shared half of her husband's estate.

Cwele's bail conditions do not allow her to leave Port Shepstone Magisterial district without the permission of the investigating officer and she had to surrender her passports.

She would also have to report to Port Shepstone police station every Monday.

Giving reasons why Cwele

should not be granted bail, State prosecutor Ian Cooke said he was concerned that the accused had been out of the country 16 times in less than a year and had three passports.

Ngubane said his client deserved bail, because the State had a weak case. "The State does not have the cocaine that it alleges was smuggled by my



SUPPORT: Siyabonga Cwele in the High Court.

PICTURE: S' BONELO NGCOBO

client. We will request the State to furnish us with the cocaine so that we can inspect it."

National Prosecuting Authority spokesman Mthunzi Mhaga said the authority accepted the ruling and expected Cwele to observe all bail conditions.

"We also believe that she would allow us to finish our investigation," Mhaga said. - Sapa

Zuma breaks 'sex vow'

SIBUSISO NGALWA
and CARIEN DU PLESSIS

PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma has plunged the governing ANC into crisis by breaking a top-secret pact he made with its leaders three years ago.

After his victory at the party's conference in Polokwane in 2007, the party's elders told him to make a full and frank disclosure of all relationships, sexual dalliances and children, illegitimate or otherwise.

He had to promise not to embarrass the ANC with other sexual revelations. Zuma was warned unequivocally that the ANC could not afford a repeat of his controversial 2006 rape trial and acquittal.

Zuma declared his current three wives as the women in his life and said he had 18 children.

At the time he was married only to Sizakele Khumalo. He married Nompumelelo Ntuli in 2008 and Thobeka Madiba last month.

On Sunday it was revealed that he had fathered a four-month-old baby with Sonono Khoza, the daughter of soccer supremo Irvin Khoza.

This week, as the country united in an unprecedented show of revulsion, Zuma was forced to issue a statement confirming both the baby's paternity and that he was in a current relationship with Khoza.

He then took an unplanned two-day break from office.

Senior party officials and leaders of the tripartite alliance tried to rally to his defence, but as the week wore on, the cracks began to show.

The Independent on Saturday can reveal that the revelations have stunned senior party leaders. This was the second time they have been caught unprepared about revelations regarding Zuma's life in as many weeks.

Last month, as Zuma was

marrying Madiba, it emerged he had already begun a process to become engaged to Bongi Ngema, who has borne him a child, now four years old.

A senior national executive committee (NEC) member – who did not want to be named – said the reports were embarrassing. "Some of us are paralysed (by embarrassment) ... This is something you cannot even raise in meetings. We don't know what to do. We are embarrassed when asked about this by decision-makers internationally."

A youth leader also spoke about their powerlessness over the matter.

Appetite

"We don't know how to handle this man and his sexual appetite. We will defend him to you (the media) but (his actions) are (indefensible)," said the leader, who also did not want to be named. He is a known Zuma supporter.

The SACP has yet to break its silence, while Cosatu has raised the issues of condom usage, abstinence and having only one partner – aspects of the government's HIV message that Zuma has disregarded.

But yesterday Cosatu general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi stopped short of condemning Zuma's behaviour. "We do not want to pass any judgment but we hope that it will be a matter on his conscience," he said.

The ANC yesterday changed its public stance on the matter.

"This experience, painful as it is, has taught us many valuable lessons. The ANC, true to its character, has listened to and heard the concerns. President Jacob Zuma has also listened to and heard the concerns," the party stated.

An ANC spokesman, Jackson Mthembu, denied knowledge of any meeting between the elders and Zuma.

'I'm his love child'

NONDUMISO MBUYAZI

A 30-YEAR-OLD Zimbabwean man claims to be the love child of President Jacob Zuma.

Dudzai Nyamuramba, of Wedza, Zimbabwe, alleges that Zuma met his mother, Maggie Sandimunyonga, while in exile in Mozambique. His mother, he says, has since died.

In an interview with iLanga newspaper, Nyamuramba said he longed for the opportunity to finally meet Zuma. He said he arrived in South Africa in June last year, looking to be united with his father.

"I would love to meet my father and the rest of my family. I tried going to Nkandla, but I was arrested," he said during the interview.

Police spokesman Captain Thulani Zwane confirmed that Nyamuramba had been arrested in January.

"He was in the country illegally as he didn't have a passport. He was taken to immigration offices and we don't know if he was ever deported to Zimbabwe," he said.

Earlier this week, Nyamuramba went to the Westville police station, pleading his case, and asked them to assist him in his quest to be united with his father. A police officer at the station, who would



HE'S MY DAD: Dudzai Nyamuramba, 30, from Zimbabwe is insistent that President Jacob Zuma (inset) is his father. In spite of trying repeatedly yesterday, The Independent on Saturday was unable to obtain comment from the president's office or from Zuma family members.

PICTURE: ILANGA LANGE/SONTO

not be named, said a dejected Nyamuramba had arrived at the station with his suitcase, claiming to be the son of Jacob Zuma.

According to the officer, he bore a striking resemblance to Zuma. "He was very tired, and he kept on asking us to take him to Nkandla so he could

meet his 'relatives'. I don't know whether he is or isn't Zuma's child, but he sure does look like him," said the officer.

Another officer at the station said: "This guy didn't want anything from Zuma; he just wanted to be acknowledged as his son. He seemed so desperate to meet the family

that he never knew. I don't think the Zuma family will easily allow him into their nest, but with the number of kids that Zuma has, I wouldn't be surprised if he really is who he claims to be."

The officers said after Nyamuramba failed to receive any assistance at the police sta-

tion, he left, saying he would eventually find his father.

Repeated attempts to obtain comment from Zuma's spokesman, Vincent Magwenya, were unsuccessful as his phone rang unanswered.

The cellphone of Zuma's brother, Michael, was switched off.

IFP CRITICISES MPISANE'S HOMES TENDER

THE Inkatha Freedom Party said it is immoral to award a R300 million housing tender to Shawn Mpisane's Zikhulise Cleaning, Maintenance and Transport Company when there is rampant joblessness and poverty.

The IFP vowed to ensure that whoever is responsible for the Mpisane debacle is held to account. The IFP said this yesterday in reaction to the news that the government may take action against the eThekweni Municipality over the R300 million uMlazi housing tender given to the Mpisane-owned Zikhulise, whose work was reported to be shoddy.

IFP spokesman in the eThekweni Municipality Joshua Mazibuko said the Mpisane debacle is an example of "comrade-enrichment" at taxpayers' expense.

"When power begins to corrupt, you award tenders without following the legal processes and you turn a blind eye when your pals perform below the required standards," Mazibuko said.

He said the fact the company was not registered with the National Home Builders' Registration Council when it was awarded the tender "speaks volumes for the mischief within the municipality".

Mazibuko said he believes it is immoral to give one company a R300 million contract in the midst of widespread joblessness and poverty. "You cannot justify making one person rich when BEE is projected as a broad-based programme to empower as many people as possible." — WWR.

IFP KZN YOUTH CHAIRMAN EXPELLED

DURBAN — The chairman of KwaZulu-Natal's Inkatha Freedom Party youth brigade has been expelled, the party said yesterday.

"Inkatha Freedom Party has expelled the former eThekweni chairperson of the IFP Youth Brigade, Muzi Simelane, after he refused to appear before the party's disciplinary committee," said Mduduzi Nkosi, the IFP chairman in eThekweni.

The IFP suspended Simelane for three years last November after he was found guilty of contravening the party constitution by opposing an IFP national council resolution and disrupting an IFP meeting in uMlazi.

"As the disciplinary committee of the IFP, we have had no option but to expel Mr Muzi Simelane from the IFP with immediate effect."

Nkosi said that as a result of Simelane's actions, the IFP disciplinary committee (DC) had summoned him to answer the charges.

"Unfortunately he refused and the DC met in his absence, deliberated and arrived at the verdict that he must be expelled from the IFP," Nkosi said. — Sapa.

No moral compass

EVEN at his age, President Jacob Zuma has a voracious appetite for sex. With five wives and a sixth waiting in the wings, he still has extramarital affairs and fathers a child out of wedlock with Irvin Khoza's daughter.

Just the other day he defended his polygamy on television, saying it is part of his culture. Is having a child out of wedlock also part of his culture? What role model is he to the youth who indulge in sexual activities from an early age?

He has been roundly condemned by opposition parties, with the African Christian Democratic Party leader, Kenneth Meshoe, advising him to go for therapy for his sex addiction. He certainly does have a problem and cannot keep away from women.

The ANC, unsurprisingly, has come out in support of its leader, saying it is a personal matter. Julius Malema, too, has shrewdly avoided the question, arguing that in his culture, the young do not question their elders. Yet this loudmouth has shown no respect for older leaders like former president Thabo Mbeki, Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Democratic Alliance leader Helen Zille.

Zuma's sexual escapades cannot be conveniently shrugged off as a private matter. He is a public figure, the leader of a nation. When he took office, he solemnly swore that he would fulfil his duties to the best of his ability and serve the nation loyally with pride, respect and dignity. He has broken that solemn vow. His controversial past and his sexual dalliances have not enhanced the dignity of his office. The nation can hardly look up to him as a leader with a moral compass.

T. MARKANDAN
Silverglen, Chatsworth

ANC to change or be changed

COMING out of the recent African National Congress NEC meeting has been some supposedly tough talk from President Jacob Zuma and Jeff Radebe about the performance of local government officials and councillors.

In 2009, the ANC correctly diagnosed their cadre deployment on a steroids programme as being responsible for much of the poor performance at local government level. Now, in 2010, they have made a further startling revelation: what is needed is "implementation, implementation, implementation" and monitoring to ensure it is taking place.

So what are they going to do about it? If you guessed summit or indaba, you're correct. They're going to call a summit to discuss how to achieve this. Once again, this means more hot air and less getting down to the jobs we all need to do, including those jobs which involve making sure other people are doing their jobs. So aside from the efforts of the few who do work hard and the opposition constantly applying pressure on the ANC to perform, the man in the street is still going to be waiting for service delivery.

Local government elections are just around the corner in 2011. If our government will not change its crooked and sluggish ways, voters must give it some food for thought at the polls and force it to change or be changed.

CLLR WARWICK CHAPMAN
Glenwood, Durban