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continued involvement with the Black Management Forum and allegations that he had acted improperly during a meeting with European diplomats.

The day after Mdladlana eventually fired Manyi, he was himself axed from Zuma's cabinet.

; :Na\200\235
. Picture: ESA ALEXANDER

As for Manyi, he is negotiating his possible return to the department under the new Minister of Labour, Mildred Oliphant.

VERDICT: Both lost, though Manyi hopes to get his job back.

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7 NGUBANE vs .
" \200\230SABC BOARD - -

WHEN the-current SABC board was put together, there was hope that it would put an end to years of crises that had crippled the public broadcaster.

But just months into its job, cracks began to emerge between the majority of board members and its chairman, Dr Ben Ngubane.

The two sides fell out over the appointment of seasoned journalist Phil Molefe as head of SABC news and, subsequently, the suspension of CEO Solly Mokoetle. Ngubane and Mokoetle had become allies and had worked together to have Molefe appointed.

The spat resulted in key board members, including deputy chairman Felling Sekha, resigning.

VERDICT: Although Ngubane is still at the helm, largely due to his connections with Zuma, he will not see 2011 through while still in charge. . &

\200\230WHILE others

\200\234were fighting and -
being stabbed:in
-the.bacl, 2010

was also the year

in'which the DA's . .
leader, Helen:Zille,
andtheIDâ\200\231s 7.~
Patricia de Lille 3
buried the hatchet -
â\200\224paving:the.way
forthe "+ 55
realignment of: -
opposition politics

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challenge has
pushed the
party back
into its old
ways, says
S'thembiso
Msomi

HE event was billed as

a ceremony to mark

the 16 Days of Activism

for No Violence
Against Women and Children
campaign.

But the arrival of a bus-load
of heavily armed men â\200\224 and a
stampede that left five people
injured â\200\224 ended the rally
violently before it began.

Embattled IFP national
chairman Zanele kaMagwaza-
Msibi, who had been scheduled
to address residents of Enseleni
township in Empangeni,
KwaZulu-Natal, had to be
protected by a human shield
made up of policemen and
bodyguards.

According to one of the police
officers at the scene last
Sunday, the armed men â\200\224
many of whom were clad in IFP
colours and brandishing home-

made weapons â\200\224 threatened to physically attack kaMagwaza-Msibi. There was a tense stand-off as police and bodyguards warned the assailants against coming any closer.

And then a shot was fired, causing pandemonium in the marquee.

Event organiser Danger Sibiya was reported to have blamed the attack on kaMagwaza-Msibi's opponents within the IFP. He was quoted as saying that the Enseleni rally had been planned as a â\200\234private and non-politicalâ\200\235 affair and that kaMagwaza-Msibi had been invited in her capacity as a member of the KwaZulu-Natal legislature, not as an IFP leader.)

The trouble started, he said, with the arrival of uninvited prominent IFP leaders who are known opponents of its national chairman â\200\224 former premier Lionel Mtshali and Bonginkosi Buthelezi.

But IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi defended Mtshali and other members of the partyâ\200\231s national

council who arrived at the function uninvited: â\200\234There is nothing as strange as the chasing away of IF'P leaders

who had come to support an IFP"

national chairperson who was sent to parliament by the IFP,â\200\235 he said.

The Enseleni incident is the latest in a series of confrontations between modernists who want kaMagwaza-Msibi to ascend to the party presidency and traditionalists who believe the 82-year-old Buthelezi should continue to lead the party.

A day before the shooting, 13 IFP councillors of Okhahlamba municipality in Bergville in northern KwaZulu-Natal were summarily dismissed from their posts and expelled from the party, joining a long list of mayors and councillors fired by the IFP national council in recent months over their

loyalty to kaMagwaza-Msibi.

Earlier this year the national council recalled kaMagwaza-

Msibi from her influential post as mayor of the IFP-controlled Zululand district and re-deployed her to the provincial legislature where she is now a backbencher.

This was aimed at curbing her popularity among party members ahead of its annual general conference, where she is expected to challenge for party leadership.

She has taken the party to court in a bid to stop the national council from expelling her, and to compel party leaders to convene the

conference, which has been

postponed several times. Judgment has yet to be delivered on the matter.

The power struggle between party reformists and traditionalists takes place in the context of an IFP that is rapidly sliding down the slippery slope to political oblivion. Since losing control of the provincial government in 2004, its share of the votes in

THE year 2010 will be remembered not only for the World Cup soccer spectacle, but also for the spectacular falling-out and back-stabbing that dominated the country's political arena.

Many of the conflicts we witnessed over the past year involved senior ANC and government leaders, at times leading to questions about whether President Jacob Zuma's administration would survive his first term in office.

And as ruling party leaders, inside and outside government, bickered over political power, the country's economic direction and control over multibillion-rand parastatal-driven projects, questions were also being asked about the president's ability to take firm decisions.

For much of the year, Zuma looked like a battered president who had lost control at party and government level.

His ministers tore into one another in public; his alliance partners made a habit of criticising his government; and Luthuli House came close to collapse in the face of a sustained attack by the ANC Youth League on the secretary-general of the ruling party, Gwede Mantashe.

But the year ends with Zuma as undisputed champion, having regained control of both the party and his government.

" He outfoxed youth league boss Julius Malema and other adversaries at the ruling party's crucial National General Council in September, and consolidated his power at Luthuli House.

This enabled Zuma, a renowned chess enthusiast, to carry out the biggest cabinet reshuffle since 1994,

The main objective of the reorganisation was to further weaken his opponents through co-opting potential troublemakers and dumping ineffective ministers.

But the flying fists were not confined to the ANC and its allies. Opposition parties also had more than their fair share of trouble. .

The most prominent of these involved the ANC's breakaway party, the Congress of the People.)

Instead of capitalising on the ANC's weaknesses, COPE's Mosiuoa Lekota and Mbazimha Shilowa were consumed by a crippling leadership battle.

This year may also go down as the one in which the Inkatha Freedom Party finally collapses, as the result of a leadership power struggle.

Here are some of the gripping battles that have made 2010 such a dramatic political year:

THEY were once the best of political buddies, with Malema famously declaring he was â\200\234prepared to killâ\200\235 for Zuma to be the countryâ\200\231s president. Zuma returned the favour by anointing Malema as a future state president.

But by April this year, Malema's â\200\231s big mouth had become a political liability for Zuma â\200\224 even threatening to thwart the presidentâ\200\231s efforts to broker peace in Zimbabwe.

An angry Zuma demanded that Malema be hauled before the ruling partyâ\200\231s national disciplinary committee for bringing the organisation into disrepute.

Although Malema was acquitted on most of the charges, he was found guilty on others and slapped with a lenient â\200\224 but politically embarrassing â\200\224 sentence. The party ordered him to attend anger management and political education classes and threatened to suspend his ANC

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membership if he breached its rules over the next three years. Malema's attempts to have his record expunged by delegates at the National General Council in September were unsuccessful.

VERDICT: Zuma won this match on points and it would be too risky for Malema to challenge him again in the next two years.

'MANTASHE
vs MBALULA:

THIS battle had its roots in Zuma's decision to appoint Fikile Mbalula as only a deputy minister in 2009.

The ANC Youth League felt insulted by this, as Mbalula, during his tenure as its president, had played an important role campaigning for Zuma. 's

Youth league leaders blamed Zuma's decision on Gwede Mantashe and began a campaign to have him ousted and replaced by Mbalula as secretary-general.

It is a fight that has been fought through proxies, with Mbalula refusing to say in public whether he is interested in the job.

The battle appears to have died down following Mbalula's recent appointment as sports minister.

VERDICT: Draw. But, as 2012 approaches, we may see a rematch, whose outcome would depend on whether Mantashe has been able to consolidate his power within the ANC or if Mbalula has managed to use the high profile he gains from the ministry to lobby support.

*'s WAVI vs NZIMANDE -

NO one would have predicted that the two close friends who, more than anyone else, helped bring down former president Thabo Mbeki would fall out with one another so soon after Zuma took over.

While Zwelinzima Vavi, the Cosatu secretary-general, has

increasingly drifted away from
Zuma, Blade Nzimande â\200\224 the SA
Communist Party chief who
doubles as Minister of Higher
Education â\200\224 has become one of
the presidentâ\200\231s closest allies.

This has resulted in serious
conflict, with Cosatu pressuring
Nzimande to dump his cabinet
post and serve the SACP full
time.

Talk among communists is
that Vavi is positioning himself
to take over from his erstwhile
friend during the next SACP
conference in 2012.

" VERDICT: It is still early rounds,
and the fight is far from over. But,
even at this early stage, Nzimande
is on the ropes, unable to counter
Vavi's heavy punches.

{MA_LEMA' "vs LUNGISA
v and Others -

WHILE Malemaâ\200\231s battle with
Zuma was going on, the youth
league leader was suddenly
faced with a rebellion from
within his own ranks. His
deputy, Andile Lungisa â\200\224
allegedly with the backing of
trade union federation Cosatu
and the SA Communist Party â\200\224
launched a clandestine
campaign to oust Malema.

A series of court challenges
were initiated by Lungisa
sympathisers â\200\224 including
Malemaâ\200\231s former friend
Lihlogonolo Masoga â\200\224 in a bid to
stop the youth league president
from suspending or expelling
them from the organisation.

But instead of the ANC siding
with those who were accusing
Malema of purging the youth
league, it ordered that the court
cases be withdrawn â\200\224
weakening Lungisaâ\200\231s hand.

The rebellion has now been
crushed, evidently for good.

VERDICT: Malema was the
winner by a KO.

" MASHATILE vs
*5+ MIOKONYANE

ALTHOUGH the ANC chose her
to be Gauteng premier, party
structures in the province

never really warmed up to
Nomvula Mokonyane.

It was widely known that the
province had wanted its

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chairman, Paul Mashatile, to
continue as premier.

So when the provincial
conference came in May,
Mokonyane saw this as an
opportunity to consolidate her
grip on power by challenging
Mashatile for the ANC post.

She had already purged some
of Mashatileâ\200\231s allies in the
provincial government and now
wanted to take over the party.

But Mashatile defeated her at
the polls, rendering her even
weaker than before. Recently,
Mashatile and the newly elected
provincial executive committee
forced the premier to restructure
her cabinet â\200\224 appointing four of
the ANC chairmanâ\200\231s friends.

VERDICT: Mashatile won by KO.
He is the de facto premier in
Gauteng.

' SISULY vs-BOOI

AS in many other cases we focus
on today, the Minister of
Defence, Lindiwe Sisulu, and
Nyami Booi, the then chairman
of the parliamentary defence
committee, started out as close
political allies. In fact, for much
of last year, opposition parties
accused Booi of protecting the
minister from critical questions.

But things went sour when the
two disagreed over the handling
of a report on the state of South
Africaâ\200\231s military services. Booi
led a gallant battle against the
ministerâ\200\231s refusal to account to
the portfolio committee.

The standoff proved once
again that the ruling party
expects parliament to be a -,
rubber stamp for government!
Ministers, with ANC MPs never
challenging the authority of
their comrades in cabinet,

VERDICT: Sisulu won by KO. Booi
is now a hack henchman.

MOSIUOA Lekota and
Mbhazima Shilowa were
supposed to build the first real
political alternative to the ANC.
But since their party, the
Congress of the People, received
more than a million votes in the

previous election, all they have been doing is back-stabbing each other and chasing away potential backers.

The embarrassing public spats involving the two have led to

many high-ranking leaders of the young party â\200\224 including its presidential candidate, Mvume

. Dandala â\200\224 quitting.

COPE has been unable to hold an elective congress and has had to make do with a highly divided interim leadership as a result of Lekota and Shilowa disagreeing with each other.

The party is scheduled to hold its congress later this week, but donâ\200\231t bet your money on it actually taking place.

VERDICT: Both figures are punch-drunk as the hout goes into its 78thround...

' BUTHELEZI vs
' KAMAGWAZA-MSIBI

FOR the first time in Inkathaâ\200\231s 35 years, Mangosuthu Buthelezi has a real challenger in the partyâ\200\231s national chairman, 7anele kaMagwaza-Msibi.

The IFP leader has wanted to retire from politics for a while â\200\224 and would like to see his protÃ©ge, the Rev Musa Zondi, succeed him.

The emergence of kaMagwaza-Msibi as the most popular candidate has thrown a spanner into the works and Buthelezi is determined to stop her.

Although kaMagwaza-Msibi remains a party leader, she has been stripped of her powerful mayoral post in the Zululand district â\200\224 an IFP stronghold â\200\224 and her supporters are continually being suspended or expelled from the party.

She has survived expulsion herself by dodging IFP national council meetings â\200\224 and taking the party to court to prevent this,

VERDICT: Buthelezi is on the ropes and even if he succeeds in forcing kaMagwaza-Msibi out of the race, the power struggle will almost certainly result in the IFP

being wiped out in next year's
local government elections.

.. MOTSHEKGA vs -
MAYENDE-SIBIYA -

ANC Women's League president
Angie Motshekga was never
happy with Zuma's choice as the
minister of women, children and
the disabled.

As public frustration grew
with Noluthando Mayende-
Sibiyah's ineffectiveness at the
helm of the new ministry,
Motshekga who is also the

Minister of Basic Education who
publicly criticised her.

This was the death knell for
Mayende-Sibiyah, and she was
subsequently fired by Zuma.

VERDICT: Motshekga KO'd
Mayende-Sibiyah.

NYANDA vs HOGAN

THE conflict began last year
when it emerged that a company
linked to then minister of
communications Siphile
Nyanda irregularly benefited
from Transnet contracts. The
minister of public enterprises at
the time, Barbara Hogan, stood
on the side of Transnet
management in its fight with the
man who had given the lucrative
deal to Nyanda's group but
her cabinet colleagues took a
different view.

Although Zuma gave a public
tongue-lashing to Nyanda and
others who interfered in Hogan's
work, the saga contributed to
her ousting from cabinet.

VERDICT: Both Hogan and Nyanda
were disqualified in a cabinet
reshuffle.

NYANDA vs MOHLALA

IT was billed as a David and
Goliath battle. Little-known
Department of Communications

Director-General Mamodupi
Mohlala took on the might of
General Nyanda, a former
military man said to wield much
influence in the ANC.

While Nyanda succeeded in
having Mohlala axed from the
department, her legal action
against the state resulted in her
being redeployed as the head of
the National Consumer
Commission.

VERDICT: Nyanda lost the fight
on points. A few months after
Mohlala's departure, Zuma
dumped him from his cabinet.

MDLADLANA

vs MANYI

FORMER minister of labour
Membathisi Mdladlana had a
very public and ugly spat with
his director-general, Jimmy
Manyi.

The conflict was over Manyi's