

AP2003-1-11-25

BUSINESS DAY, Tuesday, November 25 2003

Rethink rural land

THE Communal Land Rights Bill was one of those pieces of legislation that the makers apparently hoped to rush through Parliament quietly and speedily.

Fortunately, the bill has aroused a veritable storm of protest from women's groups, rural communities and many of the African National Congress' own MPs.

And if the land affairs department tries to get it through Parliament in anything like its present form, it will face a series of challenges in the constitutional court.

The bill aimed to address the breakdown of the old land administration system in the former homelands. Much of this land is officially owned by the land affairs minister, who holds it in trust for communities. But it is unclear who has the legal authority to allocate the land and this is preventing development in some of SA's poorest and most remote areas.

The problem with the bill is that it puts the power to allocate and administer this land in the hands of traditional councils, made up of tribal chiefs. Many of these chiefs in effect owe their position to the old Bantu Authorities Act of 1951, as any tribal authority recognised as such under that act will be deemed to be one for the purposes of the councils to be set up in terms of the bill.

Not surprisingly then, the act has caused an uproar because it is seen as reviving a defunct apartheid institution. It is also seen as deeply discriminatory against rural women — the system of tribal chiefs traditionally robbed women of any land ownership rights.

And even land affairs' own legal advice is that the bill as it stands may be unconstitutional. Amendments are already being proposed to a bill that was finalised only two weeks ago.

One thorny issue is that the bill, arguably, removes the right to security of tenure that is enshrined in the constitution. Individuals and communities who did somehow manage to get private ownership rights in the former homelands will now see their land put under the control of the chiefs. Another issue is that the bill entrenches discrimination against women, going against the equality provisions of the constitution. There is also a question about whether the bill would create a fourth tier of government, giving traditional leaders a power that the constitution never envisaged.

It is unclear how much support chiefs have in rural areas. But government may have viewed this law as a way of getting the chiefs' support for next year's election. That may have been a bad idea.

THE MERCURY

Friday, November 28, 2003

THE MERCURY
FOUNDED IN 1852

Serious Anomaly

A SERIOUS anomaly threatens the viability of public schools. Governing bodies are empowered to levy fees, without which the schools would be unable to function properly or provide anything like an adequate education. Yet the South African Schools Act requires a school to admit any pupil who applies, irrespective of whether the parents are able to pay the fees or not.

The contradiction makes inevitable two things: the admission to certain schools of children whose parents genuinely cannot afford to pay the fees; and the admission of children whose parents could pay but shelter behind the contradiction to avoid doing so.

Resulting from that, parents who do pay fees (often with great difficulty) are going to be squeezed to pay even more – with some increases in KwaZulu-Natal next year apparently likely to be as much as 20%. For many, this will be an intolerable burden.

Also, it is palpably unjust that certain parents should be expected to pay the contributions due by others.

The education authorities will have to address the anomaly. Funding will have to be made available to subsidise those who genuinely cannot pay. Means will have to be devised to enforce payment on those who could pay but choose not to.

It is an equation that has to be balanced. Schools cannot be starved of the fees revenue which makes it possible to maintain and improve standards.

THE WITNESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2003

OUR READERS WRITE

KZN development

AN advert in the *Weekend Witness*, placed by S'bu Ndebele, KZN Minister of Transport, states that it is the Roads Department's intention to build new roads linking Pietermaritzburg and Ulundi, and Ulundi and Richards Bay. I have been publicly pleading for the construction of a road from Pietermaritzburg, through Greytown, Kranskop and Eshowe, to Ulundi for over 20 years.

It is logical that this road is essential for the opening up of the economic development of especially the underdeveloped areas of our province. At present, we have good road links in KwaZulu-Natal from north to south but we also need improved east to west linkages. There are already tarred provincial roads from Colenso-Weenen-Greytown, from Estcourt-Weenen-Greytown, from Mooi River-Greytown and from Pietermaritzburg to Greytown. A link from Kranskop to Eshowe, across the Tugela River, admittedly over difficult terrain, is approximately 60 kilometres, as the crow flies. It will be an expensive road to construct but it is vital that this area and its considerable potential should be opened up.

The population of KwaZulu-Natal is 22% of South Africa's population but our contribution to South Africa's GDP is only 15%. There is no need for us to continue to lag behind Gauteng and the Western Cape. We need development. To make development possible, we need to improve our province's infrastructure. We need "lifelines to prosperity". We need the development of the King Shaka Airport. We need the development of the midlands and the western portion of the Tugela Basin as was proposed by Dr Thorrington-Smith 30 years ago. Let us jointly show some initiative and shake off the "Natal fever".

I sincerely hope that the new roads indicated by Ndebele will become a reality soon and that the national minister of Finance will make the necessary funds available for the sake of the economic development of our province. We don't want hand-outs. We want development.

V.A. VOLKER MPP
Pietermaritzburg
(by e-mail, shortened)

THISDAY



TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 2003

Aids is a political problem, conference told

YUKANI MDE

JOHANNESBURG — Aids is not only a health and social development challenge for the Southern African region but a political and governance one as well, a conference on democratic governance in Southern Africa heard yesterday.

In a concept paper delivered at the conference, Chris Landsberg of the Centre for Policy Studies told participants that the disease had major implications for "local, provincial, national and regional governance".

The conference is being held under the title "Southern Africa ten years after apartheid: the quest for democratic governance", and is hosted jointly by the centre, the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa) and the Dutch Institute for Multiparty Democracy.

"While HIV-Aids has been treated as a medical and health issue, and as an epidemic, what has not happened in the region is to see HIV-Aids as a governance issue. HIV-Aids should therefore become a top governance, peace and security issue on the regional agenda," Landsberg said

in his address.

Landsberg said because the disease tended to compete with other budgetary priorities like education, national security, welfare and poverty reduction, it was possible that Aids could "throw processes of development and democratic governance into the reverse".

The South African government last week announced a comprehensive plan for treatment of the disease that will cost R4,5 billion over the next five years.

The disease also had serious implications for Southern Africa's civil society. "It will

[have] major implications for trade unions and professional associations, faith-based organisations, grassroots organisations, youth organisations, women's organisations, the media and parliaments."

Landsberg said this meant that civil society in the region needed to communicate better about the effects of the disease on their work.

The region's worst affected countries are Botswana (38,8% of the population infected), Zimbabwe (33,7%), Swaziland (33,4%), Lesotho (31%), Namibia (22,5%), and Zambia (21,5%).

SOWETAN Tuesday November 25 2003

Comment

Newsdesk: (011) 471-4104 Business: (011) 471-4057
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The case against school fees

ONE of the indisputable facts about the first decade of democracy is that progress towards ensuring unfettered access to education – principally at primary school level – has been substantial. The number of enrolments have almost doubled since 1994. That is commendable.

Equally important are the progressive policy changes that have been introduced. Most significant certainly – in so far as improving access to schooling is concerned – was the Government's plans unveiled in June this year to remove remaining hurdles obstructing the realisation of the full potential of its compulsory education policy.

At the time, this newspaper applauded moves to improve access to schooling for the poorest 40 percent of pupils over the next three years. But we also pointed to a serious weakness in the plans – and that related to the Government's reluctance to scrap fees at all public schools.

The gravity of this policy weakness was once more amplified by news this week that schools were considering fee hikes considerably above the inflation rate. That should not be permitted.

It flies in the face of all the policy advances that have been registered so far. Not only does it make a mockery of the Government's stated commitment to compulsory education, but it also has the potential of undoing much of the progress achieved so far in increasing enrolments at our schools.

If left unchallenged, unregulated fee increases will simply drive out many of those who account for the increased enrolments registered since 1994. Government plans to improve access for 40 percent of the poorest in the next three years will amount to nothing if unaffordable fees remain an obstacle to schooling.

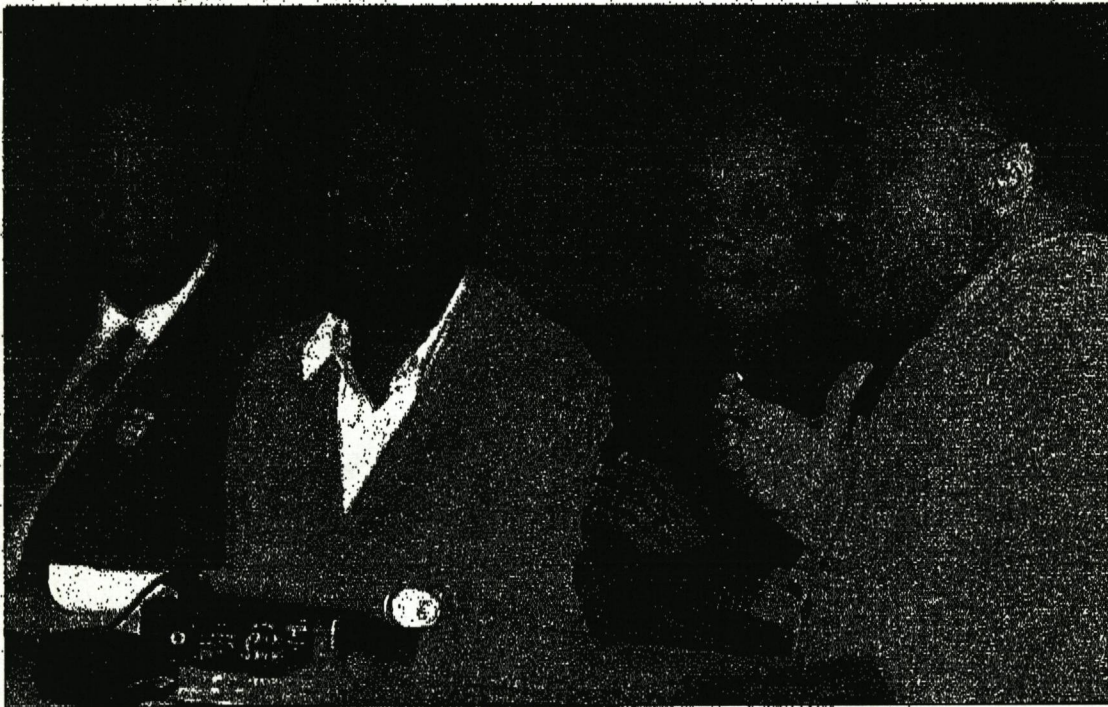
Instructing schools to exempt pupils from families reliant on social grants is not enough to guarantee access to 40 percent of the poorest. In any case, the Government's own estimates suggest more than 40 percent of the poorest children do not even have access to social grants.

The proposed means test to separate those who can afford fees from those who cannot has its own weaknesses. While encouraging another layer of costly bureaucracy in the education department to apply to means test, the system is open to abuse – both by parents who can afford fees, and by schools determined to exclude poorer pupils. Certainly, moves at the weekend to strengthen the system of school governing bodies will help minimise abuse.

But it cannot be relied upon on its own to ensure that poorer pupils are not discriminated against simply on the basis of their social and economic status.

There is a simple solution to this nagging problem – scrap school fees across the board at all public schools.

ISOLEZWE, ULWESIBILI, NOVEMBA 25, 2003



YITHIMBA labaholi
bendabuko
ebelholwa
wumNtwana uGideon
nosihlalo weNdlu
kazwelonke yabaholi
boMdadu Inkezi
uMpiyeziIntombi
Mzimela
(abakwaokunxela
ngokulandelelana
kwabo) noMnuz
Welcome "Bhodloza"
Nzimande
(okwesokudla)
ongumphathi
weKhozi FM

Isithombe:
PATRICK MTOLO

Seludlulisiwe olomdlalo womoya

S'KHUMBULO MIYA

SELUDLULISELWE enihloko
nhoyisi yenhlangano
yezokusakaza kuleli SABC
eGoli udaba lomdlalo womoya
woKhozi FM osusise umsindo,
kukhonoridwa ngokuthi ubukela
phansi amasiko nobukhosi
bukaZulu.

Leeli sinyathelo simenyezeliwe
yiMenerja yoKhozi FM, uMnuz
Welcome "Bhodloza" Nzimande
ngemuva komhlangano obushubile
izolo phakathi kwezikhulu zalo
msakazi nethimba labaholi
bendabuko ebelholwa ngumNtwana
uGideon Zulu nenkosi
uMpiyeziIntombi Mzimela
onguSihlalo kazwelonke weNdlu
yobukhosi.

"Udaba sesiludlulisa kwezinye
izikhulu eziphezulu kwa-SABC
eGoli, kanti njengamanye kukhona
okusamele sizithumelele khona, bese
kuphuma isingqumo ngalo mdlalo."
kusho uNzimande.

Lo mdlalo oehloloke sithi *Uzibambe*

Ziqine Baba, udlalwa oKhozi njalo
phakathi nezinsuku ngaphambi
kwezindaba zika-11 ekuseni ubuya
ubhindwe ngemuva kwezindaba
zahora lesishtyagalolunya kusihlwa.

Kulo mhlango obusemakhovisi
eSABC eThekwini, ithimba labaholi
bendabuko lethule isiphakamiso
sokuthi lo mdlalo umiswe
ngokushesha ngenkathi
kusadingidwa izikhalo zamakhosi,
iNdlunkulu kaZulu.

Yethula inkulungo kulo
mhlango, uMzimela ifhe lo mdlalo
udicilele phansi isithunzi
seNgonyama kaZulu, eseNdlunkulu,
ubukhosi bendabuko nesizwe
sonkana, "ngokuhlanekezelela"
kwawo amaqiniso ngoMkhosi
woMhlango.

"Lo mdlalo udukisa isizwe
ngoMkhosi woMhlango njengoba
wenziwa into embi. Sithi
mawumiswe ngokushesha
ngesikhathi kusadingidwa lolu
daba," kusho uMzimela.

UMzimela uqhubeka wagxeka
nombhali wawo uMnuz Jabulani Jali

wathi akalwenzanga ucwaningo
olufanele ngaphambi kokuthi abhale
ngento ebucayi kangaka njengesiko
leelzwe.

"Into ayibhalile ikhombisa
ukungabibikho kwesisekelo,
okumalokho sibona kuno-
kuhlanekezeleka kokwenziwa
yiNdlunkulu njengoba kucaca
ukuthi akaxoxanga namuntu
waseNdlunkulu ukuthola kabanzi
ngaleli siko abhale ngalo.

"Uma kungukuthi uyabuhlonipha
ubukhosi njengoba acashunwa esho,
yini pho abe yithuluzi
lokugxibha ubukhosi?
Uzuzani ngokudicilelela
phansi ubukhosi futhi
uthunywe ngubani? Uma
kungukuthi akakaboni
ukuthi lo mdlalo wakhe
uhlasela isiko, ngeka
aphinde abone," usho
kanje.

UNzimande uthi
umsebenzi wokunquma
ukuthi yimiphi imidlalo
ezodlalwa emoyeni.

yenziwa yithimba labacwaningi
elizimele kanti kungokokuqala
ukuthi kuqubuke izikhalo
ngemidlalo yabo.

Uthe lesi sehlakalo sesibavule
amehlo, sebezinqinisekisa ukuthi
esikhathini esizayo nabo baba
yingxenye yokunquma ukuthi
yimiphi imidlalo ezosakazwa.

UJali uthi okwamanje akukho
angakusho ngalolu daba njengoba
kusenziwa uphenyo. Uthe uzokwazi
ukuphawula uma sekuphume
isingqumo ngawo.

The Star Friday, November 25, 2003

Finance MEC set for national government

By **THEMBA WA SINDOKILE**
Political Reporter

Gauteng Finance and Economic Affairs MEC Jabu Moleketi is headed for national government if the current ANC election list remains unchanged.

Moleketi would join his wife, Minister of Public Administration, Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, in the National Assembly. Another leading Gauteng finance guru on the province-to-national transfer finance committee chairperson Joan Pabbs.

Moleketi is the only member of the provincial executive council to serve in the same portfolio under three premiers.

Premier Mphahlele Shilowa tops the Gauteng list, followed by Safety and Liaison MEC Nomvula Mdeonyane, Social Welfare MEC Abeni Moshheke, Transport MEC Khadija Mosunkutu, Local Government and Development Planning MEC Trevor Fowler, Sports and Recreation MEC Mondli Gungahle and Health MEC Gwen Ramokgopa.

Shilowa's predecessor Mathole Moshheke and former local government MEC

Sicelo Shiceka have also made it in the list of 151 candidates for the provincial government.

Pabbs said yesterday, "A lot of people don't understand the question of demarcation. It's not anything to do with the ANC. It's demarcating where our services are needed."

Danny Makhanya, former mayor of the now defuncteburg, Western Metropolitan Council, and ANC Women's League national executive committee member, said Pabbs was also made a member of the committee.

According to ANC spokesperson Shabane, the list, which was adopted by the ANC national executive committee on Friday, have been distributed to all ANC structures to allow for a period of appeals and objections. The deadline for the submission of appeals or objections is December 1.

The process would only be finalised after the appeals have been completed. The list may also direct appointing the national executive committee to ensure that one black woman and one white woman.

Those have yet to be inserted by the ANC national executive committee at its meeting on December 1.

THISDAY



TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25 2003

ANC rewards UDM defectors

ANGELA QUINTAL

CAPE TOWN — The UDM's former deputy leader Gerhard Koornhof and its deputy chief whip Annelize van Wyk, who defected to the ANC earlier this year, have been rewarded with places on their new party's national list for parliament.

But three of their former colleagues who also crossed the floor in April have failed to make any of the ANC's lists for next year's election. They include the UDM's former national treasurer Tommy Abrahams, Welsh Makanda, Lesiba Mothiba, who withdrew his resignation as a UDM MP at the last minute so he could cross the floor to the ANC.

Koornhof comes in at 87, well ahead of a few ANC committee chairpersons in parliament, including Cas Saloojee at 108, and Patrick Chauke at 111, as well as Sue van der Merwe, 110; President Thabo Mbeki's parliamentary counsellor.

Van Wyk is 129th on the list.

The ANC is expected to be returned with a large majority, so both are likely to return to parliament.

Other UDM MPs who defected include its former chief whip Cedric Frolick, who is 18th on the Eastern Cape's provincial



BANTU HOLOMISA

to national list, Salaam Abram, who is eighth on the Free State provincial to national list and Lucas Mabadi, 40th on the Eastern Cape provincial to national list.

The UDM's leader Bantu Holomisa said the inclusion of Koornhof and Van Wyk, both Afrikaners, appeared to be a sop to the country's minority groups.

On the failure of the other three former UDM MPs to make the ANC list, and others who were low on their new party's provincial to national lists, he said: "Loyalty is its own reward."

"No one expected them to be high on the list. You can't come in yesterday and expect to be top of the list."

Abrahams could not be reached for comment. Van Wyk said her decision to defect to the ANC had been a matter of principle "and not about positions."

The ANC said yesterday its lists were not final because appeals and objections could be lodged until December 5.

The party's lists were subject to the findings of an appeals committee, consideration of the results of the ANC's review of serving public representatives and any reordering necessary to ensure that women made up a minimum of one-third of its lists.

The former PAC MP Malcolm Dyanl, who defected to the ANC before the 1999 election, is not on any of the ANC's lists.

The former NNP MP John Gogotya, who also left his party for the ANC in that period, is 149th on his new party's national list.

Their fellow defector, the former DP MP Bukelwa Mbulawa, features last on the ANC's national list of 215 names.