

AP 2003 - 1 - 11 - 18

ISOLEZWE, ULWESIBILI, NOVEMBA 18, 2003

Sekuphinde kwabheduka i-Ebola

EZAVILLE: Isifo se-Ebola sesiphinde sahlasele eRepublic of Congo njengoba bebalelwa ku-11 abantu asebebulewe yilesi sifo kuleli zwe.

Bese kucatshangwa ukuthi lesi sifo sisathule ngemuva kokushona kwabantu abangu-120 ngasekuqaleni kwalo nyaka bebulawa yiso.

I-Ebola ayelapheki kanti umuntu onayo angayithelela omunye umuntu ngokuthintana nganoma yiluphi uketshezi olukhishwa ngumzimba.

Lesi sifo sikhinyabeza ukusebenza kwemithambo yegazi bese sidala ukophela ngaphakathi umuntu aphinde ahanjlswe yisisu.

UNGqongqoshe wezeMpilo kuleliya lizwe, uMnuz Alain Moka, uthe lesi sifo sibhile kakhulu budebude nendawo yaseMbomo.

UMoka uthe isibalo sabantu asebashonile senyuke safinyelela ku-11 'rulandela leso asidalula sabantu abangu-9 mhlaka 7 Novemba.

"Ucwaningo olwenziwe lukhombisa ngokusobala ukuthi abantu abashonile babulawe yiyo i-Ebola," kusho uMnuz Moka.

Izikhulu zikholwa wukuthi ukuqubuka kabusha kwalesi sifo kwaqala ngemuva kokufika kweqembu labazingeli eladla ingulube eyayifele ehlathini.

Ososayensi bathi lesi sifo saqubuka ngasekuqaleni konyaka ngemuva kokuthi amalungu athize omphakathi adla inyama yenkaw enegciwane elidala lesi sifo. Abantu abaningi kule ndawo baphila ngokudla inyama yezilwane zehlathi.

Lesi sifo sathatha imiphefumulo yabantu abangu-250 ngo-1995 eCongo. - Reuters

SOWETAN Tuesday November 18 2003

ANC's final candidates' list next week

By Waghied Mlisbach

THE African National Congress (ANC) is expected to finalise its list of candidates to contest the upcoming elections by the middle of next month.

ANC spokesperson Steyn Speed told *Sowetan* yesterday the ruling party would hold its national list conference this coming weekend in Gauteng.

The conference, at a venue that is not being disclosed at this stage, will consider the proposals of a committee that was tasked with looking at all the lists compiled in various provinces over the last few months.

A provisional final list will be drawn up which will be distributed to make allowance for any objections or appeals, according to Speed.

After the two- to three-week period for objections and appeals, the party's national executive committee will decide on the final list of candidates who will stand in next year's general election.

The party's election campaign is headed by outgoing Northern Cape Premier Manne Dipico, who earlier this year outlined four objectives for the party in next year's polls: increase the party's majority in all legislatures; win KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape; win a majority in the Eastern Cape; and win a majority in the Free State.

THE WITNESS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2003

'Stop charging us water, electricity and sewage tariffs meant for business'

Schools declare war on council

DUMISANI ZONDI

PUBLIC schools in the Msunduzi Municipality are waging a war against the council to stop charging them water, electricity and sewage tariffs meant for business operations.

They say they want to be charged R6,18 a kilolitre as non-profit-making organisations and not R6,45, which is meant for business operations.

Speaking on behalf of all the schools, Allandale Primary School Governing Body chairman Small Shuturgoon yesterday said it is wrong of the city council to treat them differently from churches, which pay domestic tariffs.

"Schools are providing a social service and they are not involved in selling and buying and as such they are not businesses. Our schools are unfairly treated and we will fight this injustice," he

said.

Shuturgoon has called governing bodies and their principals as well as councillors to an urgent meeting at the Northdale campus of the uMgungundlovu FET College at 7 pm next Monday to discuss ways of intensifying the war.

The schools also complain that they are made to pay 70% of their normal consumption of electricity when the schools are closed for school holidays. They call on the municipality to scrap such charges "because they are unfair".

Shuturgoon said his school pays a monthly average of R8 000 which means the school parts with more than R96 000 a year for the services while Berg Street Primary School pays more than R132 000 a year.

He said the group recently conducted a cost survey for Berg Street Primary School and it was realised that the school owed

council R11 020 for one month, saying the figure would have been less if the public schools were charged correctly.

"If, for example, this school was treated as a non-profit organisation and consequently charged a domestic scale rate, savings of R386,78 for sewage, R100,92 for water and R4180,58 for electricity, a total saving of R4 668,28 could have been realised," he explained.

In 2000, a group of people representing different school governing bodies approached Councillor Osman Ganie, who then wrote to the city's electricity department.

Responding, city electrical engineer Sewduth Nagasar said schools do not comply with the definition of domestic consumer, and that such institutions do not qualify to be charged on the domestic tariff.

According to 27 (4)(a) of section II of Pietermaritzburg Elec-

trical Bylaw, domestic scales are defined as tariffs that are applicable to domestic residences, flats and churches and non-profit making residential establishments operated by welfare organisations as defined by the National Welfare Act of 1978.

In addition to schools not complying with the definition of domestic consumer, their electricity usage is during the peak demand on the council electricity supply system.

However, Shuturgoon begged to differ, saying schools fit the definition of the domestic consumer as they fall under the welfare organisation category.

"We are non-profit making schools, and the schools start their businesses after peak hours and close before such hours start again in the afternoon."

The concerned group later approached Mayor Hlomi Zondi, who then referred them to Technical and Engineering Services chairman Francis Grantham in February this year. Grantham last met the group more than six months ago and this has raised concerns that he has stalled the progress.

In response, Grantham said he has to wait for the result of the investigation, which council officials are instructed to conduct.

Although he is not aware of schools being incorrectly charged,

KZN Education spokesman Mandla Msibi concurred that public schools do not make any profit.

He also encouraged all affected schools to engage their local municipalities as service providers to get better deals.

**'We will
fight
this
injustice'**

BUSINESS DAY, Tuesday, November 18 2003

'Social wage' suggests admission of jobs failure

IN ITS recent 10-year review government claims to have improved the lives of the poor through the "social wage". This refers to both social grants and the provision of services such as education, health and housing.

The number of people receiving grants is said to have risen from 2,6-million in 1994 to 6,8-million this year. Since the beneficiaries of these grants are mainly children and old people, nobody should begrudge them what they have received.

In confining welfare payments mainly to these categories, government has rightly rejected demands for a wider basic income grant. Its highlighting of the "social wage" suggests how it will answer demands for such a grant during next year's election campaign. Transfers to households are already the fastest-growing

type of government expenditure.

But government's claim that it has pushed back the frontiers of poverty and reduced inequality mainly through improving the social wage needs to be recognised for what it really is: an admission of failure as far as jobs are concerned.

While the proportion of the total population receiving a social wage has more than doubled from 7% in 1994 to 15% this year, the proportion in employment has remained unchanged at 25%.

This does not mean there has been no increase in jobs, as Alan Hirsch of the presidency recently pointed out in *Business Day*. Between 1996 and this year, the number of people in employment, including the informal sector, rose by 2,3-million.

The problem is that the demand for jobs — technically the increase in the economically



**JOHN
KANE-BERMAN**

active population — increased by 5,3-million.

The net result was a rise of 3-million in the numbers of unemployed, pushing their total up to 5,25-million on the strict or "official" definition (which excludes jobless people who want work but have given up looking for it).

Hirsch suggested one of the reasons the economically active population has grown so fast is that a greater proportion of

African women is now joining the labour market.

According to Statistics SA, just more than half of all women of working age (most of whom are Africans) are now available for work, whereas that proportion was only 37% in 1996.

A "degree of social liberation" and migration from rural areas were among the reasons Hirsch cited for this greater demand among such women for jobs.

At the launch of the Brent-hurst Initiative in August, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi identified "another factor that may be pushing people off the land and on to the labour market. This is that there is no subsistence economy in rural areas today".

Digging a little deeper into some of the most recent unemployment data, and sticking for the moment with the lower num-

bers captured by the strict definition, reveals a situation that for many people must be one of quiet desperation:

■ Of the jobless total of 5,25-million, about 59% have never worked;

■ Among jobless people between the ages of 15 and 30, about 75% have never worked;

■ Of the jobless total of 5,25-million, about 26% have been job-hunting for one to three years and 41% for more than three years.

These people are all counted as unemployed on the strict definition. This means they are out of work, available for work and trying to find it. If the last criterion is dropped, the total number of jobless rises from 5,25-million to 8,42-million (on the "expanded definition"). The difference — 3,17-million — are the so-called "discouraged" workers. They want work and are available for it,

but they have given up the search.

A striking feature of unemployment in SA is that 79% of it is long term (longer than a year), against 7% in the US, for example, where lower unemployment means people find jobs much more quickly.

Conventional wisdom has it that unemployment helps to keep the crime rate up. Perhaps there is a growing reserve army of house-breakers, hijackers and other criminals among those older teenagers and 20-somethings — 2,3-million of them — who say they have never worked. But there must also be millions of law-abiding people of all ages who, on current rising unemployment trends, can see little hope of ever finding jobs.

■ Kane-Berman is the CE of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

THE MERCURY

Tuesday November 18, 2003

Projected overexpenditure to provide grants

THE story in *The Mercury* on "KZN debt", which appeared on November 10, by Sipho Khumalo, is misleading. It unfairly portrays the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Welfare as being grossly incompetent and unable to properly control its finances.

Your journalist has reported on facts and figures made available in the KZN Parliament without seeking a comment from this department.

The headline incorrectly refers to a "Red alert as KZN govt finds itself R2 billion in debt". This is untrue.

This figure of R2 billion refers to an overexpenditure forecast and not to a debt, which is money borrowed and owed to an outside source.

The KZN Department of Social Welfare's projected overexpenditure of R1.3 billion relates to the operational budget for 2003/2004 and includes the deficit of R306 million for 2002/2003 financial year.

I would like to point out that the projected overexpenditure

was highlighted and raised as an issue of concern by the KZN Department of Social Welfare at three separate forums.

At these meetings, the department provided evidence that the projected overexpenditure is directly related to the provision of services enshrined within our constitution, namely the provision of social grants in terms of the Social Assistance Act.

In addition, the overexpenditure was unforeseen and unavoidable.

Social security projections always pose a challenge, as the statistics used for the projections are based on the actual number of grants paid approximately six months before the start of the financial year.

The budget is then based on the application of the model developed by the National Treasury, with a projected number of grants.

However, this model needs re-inspection as our targets have shown that the actual growth in the number of grants paid has

far outstripped the growth rates set in the model.

In particular, the disability and child support grants have superseded initial projections made, placing severe pressures on the budget.

One of the reasons we believe for the increase in the uptake of social benefits is the "registration campaign" to promote awareness and make people aware of their rights to social grants.

This uptake trend, which is directly linked to the department's responsibility of informing people of their rights, is not specific to KZN and is a country-wide phenomenon.

In the article, Provincial Finance Minister Peter Miller has urged that "some necessary painful decisions to curtail the overexpenditure be taken".

This mischievous suggestion is questioned and he is challenged to provide the criteria to implement these measures.

Minister Miller is aware that the overexpenditure is directly

related to the enforcement of Section 27 of the constitution, which clearly says that people who qualify are entitled to social assistance.

His suggestion, therefore, that the department curtail the overexpenditure can only imply that he believes that we should dishonour the pre-emptory provisions of the constitution for qualifying people to receive social assistance.

If this is indeed how he envisages that the department curtail the overexpenditure, I question the rationale on which we are to disregard our mandate to deliver social grants. In addition, and more importantly should we attempt to stop paying grants as a measure to curtail overexpenditure, our people have the right to legally overturn this decision based on their rights of the constitution.

This would prove more costly for the government who would then have to pay legal fees in addition to the grants.

The way forward for all parties concerned -

government and qualifying people - is for a decision by the Treasury to bail out our department based on unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure caused by the high uptake for social grants.

In tabling his Adjustments Appropriation Bill last week, national Finance Minister Trevor Manuel has made provisions for such unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure mainly due to the rapid uptake of social grants.

He has also allocated R100 million to provinces to meet the cost of extending child support grants.

PRINCE LG ZULU (MPP)
MEC Social Welfare and
Population Development
Province of KwaZulu-Natal

The story was indeed based on facts and figures presented in the KZN Parliament. However, the headline was misleading - it should have stated that the over-expenditure was projected at R2 billion. The error is regretted. - Editor

The Citizen Tuesday 18 November 2003



MINISTER of Finance Trevor Manuel and Minister of Sport Ngconde Kaloko share a moment during the launch of the 'No to Violence Against Women and Children' campaign. With them is Minister of Home Affairs Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

by DIANE VENTER
THE United Nations endorsed 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign yesterday, with Cabinet Ministers in attendance.
The campaign, which starts internationally on November 25, the International Day Against Violence Against Women, is aimed at rais-

ing awareness of violence directed at women and children, and a manifesto is being drawn up to set out the government's response.

Co-ordinated by the Justice Department, this year's campaign will focus on strategic partner-

ships with the government, the private sector, civil society, and the media, and the diplomatic community.

Minister of Home Affairs Buthelezi said the campaign is a priority for the government and will be supported by the

Justice Department, Social Services, and the Department of Education, as well as the police, the army, and the judiciary.

He said the campaign would also try to raise funds for various non-governmental organisations.

Anti-violence campaign is launched

Meanwhile, the Democratic Alliance yesterday challenged the Minister of Justice after the DA's general secretary, Anthonio Mole, said that the DA's National Council had no objection to the

campaign. Mole said the DA's National Council had no objection to the campaign, but that the DA's National Council had no objection to the campaign.

BUSINESS DAY, Tuesday, November 18 2003

Chiefs seek help of 'real communists'

Xolani Xundu*Political Correspondent*

THE National House of Traditional Leaders has called on "real communists" in the South African Communist Party (SACP) to stand up, following the party's criticism of the powers the Communal Land Rights Bill confers on chiefs to control and administer communal land.

At the core of the SACP's criticism of the bill is the fact that effective rural land ownership is being transferred to traditional councils, which the party says would negatively affect the future of rural, poor women who would continue to be excluded.

Chairman of the national house of traditional leaders, Nkosi Mpiyezintombi Mzimela, said yesterday that chiefs found it strange that the SACP was contradicting the spirit of communism by advocating that individuals, particularly women, should be given individual private title to property and land.

"If they are communists, they should be calling for the nationalisation of the economy and socialisation of the means of production, instead of hoodwinking people by screaming socialism," he said.

Mzimela said the fact that rural communities were at last having their ownership rights recognised was a huge advance and govern-

ment had to be congratulated on this.

He said the bill also guaranteed people the right to choose between communal or individual ownership.

For the first time since colonialism, communities would have real ownership, recorded in the Deeds Office, so that no future government would again be able to take away their land at will.

"Secondly, their existing rights will be recorded so that no one within the community, including a traditional leader, will be able to change their rights without their consent or without going through the proper processes of the law," said Mzimela.

THISDAY**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 2003**

Corrections&Amplifications

The sub headline to our front page lead story yesterday erroneously said that there had been an ANC walk-out from a meeting of the parliamentary ethics committee. Luwellyn Landers, the ANC

MP and chairman of the committee, has informed THISDAY that the lack of quorum was because one IFP, one NNP and two ANC members left early. We regret the error.

THISDAY



TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 2003

ANGELA QUINTAL

Unity at feeding time

In a rare display of harmony and unity of purpose in Parliament, MPs from across the political spectrum quietly and doggedly lobbied the executive to improve the lot of some South Africans — namely, themselves.

A multiparty memorandum dated August 2002 and addressed to Deputy President Jacob Zuma called not only for increased pensions, but also for a once-off lump-sum payout to help MPs pay off debts such as home and car loans.

They were rewarded last week when Trevor Manuel, the finance minister, announced there would be a R400 million golden handshake for MPs and MPLs who will retire or fail to return as representatives after next year's election.

The MPs will receive a supplementary service benefit equal to their annual pensionable salary for a complete term of service, up to a maximum of two years.

The lowest-ranking MPs are paid R328 000 a year, so there is sympathy for the view that their packages, when compared to the private sector, are uncompetitive.

Apart from the accompanying perks, such as subsidised accommodation, transport and meals, even a deputy director in the public service earns more.

The poor package has contributed to the inability of the institution to attract talent and to an exodus of experienced MPs from Parliament.

While a better salary package has merit — especially for those MPs who are skilled and hard-working — it becomes harder to stomach when one considers the army of backbenchers who have sat in Parliament for five or more years acting largely as voting fodder.

Moreover, those who served in the apartheid tricameral Parliament already qualify for a separate pension, while others who fought in the liberation struggle benefit from a special pension.

The Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers has in the past opposed a deal to increase pensions for MPs and MPLs.

It was not satisfied that the "risk involved in following a political career was significantly higher than those careers outside politics".

However, under sustained pressure from MPs for a new deal, the commission is conducting a major review of salaries, allowances and benefits. Recommendations are likely in next year's report.

Perhaps it is time to not only review packages, but also the number of MPs in Parliament: there are 400 in the National Assembly and 54 permanent and 36 special delegates in the National Council of Provinces.

The constitution itself allows for a minimum of 350 MPs in the National Assembly and the number could be cut further, allowing for a more competitive package, without increasing the cost to the taxpayer.

Several MPs have privately argued that those who suffered under apartheid and worked for nothing to "liberate the country" deserve a nest egg for their old age.

Who could argue with that? Perhaps the very people who did the same, yet remain jobless and mired in poverty or were told by the government that the liberation struggle was about sacrifice and not monetary reward.

Victims of gross human rights abuses, for example, will receive a once-off reparation payment of R30 000, less than a 10th of the salary of the lowest-earning MP.

Compare the reparation payment to the extra service benefit of R328 000 for an ordinary MP who has served five years or R656 000 for an MP who has served 10 years, and perhaps someone's conscience might be pricked.

Maybe the lesson for all is that the same unity of purpose displayed by all political parties in improving MPs' individual financial lot should also be put to use for the national interest: to eradicate poverty and racism, to create jobs and to combat HIV-Aids.

And perhaps one political party will be honest enough to put up an election poster: "We'll fight for you as hard as we fight for ourselves."

■ Angela Quintal is parliamentary editor

THE MERCURY

Tuesday November 18 2003

Crime poses big challenge for SA

THABO MBEKI

SOUTH Africa's crime prevention system has undergone a radical change since 1994, effectively ending political violence, dealing with urban and right-wing terror and taking important steps to stabilise crime.

While crime remains a major challenge for the country, research published in government's discussion document, "Towards a Ten Year Review", indicate levels of serious crime are continuing to stabilise or come down.

This progress takes place against the background of a criminal justice system before 1994 that was pre-occupied with defending the apartheid system. It was fragmented, lacked legitimacy, paid little attention to the causes of crime, and was ill-equipped to respond to the significant growth of organised crime in the country.

Transition

The transformation of the security and criminal justice functions was therefore critical to ensuring the success of the process of transition, reducing political violence, bringing down levels of crime and securing democracy.

The National Crime Combating Strategy has begun to make an impact. Except for robbery and malicious damage to property, most of the 20 categories of serious crime have recently either stabilised or are decreasing compared to the figures since 1994. Rates of murder, for example, have decreased by almost a third.

Aggravated robbery, however, has persistently increased since 1996, while other types of robbery have gone up since 1994. It should be noted that almost 50% of robberies now relate to cellphone theft or loss. High-profile robberies, like vehicle hijacking and bank-related heists, have gone down 33 and 62% since data was first recorded in 1996. Over 200 criminal syndicates have been neutralised out of 300 identified and probed.

Progress has also been made in other areas of the criminal justice system. Programmes of the Integrated Justice System have resulted in faster finalisation of cases, an improvement in the quality of dockets, and an increase in conviction rates from about 78% in 1999 to 81% in 2002.

Rape

One of the greatest challenges has been, and remains, the high level of rape and other sexual assault crimes. Rape levels increased by about 10% after 1994, then remained stable until returning to 1994 levels in the last year.

Because this type of crime is often not reported, it is difficult to establish whether these figures reflect actual trends or whether they reflect levels of reporting based on levels of confidence in the justice system.

Government has nevertheless implemented a number of measures to tackle this crime. These include the revision of the definition of the crime of rape, the establishment of Sexual Offences Courts throughout the country, empowering prosecutors, police, magistrates and doctors with specialised skills; the establishment of Specialised Family Violence, Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Units in the South African Police Service; and the implementation of minimum sentences for those convicted of these crimes.

Much more still needs to be done however to ensure that communities are safe and justice is effective. This includes the further implementation of parts of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) which address the causes of crime, and continuing to improve the capacity of the police and courts.

This article is taken from the latest issue of *ANC Today*, the ANC's weekly online publication.

THE MERCURY

Tuesday November 18 2003

MERCILESS ATTACK MOTIVATED BY GREED, SAYS JUDGE

Prince's killers sent to jail for life



CHRIS
JENKINS
EMPANGENI
BUREAU

LIFE sentences were handed down to three men yesterday for the murder of Prince Mazwe Zulu, the 88-year-old son of provincial Welfare Minister Gideon Zulu, in a well-planned drive-by shooting and robbery on the main road between Ulundi and Melmoth in January. There were murmurs of approval and spontaneous applause in a packed public gallery in the Mtubatuba Circuit High Court after Judge Jan Combrink passed heavy jail sentences on four men who he and two assessors found guilty of the attack on Zulu, his mother, Princess Dolly Zulu, and their chauffeur, Phiwayinkosi Mdlalose, on January 20.

Zulu, owner of Ondini Motors in Ulundi, was shot in the head and his mother and Mdlalose were injured when their Mercedes-Benz came under fire at close range from the occupants of a passing car.

The four faced a string of charges which they denied but of which they were all found guilty during a marathon judgment lasting nearly five hours in

a courtroom secured by heavily armed members of special police and Correctional Services units.

Bonginkosi Nene, 25, and Mlungisi Zulu, 26, of Ulundi, and Bhekisisa Kunene, 35, and Lucky Thwala, 26, of Durban, were brought into court handcuffed or in leg irons to hear their fate after a protracted case which started in August.

Zulu, Kunene and Thwala were given life sentences for murder, 20 years for aggravated robbery and 10 years for the attempt on the lives of Princess Dolly and Mdlalose.

Assault rifles

In addition, Zulu, who is serving 20 years for robbery and attempted murder after being convicted in the high court on unrelated charges in September, received 18 years for unlawful possession of arms and ammunition, including R5 and AK-47 assault rifles.

Nene was sentenced to an effective 20 years for aggravated robbery and possession of a converted "Stopper" rubber-bullet rifle and two shotgun shells.

"Our country is beset by violent crimes. Robbery involving loss of life is a daily occurrence. As we speak, robberies of the most violent and heinous nature

are being perpetrated," Combrink remarked during an address in mitigation by Kunene's counsel, advocate Aron Perumaul.

In the attack on Mazwe Zulu, in which only a few thousand rands were stolen and which showed "no respect for life and no mercy", automatic rifles with tremendous destructive powers had been fired at point-blank range at a defenceless vehicle.

Combrink commented later when passing sentence that the accused had been motivated by the basest of human emotion - greed - in what he described as a carefully planned robbery.

People were entitled to expect to be safe in a vehicle on a public road without fear of being violently accosted.

It mattered not the quality of the victim, of paramount importance was the reprehensibility of the offence.

"It matters not whether the deceased was a prince or a pauper. As it happens he was a man who was valuable to society and his loss cannot be compensated by any sentence I impose."

Combrink praised the prosecution, led by advocate Elsa Smith, for the careful way in which the state's case had been presented. Indemnity was granted to a key witness who had been an accomplice.

The Star Tuesday November 18 2003

4 jailed for death of MEC's son

Four men have received heavy jail sentences for being involved in the murder of KwaZulu Natal Welfare MEC Prince Gideon Zulu's son.

Prince Mazwi Zulu was killed early this year when his car was ambushed near Ulundi. His mother and driver were wounded in the attack.

Police said Bongi Nene was yesterday convicted and sen-

tenced to 20 years' jail for armed robbery and possession of unlicensed firearms by a circuit court judge, sitting in Mthunzini on the KwaZulu Natal North Coast. A further three years was added to his sentence.

Mlungisi Zulu, Bhekisisa Kunene and Lucky Thwala were all sentenced to life imprisonment for murder and 20 years for armed robbery. - Sapa

DAILY NEWS
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 2003



INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS
KWAZULU-NATAL

Daily News

FOUNDED IN 1878

EDITOR Dennis Pather

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Beware the finger pointers

MANY South Africans have, over the years, delighted in dredging up the suitably insulting oxymoron about the Australian (or whatever country they wish to insult) ministry of culture.

Such a sardonic observation is almost always certain to raise a few laughs at the expense of the antagonist, but sometimes the wheel turns and the pronouncers can land up shooting themselves in the foot, which is exactly what KwaZulu-Natal politicians are currently in danger of doing.

A classic example has been the nugatory squabble between the ANC and the IFP over two cultural events, which chiefly affect the Indian community.

The first was the Diwali brouhaha, which had political proponents on both sides pointing fingers at each other and claiming their opponents were trying to hijack the event for political purposes ahead of next year's general election.

The second function to ruffle feathers took place at the weekend with the commemoration of the 143rd anniversary of the arrival of indentured Indian labourers in South Africa on the SS Truro.

Just who is fooling who? And is any party really fooling the voters? Of course politicians try to score bonus points ahead of an election. But to get holier than thou and accuse opponents of doing exactly the same, as is constantly happening, is absurd.

In the Truro case, we happen to believe Narend Singh, in his capacity as the provincial minister of culture, was the right person to head such an initiative. In any case, no one else had bothered to get involved until the ANC started accusing him of hijacking the event on behalf of the IFP.

One dictionary defines culture as: "The state of being civilised; educated refinement." If our politicians expect to be taken seriously, they should try and live up to these rather basic values.

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 2003
DAILY NEWS

Political leaders' election games

Voters fed up with constant petty bickering

VEVEN BISETTY

IT'S AN election year and political parties are trying every trick in the book to woo voters.

But the constant petty and childish political bickering is becoming a bit too much for the electorate they seek. The Indian community no longer find it funny.

Remember the fireworks that followed the Diwali function debacle where the municipality gave permission for and later revoked the use of the Mitchell Park venue because the committee that was responsible had on its board Education and Culture Minister Narend Singh, who is a leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party?

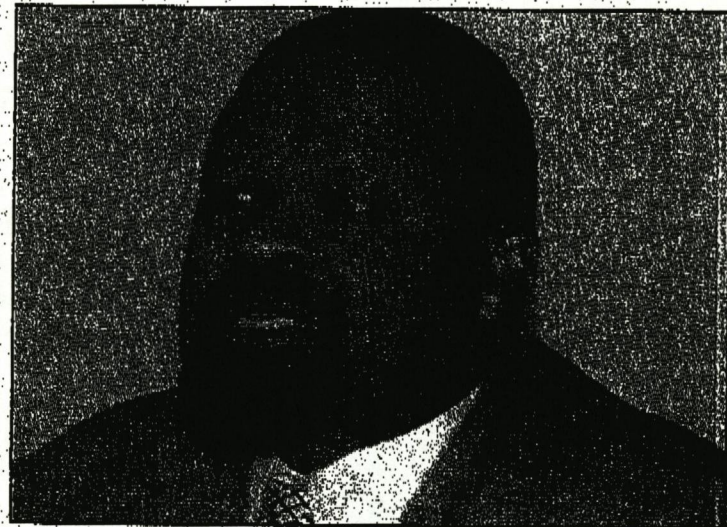
Durban Metro Mayor Obed Mlaba, right, later said the public spat that followed "should be stopped immediately". He said the issue had become "very embarrassing" for Durban.

Now Mlaba is at it again.

This time because Singh had organised a function to commemorate the 143rd anniversary arrival of the Indian community to South Africa in Durban at the weekend.

He said: "We note with dismay that the Inkatha Freedom Party is using the occasion of the anniversary of the arrival of Indians to South Africa for political expediency."

"The IFP's Narend Singh has, with the sole purpose of milking political capital out of the event, shunned the city of Durban and has not invited any of the city's politically elected representatives



or officials to attend an event which is of significance to Durban.

"While this reeks of political opportunism, we are confident that the Indian community will not be taken in by such blatant attempts to curry favour."

Yesterday, Deputy Mayor Logie Naidoo said Singh had probably forgotten the historical struggle the congress movement had played for the rights of black people in his country.

Naidoo said he would have loved to attend the event but he was not invited.

He was asked if the city had an event planned to commemorate the Indians' arrival.

"No. We did not want to compete with what Singh had planned. We are not in competition with the

minister." And what does Singh think about the fuss he seems to attract whenever he organises "Indian events"?

"It's an election year ... do you ever find other parties behaving in this manner? I guess insecure politicians will react the way they are. It's sad though."

Singh was asked if Durban politicians were invited.

"I got my staff to invite them all - Indian members of the provincial legislature, including those at council level. My private assistant called them personally and invited them all - including every mayor in the province."

"This was not a Durban event. Indians have settled all over the province, so I don't see the need for special privileges to one mayor," he said.

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Zisathibelene izikhondlakhondla zepolitiki KwaZulu-Natal

MHLABA MEMELA

OLUNDI: Ukusondela kokhethe lukazwelonke sekwenze ukuthi izinqama zepolitiki zithathelane amandla, kuzokhumbuleka ukuthi ngonyaka odhule uNdunankulu waKwaZulu-Natal uDkt. Lionel Mtshali waxosha oNgqongqoshe ababili be-ANC kwathi izikhala zabo wazivala ngababili be-DA nokwenza nokwaqinisa ubuhlobo be-IFP ne-DA.

Ngemva kwesikhathi eside sezimpikiswano ephalamende lalesi siFundazwe uNdunankulu waphoqe leka ukubuyisela oNgqongqoshe ababili be-ANC nabanikeza iminyango emisha.

Nakuba kunjalo izimpikiswano zisaqhubeka ephalamende lesiFundazwe, kanti kamumva nje uNgqongqoshe wezemisebenzi yomphakathi uMnu. Mike Mabuyakhulu uphakamise

ukuthi iphalamende like licubungule udaba lwezindlu zikaHulumeni nezibizwa ngama-Flat ezisoNdini. Kuzwakala ukuthi uNgqongqoshe uMabuyakhulu ufuna ukuthi bakhishwe bonke abantu abahlala kuleziyandlu nokungezikaHulumeni ngoba yena unezinhlelo ngazo.

Lokhu kuvezwe uNdunankulu uDkt. Lionel Mtshali ngesikhathi ethula inkulimo yakhe emcimbini omkhulukazi wokubuyisela umbiko wentuthuko emphakathi nobuhlelwe uMkhandlu wesifunda eZutland, kanti lomcimbi ubuhanjelwe nangu Ngqongqoshe wezasekhaya kuzwelonke uMntwana wakwaPhindangene uDkt. Mangosuthu Buthelezi kanye nezinkumbulu zomphakathi waseMandleni.

UMantshinga ukhale ngokungaculiseki yindlela eqhuba ngayo iminyango emibili neholwa oNgqongqoshe be-ANC kanti uthe lomkhankaso wokufuna ukuqumba

phansi uLundi ngeke waphumelela.

"Umnnyango wezolimo waqoqisa abasebenzi ngendluzula basuswa lapha oNdini bafudulwa babhekiswa e-Cedara kanti lokho kwenziwa ngenhloso yokuthi kuqedwe yonke imizamo yentuthuko yasoNdini. Manje sebeqale olunye ushikishi lwezindlu abazibiza ngokuthi ngezikaHulumeni, angazike ngoba leziyandlu zakhiwa uMntwana wakwaPhindangene lapha oNdini bengekho kodwa sebekhombisa ukwazi kakhulu ngazo," kusho uHlabangani.

Eqhuba uNdunankulu uMantshinga uthe udaba lokuhlukunyezwa kwamalungelo abasebenzi bomnyango wezolimo basazoluthathela izinyathelo zomthetho. "Izindlu lezi ezilapha oNdini zihlala abasebenzi bakaHulumeni kanti kukhona nezisebenzi zezempilo. Lemizamo yokushabalalisa uLundi ngeke iphumelele."

Iphele ekhasini 2

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Zisathibelene izikhondlakhondla zepolitiki KwaZulu-Natal

Isuka ekhasini 1

UNdunankulu uphethe ngokubongela uMkhandlu wesifunda saseZululand ngokuba owokuqala kulesisiFundazwe ukubikela umphakathi ngenqubekela phambili kanye nokusetshenziswa kwezimali zawo zentuthuko. "Awukho nowodwa umkhandlu okwazi ukubuyela kubantu ubazise ngokusebenza kwezimali zawo."

"IMeya yalomkhandlu ukhansela Zanele Magwaza unesandla esiqotho uholo ngobuqotho. Kulomkhandlu awukaze uzwe kubalwa inkohlakalo ngenxa yokuthi abantu bafuna ukuzinithisa bona, bheka nje inkohlakalo ekhonywa eKokstad iyisibonelo sokuzikhathafela kwabasezikhundleni nabafuna ukuzicebisa. Umkhandlu waseZululand ukhuluma ngezinto

ezibonakalayo njengoba isho iMeya lomkhandlu wakhe nezikole nokungesiwo umsebenzi wawo kodwa ngoba uqhuba intuthuko yomphakathi, sifuna abaholi abafana neMeya uMagwaza abahola ngobuqotho nokwerhembeka kubantu."

"Abantu bakithi babanjwe uncedaka wobubha, lenkululeko ayisho lutho uma abantu besahlaselwe ububha "kusho uMntwana wakwaPhindangene

UShenge uthe abaholi bezepolitiki kumele bazi ngabantu nezinhlupheko zabo kanti uncome kakhulu umsebenzi osewenziwe umkhandlu waseZululand ngokuthuthukisa umphakathi ngenhloso yokuthi nobubha

"Abaholi abaningi bahlala ezikhundleni abakuzo

kodwa abakwazi ukubika umphakathini ngasebekwazile ukukwenza kwaba yimpumelelo, iMeya- le iyisibonelo esihle kakhulu umphakathini nobuholi bayo obuqotho. Ezweni lilonke ngisho lapha KwaZulu-Natal izisebenzi zikaHulumeni azibuyeli ebantwini zibazise ngesezikwenzile ku ngokokuqhala lokhu ukuthi kumenywe umphakathi ubengaka unikezwe umbiko ngezimali zawo," kusho uShenge.

UShenge uphethe ngokubonga ngomsebenzi wonke osewenzelwe abantu baseZululand kanti wethemba ukuthi nabanye abaholi bomphakathi bazolandela ezithendeni zeMeya yaseZululand ukuze kuthuthukiswe umphakathi.