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BUSINESS DAY, Friday,

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July 26 2002

Arts, science  
to go their  
separate ways

Mbeki agrees to departmental split

Tamara (ahn N

Science and Education Correspondent ' "

CAPE TOWN - President Thabo  
Mbeki gave the go-ahead yesterday for the functions of the arts, culture, science and technology

[department to be split in two.

According to presidential  
spokesman Bheki Khumalo, the  
restructuring is intended to  
enable the two departments to  
have a more focused approach

Observers say the move is also  
seen as an attempt to smooth  
relations between the arts and  
culture, and science and technology  
functions, -

The move would also remove  
some of the operational tension  
within the department.

According to the constitution,  
science and technology is a  
national competence.

The mandate for arts and culture  
on the other hand; is currently  
shared between national

and provincial government.

Sources say that this difference  
has resulted in tension  
about access to resources, and  
difficulties in defining mandates.

No new cabinet posts are to be  
created, as the two new departments  
arts and culture and science  
and technology will be  
overseen by the current minister,  
Ben Ngubane, and his deputy,  
Bridgitte Mabandla.

This surprise news came yesterday  
shortly after the president

â\200\230briefed journalists onâ\200\231this week's

three-day cabinet lekgotla, dux-  
ing which he emphasised that.  
government would place more  
emphasis on implementation.

Ngubaneâ\200\231s spokesman, An-  
drew Aphane, said that the cur-  
rent director-genÃ©ral of the  
department, Rob Adam, was to  
become the director-general of  
science and technology.

The post of director-general

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" Ben Ngubane

for arts -and culture would be

advertised shortly, he said.  
-+ Aphane said that the restuc-

turing process, which was being  
driven by the office of the pres-  
ident, would begin on August 1  
and would end on September 30.  
All corporate sexvices would at  
first be placed in the department  
of science and technology. -  
Observers said that by giving  
both departments the attention

of a dirÃ©ctor-general, government  
was sending a signal that both  
functions' were equally impor- -

tant, and that it intended to  
strengthen their operation.

M Ngubane will host â\200\230the first !  
African Caribbean Pacific- -

European Union Forum on Re-  
search for Sustainable Develop-

" ment in Cape Town later today.  
The five-day event will bringâ\200\231

together scientists and re-  
searchers from more than 90

.countries to develop a position

on the contributions that sciende

- and technology can make to sus-

tainable development.

- The forum hopes to imprave  
co-operation between the north-

â\200\230e and southern hemjsphm

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SOWETAN Friday July 26 2002

' KZN go%â\200\230  
is not  
â\200\230paralysedâ\200\231

1 AM astounded by the.  
degree of ignoxance of  
the operation of the Cab-  
inet shown by Ido  
Lekota in Sowetan of  
July 22, in his article  
headlined â\200\234IFP will not  
share KZN."

It is a distortion of  
fact to say that the sus-  
pension of Cabinet  
meetings in KwaZulu-  
Natal has â\200\234paralysed  
governmentâ\200\235 in the  
province. [ am on record  
giving assurances that  
Cabinet will copveng to  
deal with important mat-  
ters that are in the best  
interests of the citizenry  
we serve as a collective.

The Constitutional  
Court has not ruled on  
the matter-of the floor-  
crossing Jegistation, On  
the contrarys we arÃ©  
enjoined by the Consti-  
tutional Court order o  
maintain the status quo  
and stay cleax of conflict  
simations.

\_Who said further  
Cabinet meetings would  
worsen the conflict  
between the parties?

I am not privy to con-  
flict between the Inkatha  
African National Con-  
gress Cabinet winisters.

. As responsible  
politicians, we engage in  
vigorous \* -debates '  
without descending to  
â\200\230petty politicking.

I will convene Cab-  
inet as s00M as there is 2  
peed to deal with impor- i  
tant â\200\230government busi-

-pess. | stand by this  
commitment.  
Ljonel Mtshall  
KwaZulu-Natal

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SOWETAN Friday July 26 2002

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Do we need  
the provinces?

VERY year, the auditor-general of South Africa, files a report on the performance - of each of our provinces and individual national government departments. Some of these reports are damning and make rivetting read.

And, based on the provincial inefficiencies that are sometimes identified, some in the country are now raising serious doubts about the need for the "provincial sphere of governance. Corruption tends to strengthen these calls.

Some are even suggesting that the provinces: - should be scrapped because South Africa now has

. a functional local tier of governance. (s

Some people feel the provinces have been used as dumping ground to accommodate certain politicians. Until now, though, the debate has been clouded by emotions, It tends to crop up each time - there is a case of spectacular corruption in this or the other province. : T '

One of the most sober inputs on this discourse

" has come from Mr Mbhazima Shilowa, the premier of Gauteng. In an interview with this paper, he has suggested that the debate on the need for provinces should be separated from the pre-1994 .

. one - . S 0

Back then, this debate was more ideological. It also took place against the background of the need for a constitutional compromise to pave the way for the country's transition to its first-ever all-race election. So the nine provinces were created and .. given original powers. ,

.Seven years into the democracy, as a people, we are now in a better position to have a less emotive debate on the matter, We have experience of what provinces, national and local spheres of governance can and cannot do for our people. . i

Shilowa, one of the pioneers in this debate, says there are some functions that are better exercised by this or the other sphere of government, The trick is to find out which of these powers belong where. ' et '

The debate, calling for the reconfiguration of the country's governance on the basis of "we don't need the provinces because we have local government", is a non-starter. A worthy debate must be driven by the need for what works to deliver better . and efficient services to South Africans. - : \

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BUSINESS DAY, Friday, July 26 2002

Emest Mabuza

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THE African National Congress (ANC)  
and the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) held  
on to their seats in the ward by-elections  
held in various provinces this week.

The ANC won two uncontested seats  
in Nkomazi in Mpumalanga and at Um-  
sobomvu in Northern Cape. The party al-  
sâ€ retained its wards at Umzimkulu in  
Eastern Cape, Cedarberg in Western  
Cape and Aganang in Limpopo. i

It also won a seat in Mogwase i

â€ North West, previously held by an inde-  
pendent councillor, . .

The IFP retained its seats n  
Okhahlarnba and Indaka in KwaZulu-  
Natal, while the Democratic Alliance  
[

ANC, AIFP retain ward seats S

{DA) won the by-election in Kaysna it  
An independent candidate, Christelle

Wiese, won the by-election in Ward 14 in

Siyathemba in Northern Cape which,  
was also contested by the ANC. .  
Of the 29 399 residents eligible to vote.

" â€ in all the wards, 9 564 participated in theâ€ 231

voting, representing a 32% turnout. .  
The DA said although it lost the by-  
election in Cedarberg to the ANC, the re-

- sult showed that those that voted it in  
2000 had remained loyal, following the

withdrawal. of â€ the New National Party  
from the alliance. - .

â€ This is a vote of confidence in the  
DA's role as an independent alternative  
to the ANC,â€ party spokesman Anthony  
Hazell said. )

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Mail&Guardian July 26 to August 12002 3

â\200\230Hands on your hips

@ defection row in KwaZulu-  
Natal eontinues breeding -

[P â\200\224

Yots of verbal pniping between the ANC  
and the Inkstha Freedom Party. The  
Iatest snide remark comes from the  
ANCâ\200\231s Mtholephi Mthimkhuly: "Iâ\200\230h?  
ANC in KwaZulu-Natal bas learnt 'vml\  
regretof the collapse of marqueesâ\200\231  
[apparently caused by 4.5torm] &t the  
IFP conference presently held at.  
Ulundi. We thank God that no

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Still

Nawaal Deane and  
Jaspreet Kindra

The Ministry of Health has not officially informed the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria that its grant allocated to KwaZulu-Natal is welcome and accepted, hereby further delaying the province's receipt of the grant.

The fund does not acknowledge press releases as confirmation that Minister of Health Manto Tshabalala-Msimang is not blocking the R600-million grant, but says it is awaiting official confirmation from the ministry before any funds will be forwarded.

The fund is an international independent body, established last year on the initiative of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan.

It is a partnership between countries and is not meant to replace existing initiatives or other funding channels with the same or similar objectives.

The grant was clouded by controversy after it became apparent at the recent world Aids conference in Barcelona that the minister might not accept the money because the correct procedures had not been followed by KwaZulu-Natal, which had directly applied for the grant. This caused an outcry from political and religious organisations, which called for the minister's resignation.

The Treatment Action Campaign  
(TAC) threatened to bring an urgent

Mail&Guardian July 26 to August 1 2002 3  
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court application to stop the government from blocking the grant.

On Tuesday July 16, after a meeting, Tshabalala-Msimang and KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health Zweli Mkhize announced the grant would be accepted and pooled with other resources of the South African

"National Aids Council (Sanac). It was

also reported that Tshabalala-Msimang said the fund was trying to bypass the democratically elected Government and put the money in the hands of civil authorities,

Perhaps this is because the fund does not trust governments elected by the people the minister said.

Melanie Zipperer, spokesperson for the fund, says it does not comment on political statements such as these.

"Before we disperse the funds we have to know who will be the principal recipient. Right now it is all speculation," says Zipperer. She says a press release has been received but it is not considered an official response,

The fund's website says it hopes to quickly disburse resources to all proposals approved in the first round, based on a country-led and nationally coordinated process. Each country-coordinating mechanism has to propose one or more principal recipients to serve as the legal entity, which receives and manages money from the fund.

When the principal recipient is communicated to the fund, it intends to move expeditiously, while ensuring

no go-ahead for Africa

ing there are effective accounting systems

in place for managing money within countries. Two grants have

principal recipient still needs to be officially communicated, -

This week 2 source close to the ministry said pressure from countries in Southern Africa had caused Tshabalala-Msimang to make a fuss

about KwaZulu-Natal's bypassing procedures in applying for the

grant. N -

Sources say Tshabalala-Msimang is

receiving flak from other Southern

African nations because South Africa

has managed to secure two grants.

The first grant awarded South Africa R1.13-billion for proposals from LoveLife and Soweto City. ]

A second, separate proposal from the

Enhancing Care Initiative in KwaZulu-

Natal was awarded R720-million.

Tshabalala-Msimang this week raised concerns that countries like

Botswana had not received any

money. ) . )

Mark Heywood, spokesperson i

for the TAC, scoffs at the.

explanation, saying that the .4

Minister of Health

Manto Tshabalala-

Msimang is at the

centre of the

Aids-grant

controversy. A .

Photo: Nadine -

Hutton

the grant is because it has a big anti-

. retroviral component,

been awarded to South Africa, but a -

â\200\234When the grant goes ahead it will

be the beginning of the provision of

anti-retroviral drugs to poor people in

â\200\230one of the worst-affected provinces?Â®

Heywood says that countries like

Botswana are â\200\234drowning in moneyâ\200\235

from donors including the Bill Gates

Foundation. )

He says that the .

minister is taking

equity to ludi-

ds grant

real reason the minister is opposing

<raus extremes: â\200\230It is i-\201ot a question

of [the fund having a money pot and

then dishing it out equally among

- countries.â\200\235

KwaZulu-Natal, Hke any applicant,

can ask the fund for 4 grant, and an

~ independent board gives theâ\200\231 go-

ahead, says Heywood, adding that

according to the fund's report South

Africa did not receive the highest

funding. '

Nathan Geffen of the TAC says the

~ two largest grants went to Malawi

and Thailand. â\200\231 .

~ The Sanac proposal was the  
third-largest grant approved,  
â\200\234This is-just an excuse the  
minister has used to try to  
scuttle around the KwvaZuhr-  
Natal proposal, using it as a  
- red herring based on incorrecs  
Tfacts. What lies at the roat of  
" â\200\230what is going on is the agenda of  
Aids denialists,â\200\235 says Geffen.  
Meanwhile the health seeretary of  
the African National Congress,  
- Saadiq Kariem, has endorsed  
L Tshabalala-Msimang's call  
k - % for the fundâ\200\231s grants to be

- how-

. ever, reiterated his

point â\200\224 made last

week â\200\224 that the

i province would

notlose 018 o0 any  
money dueto it Y

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