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DAILY NEWS  
THURSDAY JANUARY 8 2009

## 700 health workers sent to under-serviced KZN areas

**NONDUMISO MBUYAZI**

THE KwaZulu-Natal health department has sent more than 700 community service officers to under-serviced areas of the province to scale-up health care delivery and provide quality care to impoverished areas.

These include 52 pharmacists, 50 radiographers, 35 speech and hearing therapists, 20 clinical psychologists, 29 dietitians, 171 medical officers, 45 occupational therapists, 59 physiotherapists and 262 nurses.

KZN health spokesman Chris Maxon said the health officers would educate the public on disease prevention and basic health education.

"We hope they will assist in reducing the health care burden among the already overburdened health care workers," he said.

Maxon said the health officers began their duties at the beginning of this month.

"King Edward, Addington

and Umphumulo (near Kwa-Dakuza) are just some of the hospitals they will serve. Not only are they providing much-needed service to the community, but they are also gaining experience," he said.

Maxon said the health department introduced compulsory community service for health care workers in 2004 despite pessimism by certain sectors of the health care profession.

He said the department was determined to ensure that community service by health care professionals was a worthwhile undertaking.

"In a 2002 study that focuses on the personal experiences of doctors, dentists and pharmacists who have participated in community service, Professor Steve Reid concluded that community service for health professionals has a positive impact," he said.

Maxon said despite difficulties and frustrations, the majority of the doctors, dentists

and pharmacists who performed community service felt they had made a difference and had undergone some professional development."

Maxon said most of the health care officers had received bursaries from the health department.

"In the last two years, the department has spent more than R64 million in health care bursaries," he said. Maxon said this amount was likely to increase annually because their mission was to lure more people into the health care industry.

Acting head of the health department, Dr Yoliswa Mbele, said she strongly believed that the community service officers changed the quality of care and the level of commitment to the poor. "Dr Martin Luther King once said everyone can be great because anyone can serve. It is this spirit that this programme imbues among the community service officers," said Mbele.

DAILY NEWS  
THURSDAY JANUARY 8 2009

# Roadlink will be banned, vows Bheki Cele

MPUME MADLALA

THE KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport has not changed its intention to suspend the luxury bus company SA Roadlink's operating licence in the province.

This comes after Roadlink's Stephanie Steyn was reported this morning as saying they and the department had come to an agreement and would no longer be going

to court today as had been scheduled. She claimed the company had received a letter from the department requesting they withdraw the matter as a solution had been reached.

Transport MEC Bheki Cele strongly denied that he was backing off and said he did not know anything of this "settlement".

The department had erred procedurally, but would be rectifying

that, he said. Cele said when they first went to court in December last year they were told to provide reasons why the company should stop operating in the province.

"We, however, did not follow the proper procedure and that is why we can no longer go to court on this matter, but we will be following our own legal process on this matter because I want the company out of this province," he said.

Cele said they had been gathering information on the company which would give him the right to shut its operation in the province.

"When we went to court last year it was an emergency, but the court ruled in their favour.

"We now have enough time to get reasons why they should not operate in the province and they will go," he said.

The battle between the Depart-

ment of Transport and SA Roadlink began when one of the company's buses was involved in an accident on the south coast that claimed the lives of 11 people.

Cele then decided to suspend the company's operating licence based on this and other accidents involving SA Roadlink buses.

Since the beginning of the festive season six buses have been impounded for various reasons.



# Saturday sets the tone

*The ANC's manifesto launch could decide whether the elections will be marked by mature acceptance of differences or shrill demonisation*

THE MERCURY

Thursday January 8 2009

**T**ODAY the ANC turns 97. When it meets to launch its election manifesto in East London on Saturday, it will set the tone for the coming elections.

Just three years away from scoring its centenary, this grand movement of Africa can either retreat into a laager mentality or provide the innovative leadership South Africa sorely needs.

Indications behind the scenes are that the movement contains elements of both responses. There are some who say the ANC has made many mistakes but has largely been able to manage the politics of difference. This ability, they say, is the most critical strength needed in a country with so many diverse interests. In the end, it knits together the hopes of the widest cross-section of the South African population and has until recently not been challenged on this front.

While COPE challenges this hegemony, this too has been cited as a tribute to the strength of South Africa's democracy led by the ANC. There have been spats and tensions but not to the extent that could spill into full-blown violence with the potential of civil war. They argue that in the past few weeks, all parties have intensified their contact with the people and have found small pockets of intolerance. The greatest possibility for friction lies between the ANC and COPE, and it is

here that the most work will have to be done to curb hot tempers that could provoke physical clashes.

Those in the ANC who believe the depth of leadership experience within the organisation will not fail the country at this critical time say the election contest must be based on the appeal of the manifestoes of the different parties. They intend doing all they can to encourage citizens to focus on this and move away from unnecessary belligerence.

## Parallel

There is a response running parallel that provokes great concern. Instead of acknowledging that the political dynamic has changed, requiring fresh responses, this view glibly argues that COPE is a counter-revolutionary movement funded by foreign interests. The term counter-revolutionary within the South African liberation context implies that the activities fundamentally oppose all the values fought for and seeks to reverse the gains made in transforming society to be more egalitarian.

The label is used in much the same way as the United States uses the term Islamic fundamentalism. It is often a shallow way to deal with real criticism and a refusal to recognise the limitations of one's own response. Unfortunately, what flows from this approach is that it gives per-



ZUBEIDA JAFFER

mission to restrict, to crush and ultimately to kill. In the Soviet context, counter-revolutionaries were enemies of the people.

Those in the ANC intent on promoting this view need to consider that they sow the seeds of destruction. They are encouraging an analysis that will further narrow the space for difference. In the past, the challenge has essentially been to manage differences between the political thinking and interests of the old order and the new. This year brings the challenge of handling political difference that has evolved from within the new, non-racial democratic order.

This is not to suggest that democracy is fully in place. While the constitution is in place, the conditions of hunger and inequality remain huge challenges that diminish the dream of a social democracy. Much remains to be done, whatever the political configuration after the elections.

Good leadership and able professionals are needed in the key sectors of health, education and security.

The COPE phenomenon has shown that there are people who can be brought into the political arena who can add fresh skills and

talents. While this may inject much-needed enthusiasm and healthy competition into the political process, it says little about the strengthening of our crucial institutions essential for the comfort and security of our daily lives.

Irrespective of who leads, the challenge of building proper institutions as firm pillars of a well-functioning country remains. Parliament, the hospitals, the media, schools, the police and others need to fulfil their primary functions. Traffic departments across the country appear to have taken their jobs seriously by halving fatalities this festive season. What was it that changed? We need to look closely at this success story.

The media in particular will have its work cut out. Its primary role is to provide the public with enough information to make informed decisions and give voice to the powerless and marginalised. So far both the electronic and print media have broadly overemphasised the COPE phenomenon, to the disadvantage of all other political parties.

From a media point of view, this can be excused to some extent since news also tends to focus on what is new.

By its very nature, we are trained to move the story forward, looking at all times for new dimensions that sometimes give greater clarity. We are also operating in an international climate that affirms quick fixes and instant gratification. The emergence of COPE feeds into that hope that something different is happening that can help us find fresh energy to consolidate close to a century of organised effort. Not only does it create the political space for strong, effective alternatives but also provides the pressure on the ANC to self-correct instead of drifting into a laager.

## Changing terrain

The media will have to artfully navigate the changing political terrain. Its responses can either encourage the worst inclinations among all of us or help to bring out the best. In the interests of building a respected and solid media practice, it will need to be seen as fair, conducting itself without fear or favour.

Unfairness at this point would go a long way to diminishing its important social role. Fortunately, some media outlets have recognised this and are putting mechanisms in place to safeguard against unfairness. *The Star* - *The Mercury's* sister newspaper - for example, has commissioned the Media Monitoring Project to provide weekly reports on levels of fairness

during the elections. These reports will be published regularly.

While the media continues to express considerable discomfort with a Jacob Zuma presidency, there has to be acknowledgement that a substantial section of the public will vote in favour of him. His popularity cannot be presented as blind support for a man who is an idiot. He brings to centre stage the interests of communities that have often operated at the margins of urban discourse.

Dismissing him and all he represents as traditionalist is no different from glibly pulling the counter-revolutionary label out of the hat.

We are poised on the cusp of a great opportunity that will test our ability to respond with great maturity as never before. If the ANC does not set the tone on Saturday, greater responsibility will fall on the shoulders of other political parties and civil society. We can do well to be spared such expenditure of energy at a time when all our efforts are needed to sort out and consolidate the functioning of our institutions so that all South Africans are able to enjoy an improved quality of life.

□ Zubeida Jaffer, a journalist and author, is based at the Centre for African Studies at the University of Cape Town. See [www.zubeidajaffer.co.za](http://www.zubeidajaffer.co.za) and <http://zubeidajaffer.blogspot.com/> for further commentary.



# Xenophobia fear as election looms

NTOKOZO MFUSI  
& WENDY JASSON DA COSTA

**T**HERE were fears that South Africa could be heading for another round of xenophobic attacks on the same scale as last year's, or even larger, because of the looming elections, non-government organisations warned yesterday.

At least 60 people were killed and more than 1 446 charges were laid after last year's countrywide outbreak of xenophobia.

Duncan Breen, of the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa, said the organisation had asked the Human Rights Commission to investigate last year's attacks.

"The potential exists for it to happen again. We need to act," he said.

He warned that xenophobia could become a big issue closer to the election because a report to be released later this month showed that many local leaders were mobilising support around the issue of foreigners.

Breen said little seemed to have been done to address the root cause of last year's violence. One of the key reasons was that foreigners were "taking" RDP houses, while the owners were actually renting to them.

The Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa is a network of refugee and migrant service providers for organisations like the Black Sash, Amnesty

International and Lawyers for Human Rights.

According to Breen, although the large scale violence has subsided, attacks on foreigners have not stopped.

Evidence was the recent attacks on Somalians in Port Elizabeth and several incidents in Gauteng.

Suren Pillay, of the Human Sciences Research Council, said studies indicated that the common factor in communities where xenophobia occurred was "profound dissatisfaction" with the government.

"The conditions which gave rise to the violence are still largely there," said Pillay.

## Crime

It was crucial to take note of the sentiments expressed about foreigners. If the previous attacks were just criminal, then the targets of those attacks still had to be explained.

Both he and Breen said government communications needed to be improved urgently because communities did not understand policy issues and how various allocations, like housing, were made.

However, despite this weekend's attacks on foreigners at Albert Park in Durban, which left three people dead after they were forced to jump from a building, authorities say it was not xenophobia, just a case of rooting out corruption and crime gone wrong.

Other victims said the mob had specifically asked if they

were "amakwerekwere" (foreigners) before beating them.

At a meeting between the two parties to try to resolve the tensions, some of the culprits were pointed out. But despite CCTV footage of the attacks no arrests had been made, said Sarim Mwakalo, chairman of the Tanzanian Community Forum.

Albert Park councillor Vusi Khoza said there had been an influx of foreigners into the area since last year's xenophobic attacks, buildings were in a poor state and liquor outlets were flourishing.

"Bylaws are not respected or observed in the area and the municipality is not doing enough to ensure that they are enforced and followed. Bylaws on vagrants, overpopulating buildings and loitering are not followed," he said.

"The city says the issue of foreigners is not their responsibility but that of provincial and national government, but I feel someone has to get the ball rolling."

Municipal manager Michael Sutcliffe said foreign nationals were the responsibility of the national government, which had neglected KwaZulu-Natal and instead focused on Gauteng and Cape Town.

The National Prosecuting Authority's Tlali Tlali said many people had been prosecuted in connection with last year's attacks. Special courts had been established only in the Western Cape. Other cases were on the normal court rolls.



# Provincial ANC list to be finalised

SIPHO KHUMALO  
POLITICAL STAFF

TOMORROW is the day that could make or break the futures of a number of ANC politicians in KwaZulu-Natal as party delegates meet in the provincial list conference to decide who will be elected and who will be left out of the candidate list for the coming elections.

With more than 500 ANC branches in the province having drawn up lists of who they want to represent them in the provincial council of provinces, the national council of provinces and the national assembly, the meeting will see delegates from the various branches producing a provincial list of those who are most likely to hold public office after the 2009 elections.

"Some of us are visiting our traditional healers to get charm portions so that we will become attractive to those who will be deciding on our fate.

"It is not good enough merely to be on the branch list because the weekend conference is going to vote on it, distilling it to a small number,"



MCHUNU

**NOW READ**  
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said an ANC provincial MPL.

For the provincial legislature, which has 80 MPLs, the conference should produce a list of 130 names, while the process of nominating candidates for the national assembly and national council of provinces is more complicated.

Branches have nominated more than 300 people who will be put to the vote tomorrow.

Most of the current MPs

and MPLs will not be voting. Those who will be voting include delegates from branches and members of the provincial executive committee.

"Those who were nominated by five or more branches will have their names placed on the ballot paper. The delegates will vote and those getting most of the votes have an increased chance of making it to parliament," said an ANC source.

The process itself is meant to be democratic though it also seeks to achieve gender balance and ensure continuity by returning experienced MPs.

However, the balancing act by the list committee does not end there. It will be "tweaking" the lists coming in from more than 546 branches to factor in MPs and MPLs, and those who might not have been elected by branches but who would bring special skills to the ANC parliamentary team.

ANC provincial secretary Senzo Mchunu said the final list would be concluded at the national list conference to be held later this month.

The conference will be officially opened by provincial ANC chairman Zweli Mkhize.



# VIP unit's shocking record

LEE RONDGANGER  
Johannesburg

**D**URING the past four years, 111 members of the police's elite VIP protection unit – responsible for protecting the president, among others – have been charged with crimes ranging from murder, attempted murder, rape, armed robbery and the abuse of power.

This is according to the safety and security department in a reply to a parliamentary question from the Democratic Alliance.

The revelation comes in the wake of an undertaking by police watchdog body the Independent Complaints Directorate to begin a full-scale investigation into the unit, which over the past few years has gained a reputation as road bullies.

According to the office of safety and security minister Nathi Mthethwa, between 2005 and 2008:

- Six officers faced charges of murder or attempted murder;

- Ten officers faced charges of assault, or assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm;

- One officer faced a charge of rape;

- Twenty-six officers faced driving-related charges, most involving reckless or negligent driving, of which eight were for driving under the influence of alcohol;

- Two officers faced charges of damage to property;

- Three officers faced charges of pointing a firearm, or handling a firearm under the influence of alcohol; and

- A member of the unit faced a charge of armed robbery.

Over the same period, six officers were charged with abuse of power, two for dereliction of duty and 56 for misconduct.

But, according to Mthethwa's reply, during the past five years only two members of the VIP unit had been dismissed, and five members suspended.

"The disciplinary regulations of the SAPS prescribe both remedial and punitive measures which are used as reactive responses to incidents of misconduct. In addition, members are subjected to proactive measures, including in-service courses such as disciplinary management, customer service and labour relations," Mthethwa said.

## Misconduct

"Personnel are also debriefed in sessions with commanders, where performance is reviewed and incidents and deviations discussed with the objective of preventing misconduct and improving operational functioning," Mthethwa said in his reply.

The VIP unit is broken into two components, the VIP protection services, which has 935 members, and the static and mobile security services, which has 2 371 members.

DA MP Dianne Kohler-Barnard said VIP officers were getting away with their criminal actions without any proper disciplinary measures being taken against them.

"The data released by the minister of safety and security illustrates how

a rudderless police service has lost all ability to hold units to account, and underscores the importance of Monday's decision by the Independent Complaints Directorate to conduct a full investigation into the unit.

"Officers committing serious criminal offences must be removed from the SAPS without delay, and the DA reiterates its call for the introduction of a new code of conduct for the VIP unit, to assist in holding its officers to rigorous standards," Kohler-Barnard said.

This week the complaints directorate launched a nationwide investigation into the VIP unit after a Johannesburg motorist was apparently assaulted by members of President Kgalema Motlanthe's protection unit on Saturday.

Tommy Tshabalala, the general manager of investigations at the directorate, who will also lead the investigation into the unit, said the probe should be complete within a month.

Among the issues that would be probed, he said, was the disciplining of the VIP officers.

During the past few years, several motorists have complained of being pushed off the road by VIP unit staff, and their actions have become so rampant that they have been nicknamed the "blue light gang".

Recently, a 28-year-old constable attached to the VIP unit assigned to protect KwaZulu-Natal Social Welfare MEC Meshack Radebe was charged with eight counts of attempted murder after allegedly shooting at the tyres of a vehicle that did not move over fast enough.



THE MERCURY  
Thursday January 8 2009

# 150 parties register for elections

XOLANI MBANJWA  
POLITICAL BUREAU

general elections, according to the IEC.

However, South Africa's political landscape and discourse are still shaped by fewer than five parties and dominated by the ANC, which celebrates its 97th birthday today.

Next week will be dominated by the launches of unknown parties, with the electorate treated to a tapestry of manifestoes and logos, and a cacophony of promises.

Freedom Power promises to change the constitution, offer free university education, bring back the death penalty for certain crimes and send in the army to crime spots.

The party also wants to

push the incompetent Bafana Bafana to the top. Perhaps Freedom Power will appeal to 2010 World Cup enthusiasts.

Congress of the People (COPE) might be challenged by the new kid – The Real Congress – while the African Christian Democratic Party might be rattled by the National Christian Democratic Party.

South Africa's name could be changed because two of the new parties have the name Azania, which so far has been monopolised by Azapo.

The Freedom Front and other minority-defending parties will be joined by the Khoisan Aboriginal and Others Movement.

Radicals could perhaps be encouraged by the People's Revolutionary Congress.

There are also the National Seopesengwe Congress, the African Bond Unity, the Social Democratic Front, and the African Reformative Party.

Some of the newcomers say they will consider entering the elections only at provincial level because of the hefty fee required by the IEC to contest national polls.

The leader of the African Bond Unity, Cheryl Philander, admits to a financial challenge.

"We are financially struggling. We haven't even completed compiling our election manifesto because we need

lawyers to advise us for that. We are launching next week and we hope by then we will have enough funds to know whether we will contest only the Western Cape or the national elections as well," said Philander.

The general secretary of The Real Congress, Buti Msimanga, said it also needed funds to contest at national level.

The interim president of the Azanian Native Socialist Congress, Mzwanele Zulu, said his party would be launching on Saturday.

"At the launch we will announce our manifesto and we will say whether we will

contest provincial or national elections."

In 2004 the IEC charged parties R150 000 to be on the national ballot and R30 000 for each provincial ballot.

IEC spokeswoman Kate Bapela said the fees could increase. Chief electoral officer Pansy Tlakula said the "deposit" served to discourage chancers from contesting in elections they would lose.

"In the interest of democratic elections no one wants a multi-page ballot paper that not only hampers the election processes and makes them much more expensive but – and this more serious – also confuses voters."



# DA musical chairs for leadership posts

DEON DE LANGE  
POLITICAL BUREAU

**D**EMOCRATIC Alliance chief executive officer Ryan Coetzee and the party's Eastern Cape leader, Athol Trollip, have emerged as early front-runners to replace leader of the opposition Sandra Botha when she quits to become an ambassador later this year.

Botha yesterday confirmed she would retire after this year's elections to "pursue opportunities outside party politics".

She declined to comment on a report yesterday that she had been offered a much-sought-after diplomatic posting to the Czech Republic.

*The Mercury* is reliably informed that she has been offered a posting to Prague, becoming the third senior DA leader within 18 months to cross to diplomacy after Douglas Gibson was posted to Thailand.

DA justice spokeswoman Sheila Camerer, one of the longest-serving MPs, will also leave soon – for Bulgaria as ambassador.

Botha says she will remain loyal to the DA.

"My full commitment rests with the DA and ensuring that we achieve every possible success in the next election, after which I intend remaining a loyal member of the party," she said, stressing that she would retain her position until parliament was dissolved for the elections.

DA leader Helen Zille said: "I would have preferred her to stay and I told her so. But I cannot stand in her way if she has other ideas for her career at this stage."

Coetzee and Trollip, both rising stars in the party, are already



COETZEE



TROLLIP

being touted by insiders as the most likely candidates to succeed Botha in this high-profile position – assuming the DA remains the largest opposition party after the elections.

This also assumes that party leader and Cape Town mayor Zille will stay out of the national legislature.

Zille is widely expected to stand as her party's candidate for premier in the Western Cape, where the DA hopes to wrest power from the ANC.

DA labour spokeswoman Anchen Dreyer MP has also been mentioned as a possible contender, but she probably lacks support to take on Coetzee and Trollip.

The highly regarded DA federal deputy chairman, James Selfe, moved quickly yesterday to quash speculation about his own candidacy, saying he would prefer to stick to "mainstream parliamentary politics".

He would prefer not to move from one "exacting position" to another.

Trollip said he had yet to decide whether to stay on as party leader in the Eastern Cape or accept nomination to the DA's list

of potential MPs.

"If the opportunity arises for a coalition government in this province involving the DA, I may consider staying. If not, I will probably go to the National Assembly, in which case I would consider making myself available for any leadership positions."

In 2007 Trollip unsuccessfully challenged Zille for the party leadership when Tony Leon stepped down.

Coetzee also confirmed he would be available for the position, but stressed he was "currently focused on running an election campaign and making sure I get re-elected to parliament" – an obvious requirement to qualify for the position of leader of the opposition.

The emergence of Coetzee and Trollip is further assisted by the fact that nearly half the party's current MPs will not be coming back after the election.

DA federal chairman Joe Seremane is almost certain to retire, and other DA heavyweights, including Tony Leon, Kraai van Niekerk, Camerer, Tertius Delpoort, Eddie Trent and Ryno King, will not return after the polls.





**BLACK POWER:** Members of Black Consciousness Movement organisations have complained about the poor coverage their formations received from the SABC. PHOTO: BAFANA MAHLANGU

## 'SABC will cover all parties'

Ido lekota

The SABC says it will cover all political parties according to the number of their parliamentary seats.

Those who are still to prove themselves at the ballot box would have to generate newsworthy events to get coverage from the public broadcaster.

This is to ensure that there is equitable coverage of all political parties during this year's election, SABC news head Snuki Zikalala said.

Addressing the media at the public broadcaster's launch of its election cover-

age, Zikalala said the SABC was guided by the election legislation on how to equitably cover political parties.

This means the ANC with 297 of the 400 parliamentary seats would be afforded most time while the PAC with one seat will get the least.

He also said that the SABC had appointed an official to deal with complaints from political parties.

Zikalala said the SABC would run special election programmes to ensure that the electorate was informed about the various political parties' policies.

This would include a

weekly debate, which will be hosted by the University of Johannesburg and broadcast live on SABC2 on Sundays from 9pm to 10pm. The first debate will take place on Sunday.

SABC acting chief executive Gab Mampone said the public broadcaster had budgeted R42 million for the coverage of this year's election.

Meanwhile, Zikalala has demanded that the police return the unedited version of the tape they confiscated at an accident scene involving a car in President Kgalema Motlanthe's motorcade.



# Taxman 'in line' for Selebi's position

**Kingdom Mabuza**

The contest for national police commissioner Jackie Selebi's position seems not to be over yet – despite reports that South African Revenue Services' (Sars) Pravin Gordhan has been earmarked for the post.

Selebi was put on special leave last year after he was charged with corruption and defeating the ends of justice.

He allegedly accepted a R1,2 million bribe from murder accused Glenn Agliotti – among other serious allegations.

A highly placed ANC source close to *Sowetan* said yesterday Gordhan was tipped to take over from Selebi. "He is a loyal member of the party and he understands the need for police stability."

Gordhan has been credited with turning Sars into an effective body that hugely improved tax collection.

But another key ANC member has said defence intelligence's Lieutenant-General Mojo Motau is also in the running. Motau is a former head of Umkhonto we Sizwe. He is a well-known Zuma supporter who appeared on the ANC's national executive committee list in Polokwane.

An ANC national executive member was quoted as saying yesterday the debate was now about "how much money Selebi must get to vacate the position".

Safety and Security Minister Nathi Mthethwa said on Talk Radio 702 on Monday he had asked President Kgalema Motlanthe to replace Selebi.

Presidential spokesman Thabo Masebe yesterday said the request for Selebi's removal was "a matter between the minister and the president".

Attempts to contact Selebi were unsuccessful.

## Challenge ANC name-changing fanaticism

The ANC has embarked on a name-change frenzy that borders on schizophrenia.

The irrationality of the choice of new names should be cause for serious concern to people who are not members of the ruling party.

The way the names are imposed should solicit anger among blacks but their acquiescence makes one wonder about their understanding of political processes in a democracy.

One day another party will take over and the names of ANC members, some of whom are or were political hoodlums, will be arbitrarily removed.

My gripe is with Dobsonville residents who failed to stand up for the late Mary Malahlela – the first black woman medical doctor, who spent her entire career loyally serving residents of the township.

Besides a primary school, nothing in and around Dobsonville is named after her, not even the clinic where she worked for so many years.

Instead, Braam Fischer and Joe Slovo are honoured in new townships in the area. I suspect Discoverers Hospital in Florida will soon undergo a name change, though I notice that the zealotry of the name-change brigade is diluted where white interests are concerned.

I challenge Dobsonville residents to campaign to change the hospital to the Dr Mary Malahlela Hospital or demand that it changes Braamfischerville to honour this great woman.

**Maswabi Legwale, Soweto**



# Motlanthe's guards probed

Kingdom Mabuza

The independent complaints directorate says it has powers to initiate an investigation without a complaint.

And it's doing just that in the case involving the presidential VIP protection unit and a motorist who was allegedly shot at after he failed to give way to the flashing blue lights at the weekend.

Members of the VIP protection unit were escorting President Kgalema Motlanthe on the N12 when an allegedly drunk and defiant motorist drove close to the convoy and collided with one of the vehicles.

"We will interview the motorist and members of the protection unit," ICD spokesman Tommy Tshabalala said. "We have information that a shot was fired. We cannot ignore the incident since it was in the media.

"Remember that we have powers to initiate an investigation without somebody lodging a complaint with us. We are investigating allegations of misconduct or criminality."

Members of the unit allegedly confiscated footage captured by SABC journalists who were on the scene. Tshabalala said the investigation would be concluded within two weeks' time.

Police spokesman Sally de Beer said an investigation was under way with a view to instituting criminal charges against the driver of the red car and finding out if police acted within their mandate.

# 'Politics has become dangerous'

Riot Hlatshwayo

Sizile Ndlovu, chairman of Cope in Mpumalanga, has survived two attempts on his life.

Now he says the province has turned into a battlefield, where politicians are killed "Mafia-style".

Ndlovu says the killing on Sunday of Jimmy Mohlala, speaker of the embattled Mbombela municipality, was a political assassination because he differed with ANC colleagues.

Ndlovu was the ANC's Bohlabela regional secretary between 2004 and 2006.

"We should remember the Mafia-style in which Govan Mbeki municipality deputy mayor Thandi Mtsweni was killed, the shooting at my home with AK-47 assault rifles in 2006 and now the killing of Jimmy Mohlala," Ndlovu said yesterday.

Assailants shot at Ndlovu at an ANC meeting in Cottendale on July 14 2006

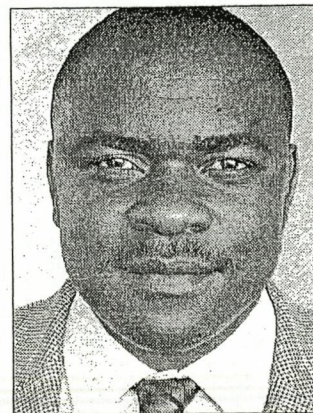
but missed, according to the docket at the Mhala police station.

He said he was expelled from the ANC a few days later for blowing the whistle on the party's corrupt councillors in the Bohlabela district.

Ndlovu's house in Orinoco village near Thulamahashe was sprayed with AK-47 bullets on July 17 2006.

"But the case did not go far because some politicians in the province work hand in hand with top police officers," he said.

The survivor of Mpumalanga's political mayhem also referred to an incident in which Caswell Maluleke, then mayor of Bohlabela and now speaker of the Ehlanzeni district in Nelspruit, was shot 15 times in April 2000.



SURVIVOR: Sizile Ndlovu

Limpopo's then police spokesman Director Phuti Setati refused to link Maluleke's shooting to politics, saying "we can't speculate".

Ndlovu said unless police improved their efforts to protect politicians in Mpumalanga, "we will all be finished through the barrel of a gun".

Though suspects had been arrested in some of the shootings they were acquitted or had their cases withdrawn.

"Corruption and the assassination of people are the order of the day in this province," Ndlovu said. "I was expelled from the ANC for blowing the whistle on corruption."

Mohlala will be buried in KaNyamazane on Sunday.



# 'SEX PEST' IN COURT, SUSPENDED BY PARTY

Ido Lekota

Terry Oliphant, the Beaufort West, Northern Cape, social welfare official accused of molesting young girls and filming himself while having sex with one of them, appeared in court yesterday.

Oliphant faces a charge of statutory rape. His case was postponed to March 2 for further investigation. He is currently out on bail.

His court appearance came after the SABC's current affairs programme *Special Assignment* broadcast a show on Tuesday in which Oliphant was accused of abusing several young girls.

The programme also showed

## Filmed himself in sex with girl

how Oliphant made videos of himself having sex with under-aged girls, including a 15-year-old.

The Film and Publications Board has said it would ensure that Oliphant faced further charges, including the making and possession of child pornography.

Yesterday, the Beaufort West prosecutor's office said Oliphant could only be prosecuted on further charges if there were police dockets for such cases.

*Special Assignment* said one of the girls had laid a charge of statu-

tory rape against him, yet he remained in his job at the SA Social Security Agency (Sassa). The ministry of social welfare yesterday said Oliphant had been on suspension since October 21.

"The man is currently on suspension and there is a disciplinary process parallel to the criminal investigation. The region in which he works has been directed to fast track the disciplinary process," Sassa chief executive officer Fezile Makiwane said in a statement.

In the statement, Social Devel-

opment Minister Zola Skweyiya described Oliphant's alleged behaviour as "outrageous, despicable and totally unacceptable".

"We cannot have our own staff violating children. While everyone has a right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, we view the allegations in a very serious light, hence the suspension and disciplinary hearing."

Meanwhile, the Congress of the People has suspended Oliphant, the party's local organiser.

"Cope views [his] alleged conduct as depicted in the report as abhorrent ... and a crude abuse of power," Cope spokesman Palesa Morudu said yesterday.



The Star THURSDAY JANUARY 8 2009

# DA urges immediate removal of incompetent ministers

The Democratic Alliance has called on the ANC to fire five cabinet ministers, including Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, ahead of this year's national elections.

The chief opposition party said yesterday Dlamini-Zuma must go because she carried responsibility for "the backing South Africa has given to dictators and oppressors across the world".

The DA was reacting to a statement by ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe on Tuesday that if the ruling party won the upcoming elections, its new policy institute, and not the president, would monitor the performance of ministers and that incompetent ones would be sacked.

"President Kgalema Motlanthe does not need to wait until after the

election before he removes ministers who are not doing their jobs," DA chief whip Ian Davidson said in a statement.

"If he does not do this now, then the ANC cannot expect anyone to take its promise of good government seriously."

The party said the minister in the Presidency, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, Land and Agriculture

Minister Lulu Xingwana, Trade and Industry Minister Mandisi Mpahlwa and Home Affairs Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula also deserved the boot.

Mpahlwa had "all but ignored his ministry's role in driving job creation and growth", while Mapisa-Nqakula had left South Africans despairing "over ever getting the documents they need".

The DA said Tshabalala-Msimang deserved to be fired for "her catastrophic reign in the Health Department", which ended when Motlanthe replaced her with Barbara Hogan in September.

It claimed that Xingwana's management of the Land Bank had damaged South Africa's land reform programme irredeemably.

- Sapa



# Front-runners for top DA post identified

Botha to pursue new role as ambassador

BY DEON DE LANGE

**D**emocratic Alliance CEO Ryan Coetzee and the party's Eastern Cape leader Athol Trollip have emerged as front-runners to replace DA MP and leader of the opposition Sandra Botha when she quits and becomes an ambassador later this year.

Botha yesterday confirmed that she will retire after this year's elections to pursue opportunities outside party politics.

She declined to comment over *The Star's* report yesterday that she has been offered a much sought-after diplomatic posting to the Czech Republic.

*The Star* was reliably informed that she has been offered a post-

ing to Prague, becoming the third senior DA leader within 18 months to cross to diplomacy, after Douglas Gibson was posted to Thailand.

The DA's justice spokesperson and one of the longest-serving MPs, Sheila Camerer, will be leaving for Bulgaria as ambassador.

Botha said she would

remain loyal to the DA.

"My full commitment rests with the DA and ensuring that we achieve every possible success in the next election, after which I intend remaining a loyal member of the party," she said, stressing that she would retain her current position until parliament is dissolved for the elections.

DA leader Helen Zille said: "I would have preferred her to stay. But I cannot stand in her way if she has other ideas for her career at this stage."

Coetzee and Trollip, both rising stars in the party, are being touted by insiders as the most likely candidates to suc-

ceed Botha in this high-profile position - assuming the DA remains the largest opposition party after

**Zille set to stand  
as party premier  
in Western Cape**

the elections.

This also assumes that party leader and Cape Town mayor Zille will stick to her guns on staying out of the national legislature.

Zille is widely expected to stand as her party's candidate for premier in the Western Cape, where the DA hopes to wrest power from the ANC,



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either alone or in coalition with other opposition parties, after the elections.

DA MP and labour spokesperson Anchen Dreyer has also been mentioned as a possible contender, but she probably lacks enough support among her caucus colleagues to take on Coetzee and Trollip.

The highly regarded DA federal deputy chairperson, James Selfe, yesterday moved

quickly to squash speculation about his own candidacy, saying he would prefer to stick to "mainstream parliamentary politics" if he was asked to serve in the next parliament.

Approached for comment yesterday, Trollip said he had yet to decide whether to stay on as party leader in the Eastern Cape or accept nomination to the DA's list of potential MPs.

The party's list process,

whereby its candidates for the national and provincial ballot will be determined and prioritised, is currently under way.

"If the opportunity arises for a coalition government in this province involving the DA, I may consider staying. If not, I will probably go to the National Assembly, in which case I would consider making myself available for any leadership positions within the caucus."

Trollip unsuccessfully challenged Zille for the party leadership when Tony Leon stepped down in 2007.

Coetzee yesterday also confirmed he would be available for the position, but stressed he was "focused on running an election campaign and making sure I get re-elected to parliament" – an obvious requirement to qualify for the position of leader of the opposition.

The emergence of Coetzee and Trollip is further assisted by the fact that nearly half the party's current MPs will not be coming back after the election.

DA federal chairperson Joe Seremane is almost certain to retire and other DA heavyweights, including Leon, Kraai van Niekerk, Camerer, Tertius Delport, Eddie Trent and Ryno King, will not be returning.

► See Page 7



# 'Race not answer in unequal society'

BY SIYABONGA MKHWANAZI

The SA Institute of Race Relations has backed COPE's proposal that race should not determine economic empowerment and affirmative action policies.

The think-tank said yesterday that continued implementation of affirmative action in the workplace would not attain the desired results, but would create an unequal society which would benefit a handful of the historical white elite and the new black elite.

This would disadvantage the poor across all racial lines, argued the institute's deputy CEO, Frans Cronje.

The SAIRR also pointed out that the failure of the education system to produce highly skilled graduates for the labour market had led to racial inequalities of a far greater scale than racism or racial discrimination in the workplace.

Cronje said information published by the institute "revealed that almost half of all pupils dropped out of the school system while less than half of all university entrants graduated".

"In such an environment, no amount of affirmative action is going to improve standards of living, but will simply serve to preserve the positions of the small black elite which has now joined the historical white elite."

The only plausible way out to improve living standards was not through affirmative action policy, but an improved education system.

"Equality in education would make affirmative action obsolete by simple weight of numbers and the requirements of a growing economy, and black South Africans would inevitably find themselves in senior professional positions.

In the build-up to the launch of COPE last month, party leader Mosiuoa Lekota called for the scrapping of affirmative action.

## Minister in call to Motlanthe on Selebi

Safety and Security Minister Nathi Mthethwa has requested President Kgalema Motlanthe to replace suspended National Police Commissioner Jackie Selebi.

"The minister has made a representation to the president, putting the facts in terms of making sure that a new permanent commissioner takes over, to make sure there is control of the South African Police Force," said Mthethwa's spokesperson, Hangwani Mulaudzi.

This comes after Mthethwa hinted earlier that he believed it was time for Selebi, who is facing charges of corruption and defeating the ends of justice, to leave the police force.

Selebi will go on trial in the Johannesburg High Court on April 14 on charges relating to payments of about R1,2-million to him.

Selebi was suspended in January 2008, when he also quit as head of Interpol.

AfriForum CEO Kallie Kriel yesterday said he supported Mthethwa's call for the appointment of a permanent police commissioner, even if Selebi was found not guilty on the charges against him.

The South African Police Union yesterday, however, questioned the motives of those calling for the speedy appointment of a new police boss.

"The position of the national police commissioner is an administrative job ... We fail to understand why politicians are so desperate ... Maybe it is because of the elections," the union said in a statement. - Sapa



# Social grants official accused of statutory rape is COPE member

ANC spokesperson Garth Strachan says there is no record of social grants officer Terry Oliphant, who has been charged with statutory rape, ever being a member of the party.

Oliphant, who was recently exposed on SABC3's *Special Assignment* programme as allegedly being involved in statutory rape, was more recently a member of the Congress of the People.

COPE spokesperson Palesa Morudu said Oliphant was an ordinary member and that the alleged offences were committed three years ago, when he was still a member of the ANC.

Oliphant was suspended from his job yesterday and appeared in the Beaufort West Magistrate's Court on a charge of statutory rape, officials said.

"He has been charged with statutory rape, but he hasn't

pleaded yet. That will happen at the start of his trial," said police spokesperson Captain Malcolm Pojie.

Oliphant's court appearance came less than a day after *Special Assignment* revealed his alleged sexual assault of girls in Beaufort West.

The programme showed how Oliphant made videos of himself having sex with under-aged girls, including a 15-year-old.

Morudu said Oliphant had been suspended from COPE.

"COPE views his alleged conduct as depicted in the report as abhorrent ... and a crude abuse of power," Morudu said.

"COPE will immediately suspend his membership to the party and also institute a disciplinary process."

Strachan said the ANC condemned such behaviour and

urged that the full might of the law take its course.

*Special Assignment* reported that he remained in his job at the SA Social Security Agency (SASSA) despite the charge against him.

But Social Services Minister Zola Skweyiya said yesterday morning that Oliphant had been suspended and that disciplinary action would follow.

Skweyiya described his alleged behaviour as "outrageous, despicable and totally unacceptable".

"The very essence of SASSA and the Department of Social Development is to protect and assist the most vulnerable members of our society. We can't have our own staff members violating children," said Skweyiya.

Oliphant's case was postponed until March 2. - Sapa

## PAC wants equal representation in naming game

Helen Suzman was a brave woman, but the Marks Building at parliament should not be renamed after her, the Pan Africanist Congress has said.

"The Marks Building must be renamed the Sharpeville Building, if it must be renamed," PAC MP Motsoko Pheko said in a statement yesterday.

"I respect Mrs Helen Suzman. She was a brave person (who) deserves to be honoured, but this must apply to PAC leaders such as Mangaliso Sobukwe, Zeph Mothopeng, Jeff Masemola and Nyati Pokela, who have been ignored."

On Tuesday, the Democratic Alliance said parliament's Marks

Building, long the home of opposition parties within the parliamentary complex in Cape Town, should be renamed the Helen Suzman Building. It would be an "appropriate way to commemorate publicly her contribution towards building a non-racial society based on constitutional democracy", said DA leader Helen Zille.

Apartheid critic Suzman died last week at the age of 91.

Pheko said some people had been honoured for their role in the country's liberation struggle and some had been "over-honoured" at the expense of others.

"For instance, PAC leaders and martyrs have been treated as if

they never existed. It must not be forgotten it was the blood of PAC martyrs that was spilt in Sharpeville and Langa on March 21 1960 that made today's parliament."

Pheko said that with "due respect" to the DA's suggestion, it was "the blood of the masses of this country who watered the tree of freedom".

Honouring the country's people must be devoid of sectarianism, he added. "Otherwise we'll have a situation such as in Russia where St Petersburg was renamed Leningrad after the overthrow of the tsars, but again renamed St Petersburg after the overthrow of the communist regime." - Sapa



## Botha sad to hang up gloves

STAFF REPORTER

DEMOCRATIC Alliance MP Sandra Botha will miss her role as opposition leader in parliament.

The DA leader in the National Assembly is to resign her seat to take up an ambassadorial post in eastern Europe.

"I have had a wonderful time in parliament and I am glad that I was involved during such exciting times," she said.

She would not discuss the details of her new post, saying it had not been finalised.

Although it has been suggested that Botha is likely to take up the post months before the general elections, she said she hoped she would be able to "complete the DA's work" before she leaves.

She was involved in the selection of candidates for the DA's list of prospective MPs, she said.

"I am confident that, for the first time, we actually have a very solid team that will take the party forward and make valuable contributions in parliament."

Botha said the DA was optimistic that its support had increased, despite the formation of ANC breakaway party the Congress of the People.

"Our support base has grown so much and it is impressive how well the party has done in growing the numbers," Botha said.

"I do not believe that Cope will have an impact on us. They will have an impact on the ANC."

The DA is tipped to take control of the Western Cape, where infighting has eroded the ANC's support base.



# Cope suspends sex-abuse accused

SALLY EVANS

ANOTHER high-powered politician has been implicated in a sexual abuse scandal in Beaufort West.

Terry Oliphant, a social grants officer in the Beaufort West Municipality and Congress of the People member, was yesterday suspended by the party.

This after the SABC's *Special Assignment* investigative programme reported that he "grooms minors for sex and makes videos of himself having sex with them".

The programme showed clips of

## Social grants officer exposed on TV

Oliphant having sex with a girl, alleged to be 15 at the time. She charged him with statutory rape last year.

The party's Palesa Morudu said it was regrettable that the programme's producers ran the "sensational promo effectively linking Cope to these alleged sexual crimes, without affording us an opportunity for comment" — but confirmed Cope had suspended Oliphant. The party was also quick

to point out that Oliphant had been a member of the ANC at the time of the incident, although the ANC say they have no record of his membership.

"Cope will also institute a disciplinary process," said Morudu.

*Special Assignment* took Oliphant's employer, the South African Social Security Agency, to task, saying it "employs the alleged rapist and did not suspend him from his position."

The agency's chief executive officer, Fezile Makiwane, responded yesterday that Oliphant had, in fact, been suspended.

"The disciplinary process is in process [sic] alongside the criminal investigation. The region in which he works has been directed to fast-track the disciplinary process. [Social Services Minister Zola Skweyiya] is outraged and has instructed us to finalise the matter without delay," Makiwane said.

Oliphant made his second appearance in the Beaufort West Magistrate's Court yesterday morning,

confirmed his lawyer Willem Wagener.

"The charge against him [Oliphant] is of statutory rape. These charges came up recently, in November or December 2008. We are waiting for a decision from the director of public prosecutions to see if they want to proceed with the matter or not."

Controversial mayor of the Central Karoo District municipality in the town, Truman Prince, was accused of soliciting sex from underage girls in 2005 and suspended by the ANC in 2006.



The Times Thursday January 8 | 2009

# Life and soul to snub the party?

MAYIBONGWE MAQHINA  
and DOMINIC MAHLANGU

FORMER presidents Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki might snub the ANC's 97th anniversary celebrations this weekend.

The party will also use this weekend's festivities in East London to launch its election manifesto on Saturday.

Though the ANC said yesterday that Mandela would be addressing the gathering by way of a pre-recorded message, and that Mbeki had been invited to attend, it has emerged that neither man has committed to doing either.

With just three days to go before the party's biggest and most important rally this year, organisers

were still scrambling to secure Mandela's commitment to be a speaker.

Although national executive committee member Fikile Mbalula told a press conference in East London that Mandela would address the rally, Mandela's spokesman has denied this.

Mbalula said: "We expect him [Mandela] to deliver a message of support ... either by video or by communicating the message to the organisation. As the former president and as a disciplined member of the ANC this is one of the things that we've got to expect."

But Nelson Mandela Foundation chief executive officer Achmat Dan-

gor said Mandela had not yet committed himself to addressing the ANC gathering. "This is still under discussion," he said.

## 'We expect Mandela to deliver a message of support'

With regard to Mbeki, ANC spokesman Carl Nelhaus said: "There is absolutely no indication of him [Mbeki] attending."

A senior ANC member told *The Times* that Mbeki's absence would not be unexpected: "It is clear that

he is not part of the movement any more. Last year while in office he snubbed the event and instead called a press conference to make an announcement about Jackie Selebi. We are not really worried about him any more."

Another ANC official told *The Times* that Mbeki's absence would be "a blessing for the party".

"Even if he comes, what is he going to say or add to our programme? He has refused to campaign for the movement and I don't think we really miss him."

Speaking at the same press conference yesterday, NEC member Jeff Radebe said the party had sent

invitations to its two living former national presidents — Mandela and Mbeki.

But Mbeki's spokesman, Mukoni Ratshitanga, said he knew nothing about the ANC's invitation and referred queries to the party's headquarters at Luthuli House.

"If they did [invite Mbeki], I don't know about it and I can't confirm it at the moment," Ratshitanga said.

The latest row comes three months after Mbeki wrote to ANC president Jacob Zuma, asking that the party not use his name in its election campaign.

Mbeki's request was made after the ANC announced that he would play a role in electioneering — without asking him first.

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# Wild weekend party time for ANC

MSIMELELO NJWABANE

THE ANC is planning a massive celebration at East London's Regent Hotel tomorrow. And about 2 500 people are expected to attend the launch of the party's election manifesto on Saturday, which coincides with the party's 97th anniversary.

Jeff Radebe, who is head of ANC policy, said tomorrow's bash would be used to reveal its

campaign song, which has been composed and produced by Sello "Chicco" Twala, one of South Africa's leading music producers.

ANC campaign manager and former ANC Youth League leader Fikile Mbalula said: "This will be a spectacular. Brace yourself for some bumper-to-bumper razzmatazz."

One of the people funding tomorrow's ANC party is boxing promoter Branco Milenkovic, who has also funded tomorrow's event at the Regent Hotel.

"My involvement in sponsoring the event is ... because I have received tremendous support from the government in this province with my boxing tournaments," said Milenkovic.

"Politics is very much like boxing in a way, because when two men enter the ring one man will remain standing and the other one will be knocked down," he said.

Mbalula took a dig at the Congress of the People's attempts to woo voters in Eastern Cape.

"The support of the ANC in this province

is unchanged. People have come in their numbers in terms of events and in defence of their only organisation," he said.

"This week alone, we had more than 7 000 members in the area of Mbashe who all crossed to the ANC from the United Democratic Movement,"

Mbalula said.

According to Radebe, there will also be a business function tonight.

He said this, and the national manifesto rally that will take place on Saturday at the EPRU stadium, were not the only activities

planned for this weekend.

"It is expected that the ANC provinces will hold their own manifesto rallies.

"This is not the only big-bang of the ANC. You are going to see a lot of action moving towards [this year's general] elections," he said.

Several sources said the ANC multi-media campaign is the biggest ever for any election they have ever had.

The contract for the campaign is said to be worth millions.

'This will be a  
spectacular. Brace  
yourself for  
razzmatazz'



# Foreigners will defend themselves

But community says attacks sparked by crime concerns, not xenophobia

NIVASHNI NAIR

FOREIGN nationals who were attacked by a mob of South Africans in Durban at the weekend have warned that they will retaliate if they are attacked again.

This is despite a community meeting — attended by foreigners and local residents on Tuesday night — at which it was agreed that the attack was not xenophobia, but an act of vigilantism triggered by concerns about crime.

On Sunday, two foreign nationals died when about 20 South African men and women forced their way into a building in the city centre in which Tanzanians, Mozambicans and Zimbabweans were living.

Zimbabwean Victor Zowa, 24, and Tanzanian Omar Said, 25, jumped from the building, fearing that they would be beaten by the mob. Zowa died at the scene. Said died later in hospital. Zimbabwean Eugene Madondo, 23, who jumped from the third floor, is in a critical condition in hospital.

Local ward councillor Vusi Khoza said the mob stormed into the building because they believed that those living there were responsible for the increase in crime in the area.

Yesterday, however, the chairman of the Tanzanian community forum, Bonta Sarim, told *The Times* that though the meeting resolved that the attack was an act of vigilantism, the foreign nationals are convinced that the attack was the product of xenophobia.

"Why did they come to us and specifically target us? Are South

Africans not criminals? If they think that foreigners are the only criminals in the country, is that not xenophobia?"

Sarim, who represents the foreign nationals living in the area surrounding Albert Park, said his community will not retaliate, but will fight back if they are attacked again.

He said: "How many more times must this happen to foreigners? I have lived in this country for 15 years. I have a South African wife and children born here. This is my home and I will fight back."

"We are warning the local community that if they think about doing this again, we will seek revenge because we have lost another two brothers this week."

Sarim said foreign nationals still fear

for their lives after last year's wave of xenophobic attacks, which claimed 60 lives countrywide.

He added that tensions had eased in the neighbourhood since the community meeting.

Police spokesman Superintendent Vincent Mdunge said the situation had stabilised. No arrests have yet been made.

Durban city manager Michael Sutcliffe said: "Parties clearly agree it has to do with crime and what is happening in that area. The fact that we have been squeezing out landlords who own buildings which become havens for crime ... has a lot to do with this matter."

Sutcliffe said about 40 dilapidated buildings in the Durban CBD housing foreigners and some South Africans had been declared uninhabitable.

**'Why did they come to us and specifically target us?'**



# Selebi axing would have same blueprint as Zuma's

WORDS are not just words; they carry bigger meanings.

I listened on radio while the safety and security minister, Nathi Mthethwa, announced that he had submitted a letter to President Kgalema Motlanthe ordering that the suspended police commissioner Jackie Selebi should be fired.

I wonder how Mthethwa's decision to decide to fire Selebi is considered strategically and ideologically different from Mbeki's decision to fire Jacob Zuma due to his corrupt relationship with Schabir Shaik.

To my recollection, Selebi has famously said that Agliotti was his friend "finish and *klaar*" and Zuma has famously said that he is "innocent until proven guilty".

Words, as we know, do carry bigger meanings.

I suppose the safety and security minister should be reminded that everyone is entitled to a free and fair trial, and that all citizens are equal



IN THE FIRING LINE: National Police Commissioner Jackie Selebi faces the axe from his position for corruption  
Picture: Simon Mathebula

before the law. Selebi's matter in this instance is no different.

This is the part that the ANC is still failing on: that of talking the talk but not

walking the walk.

Since Mthethwa has also now admitted the existence of our worst fears regarding the SAPS, he should show his total

commitment to the reinstatement of the Scorpions to safeguard the country's laws. — Moletsane Malebo, by e-mail

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