

THE NATAL WITNESS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2002

*As KZN coalition falters, IFP told to say whether it wants
to stay in national govt*

ANC's ultimatum to IFP

THE coalition governing KwaZulu-Natal edged a step closer to breaking point yesterday with the African National Congress (ANC) throwing down the gauntlet to the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), demanding that it decide whether it wants to continue participating in national government.

This followed what the ANC called "threats" by the IFP that it will not be part of any government led by the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal "should the majority of members of [the provincial legislature] vote for an ANC government".

The growing differences between the partners are directly related to the floor-crossing legislation, which has been put on hold by a United Democratic Movement court challenge. The ANC plans to use the legislation, if passed, to take control of the KwaZulu-Natal government.

The ANC upped the stakes yesterday by challenging the IFP to say whether it will continue participating in the ANC-controlled national government.

While noting that it is the IFP's place to decide its own political future and fate, the ANC said is in the public interest that the IFP responds before its national conference this weekend.

If the IFP withdraws from government, it will have to forfeit three ministerial positions and one deputy ministerial position. It will also have to recall its diplomats, including former KwaZulu-Natal premier Frank Mdlalose and Vincent Zulu.

Provincial ANC secretary Sipho Gcabashe accused the IFP of having "always committed itself in words rather than deeds to a broad-based inclusive government".

These developments come ahead of this weekend's meeting of the IFP's highest decision-making body, its national conference, which meets only once a year.

IFP spokesman Musa Zondi said it is not for the ANC "to determine our agenda".

He said the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal is exceeding its jurisdiction and he does not understand why they are linking the situation in the province with the agreement at national level.

He accused the provincial ANC of using the floor-crossing legislation to stab the IFP in the back. The IFP has not made threats but has decided to "step aside" when the defection legislation takes effect in the province, because "we do not agree with the way it was done".

"It is not a threat. We are exercising our democratic right. It is a

decision we have taken to call this defection legislation fraudulent.

"We cannot contradict ourselves. If [KZN ANC chairman] S'bu Ndebele proceeds with his scheme, we will withdraw from cabinet.

"He will have become premier under immoral circumstances. Apartheid was immoral and was also backed by law," Zondi said.

— Business Day.

Consultant says expensive and lazy generals must go

Struggling SANDF is 'top-heavy'

SOMEONE should have the courage of their convictions and kick out some of the generals of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), because they are too expensive, too fat and too unfit.

This is the opinion of Helmoed-Romer Heitman, a defence consultant, on reports that the SANDF's reserve force and commandos are irrevocably weakened because of a lack of funds.

"Taking such steps won't be enough, but it will be a start. The defence force should also urgently revise its administration, as it is too cumbersome and expensive.

"A lack of money is the biggest

stumbling block facing the SANDF. Another problem is that we have too many people who can't be deployed in emergency situations. Someone should have the guts to say what the defence force can do with the funds available."

He says the problem lies not only with the permanent force,

Defence minister: HIV/Aids rate in military 'not more than' 23%

JOHANNESBURG — Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota yesterday told a press conference in Johannesburg the HIV/Aids infection rate in the SA National Defence Force is "not more than 23%".

but also with generals in the reserve force who are all talk and no show.

"The commandos are relatively okay, but the reserve force is depleted. Most units have virtually no troops, and even if they can recruit new troops, they have no money to train them."

He says a system should be

He was was responding to recent reports that the rate is in fact 60%.

In 1999 Lekota said the figure was 17% — based on a sample of troops deployed for Exercise Blue Crane, a multinational

developed to train and retain reservists. "The reserve force has no conditions of employment. Developing nations spend up to two percent of their gross national product on defence, but in South Africa it's much less," Heitman says.

He doesn't think shrinking the force is the answer, because

Southern African Development Community training event.

Lekota said the new figure is representative of the entire military and based on the screening of all recent recruits and existing SANDF members. — Sapa.

there are already too few troops for the country's internal defence and protection.

"And what about defending the region? Money budgeted for training should actually be used for training. The defence budget should be better managed. Money budgeted for one programme is too often transferred to another."

Willem Steenkamp, a military observer, agrees that the practice of "robbing Peter to pay Paul" is one of the main reasons why the reserve force especially is suffering.

"It's an unhealthy principle inherited from the previous dispensation. When forces are deployed in a specific area, money is borrowed from the defence budget instead of having funds allocated for these specific exercises. The principle should be that 'the consumer pays,' he says.

He adds that the reserve force is temporarily in a weak condition. But it hasn't crumbled, its structure still stands. He believes restructuring the defence force at the top level would certainly help.

"There's no shortage of potential recruits, but we have a shortage of funds to recruit and train

them. Since the '90s the SANDF budget has been cut in real terms, but expenses have increased."

Steenkamp agrees with Heitman that top management and the administration could be cropped. "Maybe we should focus on the future task of the defence force operates and not on how much money we have. Thus far, planning has always centred round how much money we have and little attention has been given to long-term planning," Steenkamp said

— Own Correspondent.

Health MEC's statement on KZN's R600-million grant leaves concerns unanswered

Confusion over UN Aids funding

GOVERNMENT moved yesterday to allay fears that it is blocking a R600 million grant to KwaZulu-Natal from a United Nations Aids fund, but a statement issued after a meeting between provincial Health MEC Zweli Mkhize and Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang appeared to have the opposite effect.

The meeting followed threats of legal action after reports that national government was blocking the funds. Mkhize said he and Tsha-

balala-Msimang agreed the money will be pooled under the SA National Aids Council and be used "in a manner that will benefit all the provinces equitably and within programmes contained within the proposals submitted to the global fund".

Observers said this raises questions about whether the UN Global Fund to Fight Aids, TB and Malaria will release the money, given that grants are approved by the fund on a project-specific basis.

The fund's programme manager,

Mazuwa Banda, said in a recent interview that funds approved for KwaZulu-Natal cannot be redirected, because approval is project-specific. Unlike national government's project proposals, which focus on HIV prevention, the KwaZulu-Natal projects include treatment programmes.

Democratic Alliance health spokesman Mike Ellis said nothing in the statement indicates whether the government intends to siphon off KwaZulu-Natal's award for use in

other parts of the country or not.

The statement was clearly intended to put paid to speculation that the funds earmarked for KZN are being blocked by the national Health Department, but has apparently achieved the opposite effect.

Last year, a KwaZulu-Natal bid team applied directly to the United Nations Global Fund to Fight Aids, TB and Malaria. According to the fund's rules, it should have first sought the approval of SA's "country co-ordinating mechanism", the SA

National Aids Council (Sanac). The fund approved the province's proposal, subject to the provincial body being recognised by Sanac. It also approved government's bid, awarding it R950 million.

Mark Heywood, of the Treatment Action Campaign, which was behind the threats of legal action over the blocking of the funds, said he believes KwaZulu-Natal has bowed to pressure from the Health Department and surrendered its award.

— Business Day.

THE MERCURY
Wednesday, July 17, 2002

Youth groups call on Mandela to support former wife

PRETORIA - Former president Nelson Mandela should "return South Africa" and give his ex-wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela the necessary support during her fraud and theft trial, youth leaders said yesterday. "Despite their differences, it is one that comrade Madiba could be behind the mother of his children," Congress of SA students president Julius Mameza told reporters outside the Pretoria Regional Court.

Like that of the African National Congress, Mandela's

absence from court created the impression that they thought her guilty, even before the court had made a judgment, Mameza said.

SA Students' Congress deputy president Buti Manamela called on other youth organisations, including the ANC Youth League, to rally behind Madikizela-Mandela as well.

"We recognise her contributions," said Siphwe Zuma, president of the SA Universities' Student Representative Council. "She remains a role model."

Madikizela-Mandela and broker Addy Moolman have pleaded not guilty on 60 charges of fraud and 26 of theft, totalling R942 360.

The state alleges letters with the ANC Women's League letterhead and Madikizela-Mandela's signature were used to fraudulently obtain loans from Saambou Bank in the names of bogus league employees.

The theft charges relate to amounts of R360 which were deducted from loan applicants' bank accounts for a funeral poli-

cy that allegedly did not exist.

Madikizela-Mandela's secretary, Eunice Martins, yesterday testified that she was not sure whether the signatures on any of the exhibits before court - including letters accompanying the alleged fraudulent loan applications - were her employer's.

Martins earlier testified that Moolman had ordered her to type letters on the ANCWL letterheads, stating that certain people were league employees, while they were not.

Madikizela-Mandela had ordered her to comply with these instructions, Martins said.

According to the charge sheet, Saambou Bank agreed to extend loans to people who had been employed by the league for at least one year and who earned more than R750 a month.

Those who applied for Saambou loans brokered by Moolman also included Madikizela-Mandela's former security guard and personal banker.

Andile Ntabeni testified he was responsible for Madikizela-

Mandela's personal security between 1985 and 1990.

In 2000 his clothing business experienced financial problems and he approached her through a middleman for a loan.

He was referred to Moolman who helped him to apply for a Saambou loan.

Ntabeni said he knew nothing of a letter accompanying the loan application form stating that he was employed by the ANCWL.

The trial continues today. - Sapa

Beeld, Woensdag 17 Julie 2002

ANC daag IVP uit oor KZN-alliansie

Op die vooraand van die IVP se nasionale konferensie het die KwaZulu-Natalse ANC 'n uitdaging gerig aan die IVP oor die voortsetting van dié twee partye se alliansie.

Mnr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leier van die IVP, sal na verwagting Saterdag duidelikhed gee oor hoe die IVP die situasie in KwaZulu-Natal sal hanteer.

Vanwee die toelating van oorloper tussen partye sonder setelverlies is dié provinsie tegnies gesproke volledig in beheer van die ANC. Amptelik word die provinsie steeds deur 'n alliansie tussen die ANC en die IVP regeer.

In die lig van IVP-uitprake dat die IVP nie sal dien in 'n provinsiale regering onder leiding van die ANC nie, het mnr. Siphoswe Gcabashe, provinsiale ANC-sekretaris, gister namens die ANC in KwaZulu-Natal twee eise aan die IVP gestel.

Die IVP moet voor die nasionale konferensie verklaar of die party nog op nasionale vlak lede in die uitvoerende gesag wil hê en ook of IVP lede onttrek sal word wat poste in buitelandse missies het.

Die IVP beoog glo om 'n kompromiskandidaat in die plek van mnr. Lionel Mtshali voor te stel. Dit sal glo mnr. Musa Zondi wees, wat onlangs verkies is tot provinsiale leier van die IVP.

- Christl van der Westhuizen

Vigsgeld vir KZN nou na al 9 provinsies

Antoinette Pienaar

KwaZulu-Natal gaan 'n groot deel van die \$72 miljoen (sowat R727 miljoen) verloor wat die wêreldfonds vir MIV/vigs, malaria en tuberkulose (WF) aan hom toegeken het, nadat die regering besluit het om dié geld onder al nege provinsies te verdeel.

Dit is onduidelik of die WF bereid is om die skenking uit te betaal as die geld elders gebruik word.

KwaZulu-Natal se gesondheidsoewerheid het gister gesê hy het op 'n vergadering in Durban met dr. Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, minister van gesondheid, ooreengekom dat die WF-geld deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Vigsgesondheidsraad (SAVR) gelyk onder die provinsies verdeel sal word.

Dit sluit ook sowat \$93 miljoen (sowat R940 miljoen) in wat die WF aan die nasionale regering toegeken het.

Die minister was glo ontevrede omdat KZN regstreeks by die WF aansoek gedoen het om die pleks van om deur die SAVR te werk.

Die fonds was bereid om die KZN-toekenning uit te betaal op voorwaarde dat die SAVR die voorlegging steun.

Mnr. Mark Heywood van die Treatment Action Campaign het gesê sy "ergste vrese het waar geword".

Hy meen KZN het "teruggestaan" omdat hy deur Tshabalala-Msimang "geterroriseer" is.

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