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ANC ‘willing to renegotiate’ KwaZulu

Farouk Chothia

BURLING — The African National Congress (ANC) in KwaZulu-Natal was willing to renegotiate a provincial constitution with the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) as a precursor to the two parties drafting a single candidates list for next year’s election, ANC sources said yesterday.

The sources said the decision was taken by the ANC KwaZulu-Natal provincial working committee, led by party deputy president Jacob Zuma, at a two-day meeting last week. ANC president Thabo Mbeki is known to support the idea.

The sources said the KwaZulu-Natal ANC wanted talks with the IFP to start next month, with the process being kicked off with a meeting between Mbeki and IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The ANC wanted talks to be concluded by midyear, so that the two parties would be able to gear up for separate election campaigns if agreement on a single list was not reached, the sources said.

The sources said that Mbeki and Zuma wanted to negotiate a “package” with the IFP, which would resolve constitutional differences and create a “national consensus” on SA’s future.

The ANC was willing to renegotiate the KwaZulu-Natal constitution, but not the national constitution. It also wanted the IFP to support a special amnesty deal for KwaZulu-Natal, which would help heal wounds and “demilitarise” the province.

The sources said if the talks went according to plan, they would culminate in a single candidates list. Once differences were resolved, there would be no need for the parties to challenge each other in an election.

While both parties’ leaders were on a single list, they would remain members of their respective parties. Negotiations would have to take place on how, within the context of a single list, the parties would relate to each other, the sources said.

The sources said the ANC wanted a single list only for KwaZulu-Natal, although the concept might have to be extended for the parliamentary list and possibly even the Gauteng legislature.

The sources declined to say how ANC and IFP leaders would share representation on a KwaZulu-Natal list, and which party would provide the premier.

Negotiations over the KwaZulu-Natal premiership were bound to be tied to the ANC’s proposal that Buthelezi be elevated to a position “befitting his stature”.

Observers said SA Communist Party (SACP) and Congress of South African Trade Union (Cosatu) leaders were among the fiercest critics of the proposal, as they feared they would become increasingly marginalised once the ANC formed an alliance with the IFP.

"There will be a lot of frustration among our members. It will have an impact on the ANC’s electoral performance at national level, and on our response to government on various issues," a Cosatu source said.

The source said Cosatu and the SACP would bank on ANC national chairman Patrick Motlanthe and deputy secretary-general Thembile Mchunu — all of whom were supported by the left — to scupper the plan.

"We held fire at the conference for the sake of unity, but Mbeki and Zuma now want to create divisions," the source said.

The newly elected ANC national executive committee was scheduled to meet on January 19, but Motlanthe said the matter was not on the agenda because there were more "pressing issues" to attend to.

An IFP source said it was difficult to predict the party’s response. But constructive talks could be expected as the ANC had moved away from "viliying" the IFP.
Durban proof that two-tier govt model works in SA — IFP

Deborah Fine

THE greater Durban metropolitan council and its six local councils were "proof" that the two-tier metropolitan model of local government could work well in large SA cities, KwaZulu-Natal local government MEC Peter Miller said yesterday.

He was responding to a resolution at the African National Congress' (ANC) national conference last year favouring the replacement of the two-tier metropolitan system with a single-tier model, popularly known as "megacity".

 Critics of the metropolitan model have claimed that the two-tier system is unsuitable for SA cities because it resulted in costly duplication of municipal functions. The model failed to make efficient use of scarce human, financial and technical resources and was unable to achieve equitable redistribution to previously disadvantaged areas.

Many ANC councillors in the ANC-dominated Durban local authorities have rejected this argument, however, insisting that the metropolitan model has proven an effective means of local governance in Durban and its surrounding suburbs. They have argued in favour of the retention of the two-tier model.

Miller, of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), said that although greater Durban was "not without its problems", the city had performed well compared to SA's other major urban centres. The two-tier model had worked in Durban because the functions and powers of the metropolitan council and its councils were different, separate and clearly defined. In Johannesburg, local authorities appeared to squabbling over allocation of ill-defined powers and functions.

He said that Durban, unlike other cities, had not "put redistribution on a pedestal as a sole objective". While the redistribution of municipal resources was an important priority, so too was the sustainability of existing wealth-producing areas to ensure that there "was something to redistribute".

Another reason for Durban's success had been the retention of experienced officials and departmental heads rather than the implementation of "be-all and end-all" affirmative action policies.
Durban council rejects Moses's meagre plan
Nicola Jenvey

DURBAN — Blatant disregard for tender procedures coupled with profligate spending by the departments of education and culture, transport and the premier boosted KwaZulu-Natal's unauthorised spending in 1995/96 to R70,5m.

Provincial auditor Barry Wheeler said a report released yesterday showed fraud in 197 cases had added up to R9.4m, of which R2.8m was recovered. Attempted fraud worth R12.6m in another 87 cases was "uneasiness detected and prevented".

This was the first consolidated report since the KwaZulu government and Natal Provincial administrations were united.

Wheeler blamed the departments of education and culture (R58.4m overspending), transport (R7.5m) and the premier (R3.6m) for unauthorised spending.

However, significant costs were also routed through social welfare and population development (R695 065), and economic affairs and tourism (R48 077) as officials failed to comply with tender board regulations. Other sums were traditional and environmental affairs (R16 132) and public works (R9 174).

Of concern was that repeated calls to the departmental accounting officers for written explanations had been ignored.

Wheeler said the public works department was under further investigation for about R10m in unauthorised spending after April 1 1996. This included R6.2m for building 14 new official houses and for office space and R3.1m for upgrading of and repairs to the Lindi Zulu royal residence.

Deficiencies in the internal checking and control systems for both the education department and the premier placed enormous costs on provincial taxpayers.

Wheeler said spending was often not verified by supporting documents. There was also insufficient control over recording, receipt, issue and storage of face-value documents. Orders for goods and services were not always in compliance with the financial management system.

The report said, following the decision for the province to operate its vehicle fleet on a budget system, each department had been required to assume accountability and responsibility for vehicle costs.

However, as many departments neither adhered to these principles nor took proper stock of their fleets, transport costs amounted to R7.9m to pay for fuel, vehicle repair and storage claims.

Noncompatibility between the two computer systems used by previous administrations and problems with reconciliation, cloning and transferring of bank accounts had delayed the report.
National Party official defects to ANC

By Sipho Khumalo

DURBAN National Party councillor Mrs Tsiangula Adam ditched his party yesterday and joined the African National Congress.

Adam, a ward councillor on the North Central Council for Beach Front, Berea, Greyville and Morningside, denounced the NP for not having left the "past to past".

"They are still locked in those days and it is painful to continue being a member of a party that has lost its direction and that can rally around issues pertaining to the entrenchment of privileges for minorities," she said waving her new ANC membership card.

Adam said she had struggled on her own to address the issues of her constituency without the support of the NP.

"I must state that the NP has failed dismally in keeping their commitment to the people," Adam said. "They only become active and alive at election times or in securing senior positions for the favoured few."

The ANC was elated with their new member. Provincial party secretary Mr Supho Gobahe said this "capture" would help them start their 1999 election campaign on a high note.

"We are likely to win all other wards where there will be by-elections. We want to consolidate our presence in the urban areas and then move to mobilise the rural areas," said Gobahe.

By-elections will soon be held in four wards in the province.

North Central mayor Mrs Lydia Johnson, who is aligned to the ANC, and she had sensed some form of unhappiness among councillors belonging to other parties.

"One expects more councillors to follow Adam's lead," she said.

NP North Central caucus leader Mr George Mari said he was not aware of Adam's defection. "We have not had contact with her since the recess in December," said Mari.
Provincial money-lending scam exposed

Farouk Chothia

ULUNDI — A multimillion rand illegal money-lending scheme — involving deductions from employees’ salaries without their knowledge — was uncovered in the KwaZulu-Natal local government and housing department, MEC Peter Miller said yesterday.

Miller said two senior officials from the department’s Ulundi office had been arrested for fraud and more arrests were expected.

He said an investigation conducted by the department had found illegal money-lending schemes operating from its Ulundi office in contravention of the Usury Act and treasury regulations. Employees were lent money and had repayments deducted from their salaries at interest rates of up to 30% a week. In some instances, employees were not even lent money but deductions were still made from their salaries, Miller said.

He said there was also evidence of the theft of leave gratuity and pension-related cheques, staff drawing more than one salary and salaries of retired employees being reinstated and diverted into fraudulent bank accounts.

Miller said the fight against corruption in government ranks was one that could not be lost. The survival of democracy and progress in development were dependent on defeating corruption.

KwaZulu-Natal welfare MEC Gideon Zulu also disclosed that four Swazis had been arrested in Fongola in northern KwaZulu-Natal after attempting to draw SA pensions. He said it was common for Swazis, Basothos and Mozambicans to visit neighbouring KwaZulu-Natal to draw pensions.

In an address to the KwaZulu-Natal legislature, provincial premier Ben Ngubane said the anti-fraud campaign launched over a year ago had led to 127 successful prosecutions. It was hoped savings of 5% to 8% would be made once the re-registration of pensioners, aimed at eliminating fraud, was concluded.
The Finance Ministry has sent out an unequivocal message—overspending will no longer be tolerated. The provinces are being called to 30% of the nine budgets presented this week. A deficit for 1998/99. Whether they can keep to budget remains to be seen.

KwaZulu-Natal

KwaZulu-Natal's R1.5-billion overspend in the past financial year has effectively eliminated the province's safety net and put all provincial capital projects on hold, writes MICHAEL SCHMIDT.

Construction will grind to a halt and maintenance work slowed to a trickle under the R1.5-billion "austerity budget" announced by Premier Ben Ngubane at Umhlanga on Friday.

Despite KwaZulu-Natal getting the biggest of the nine provincial budgets, and an increased central government contribution of 9.5%, the province received 21% less than it asked for.

Ngubane said the province's large population meant that its per capita budget still lagged behind that of other provinces like Gauteng and the Western Cape.

The freeze on capital projects has been dictated by the total elimination of all "rollover" budgets, the funds usually reserved for long-term construction.

"This overexpenditure has eaten into everything," Ngubane said, adding that the province would look at every source of revenue to try and finance capital projects.

Ngubane blamed the R1.5-billion "austerity budget" over the previous financial year, for its contribution to the increase in personal costs and the payments of social grants.

The situation was exacerbated by an overdraft of R5.6-billion by the key education, health, and welfare departments, which the national government has insisted get 85% of the budget.

Provinces swallow the bitter pill: cut and save.

The provinces spend almost half of SA's Budget. They do so with mixed results. BT looks at the four key provincial budgets released this week.

ST(07) 23/3/98

In fact, says MEC Jabu Moleketi, jobs have been reduced to 12,000, many of them in the depressed mining and manufacturing industries.

The R1.5-billion budget for 1998/99 holds out little prospect for public-sector led employment creation.

The reason of the budget's total spending is devoted to the province's 252,000 workers.

And, lamented Moleketi: "the province has no mechanism to reduce staffing numbers other than by natural attrition and voluntary retirement package."

The condition of the welfare department's funding goes up by 18.9% to R3.3-billion.

In calling for a belt-tightening exercise, Ngubane resolved to put his own house in order first, cutting the office of the premier's office by 32% to R2.9 million.

Gauteng

Like the rest of the country, Gauteng experienced poor economic growth in 1997/98, with new jobs proving elusive, writes SVEN LUNSCHKE.

The Western Cape

Taking into account its R9.5-billion allocation from national government and the revenue it raises, the Western Cape will have just over R18-billion to spend, R9-million more than the previous year.

The Western Cape received R9.5-billion from national government and will collect a revenue of R28.2-billion from motor and casino licences and hospital fees.

The Western Cape has a thriving compared with other large provinces. Last year its economy grew on average at 1% more than the national average. There was a net loss of 10,000 jobs, but unemployment rates are the lowest in the country.

The province has budgeted for 3% growth in the current fiscal year, but it expects formal sector jobs to grow by only 3%.

We don't know how much was stolen.
Call for ‘fresh look’ at financial management

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The KwaZulu-Natal government has called for “fresh thinking” on ways to improve the all-important area of financial management in the public service.

"The traditional models of financial administration or financial analysis were not in themselves sufficient, nor is the slavish imitation of private sector or overseas practices," Otty Nxumalo, KwaZulu-Natal director-general, said in a report to Parliament’s public service committee on transforming the provincial administration.

"There was no single, simple answer to better financial management in government," Nxumalo said. "The lack of capacity and skills in financial management was identified as a major problem at all levels of government in last year’s provincial audit report.

Nxumalo said in response to the report’s findings what was needed was new models of good financial management which reflect the special role of public sector organisations.

Such models had to take into account the realities of managing services that were in the public sector or public domain but managed by the private sector. They also had to recognise the realities of managing in a party political environment, Nxumalo said.

Unfortunately, the main stimulus currently to changing financial management was external, "with national government doing more imposing than stimulating", internal, departmental, moves to improve financial management were largely suppressed.

KwaZulu-Natal saw improved financial management as the basis for setting public service objectives, improving efficiency and effectiveness, reassessing organisational structures and devising suitable measures of performance, Nxumalo said.

Yet the fact that few academic institutions in SA were adequately geared towards financial management in the public sector made it difficult to enhance finance skills, Nxumalo said.

The state expenditure department had seen this and, as a result, established the institute for public finance and accountants. KwaZulu-Natal’s finance department had also initiated in-house training to improve the skills of financial managers in the province.

He said fresh thinking on how to increase efficiency in financial management was needed in certain key areas. More effective financial administration and controls; the absence of staff in critical posts in departments; aligning service delivery with budgetary constraints; eliminating fraud and corruption; new management processes and systems to improve overall efficiency in provincial government; and unfunded or underfunded national mandates on personnel and levels of service delivery.

Nxumalo said that complex myriad of interconnected issues could only successfully be dealt with in a holistic manner in which root causes, and not merely the symptoms, were addressed.
IFP’s Miller ‘is overloaded’

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — The African National Congress (ANC) expressed “severe reservations” yesterday about KwaZulu-Natal premier Ben Ngubane’s decision to add finance to the local government and housing portfolios held by Peter Miller, saying this could result in inefficiency continuing in the provincial government.

ANC provincial spokesman Dumisani Makhaye said a single MEC needed to devote his entire time to the finance portfolio — which included responsibility for gambling — to pull the government out of its financial crisis. Instead, three key portfolios had been given to one person.

A cabinet seat had been vacant since the National Party (NP) pulled out of the provincial government in 1994. However, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) was refusing to fill the vacancy because it would be constitutionally obliged to give it to the ANC. The party preferred to “overload” its MECs, leading to inefficiency.

Ngubane announced on Friday that Miller would take over from him as finance MEC from next month. Miller would be the second MEC to hold three portfolios. Nyanga Ngubane already held the safety and security, traditional affairs and conservation portfolios.

“It is either that the IFP is not serious about traditional leadership or matters related to safety and security,” Makhaye said.

A government source said Ngubane had considered a reshuffle which would have seen the ANC taking over the housing portfolio, but relinquishing one of its portfolios to the IFP.

However, Ngubane held back on the advice of party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who believed changes to ANC-held portfolios in KwaZulu-Natal should only coincide with changes to the IFP’s portfolios at national level.
Kwazulu-Natal wants extra R500m to meet deficit

The province's finance portfolio said the province's financial situation was "battery with very low charge" because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdowns. It said the province was facing a R500 million shortfall in revenue for the current financial year.
The unpopular Peter Miller has skills the IFP cannot overlook

THE choice of Peter Miller as finance MEC of KwaZulu-Natal reflects the depth of quality leadership within the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

Miller is unpopular with party boss Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu princes in the provincial cabinet and Umhlali-based publicists. Yet Miller, the only white person in the 10-member provincial cabinet, has been given the key finance portfolio and will continue holding either the housing or local government portfolio.

Buthelezi is undoubtedly responsible for the shortage of high-calibre black leadership within the IFP, but this is not the sole reason. The problem also lies with Buthelezi, who was chief minister of the KwaZulu government for nearly 20 years. He could have developed a leadership capable of governing effectively in a post-apartheid democracy. It is questionable whether he concentrated sufficiently — if at all — on this responsibility.

The former KwaZulu government had a cabinet with portfolios ranging from finance to justice to public works. But loyalty, rather than performance, was the main criterion to qualify for a cabinet seat.

Counterparts

As a result, some African National Congress (ANC) MECs in the new provincial government, even though they had no previous experience, outshone their IFP counterparts.

Faced with this reality, the IFP top brass is forced to overlook differences with Miller, an efficient technocrat who served in the former Natal government in various capacities from 1986 to 1993, where his responsibilities included local government and agriculture.

Miller was regarded as an individualist, unwilling to take collective responsibility in government. It is probably a fair description, judging by comments he made after premier Ben Ngubane announced his new appointment.

'"I inherited the budget. I did not decide on the budget."'
The former KwaZulu-Natal government had a cabinet with portfolios ranging from finance to justice to public works. But loyalty, rather than performance, seemed to have been the main criterion to qualify for a cabinet seat.

Counterparts

As a result, some African National Congress (ANC) MPs in the new provincial government, even though they had no previous experience, ousted their IFP counterparts.

Faced with this reality, the IFP top brass is forced to overlook differences with Miller, an efficient technocrat who served in the former Natal executive committee from 1989 to 1993, where his responsibilities included local government.

Miller’s critics say he is an individualist, unwilling to take collective responsibility in government. It is probably a fair description, judging by comments he made after premier Ben Ngubane announced his new appointment.

“I inherited the budget — I did not decide on it. I inherited the deficit — I did not cause it. I inherited a problem — and I will fight my way out of it,” Miller said.

His critics say he is a career politician — a perception fuelled by the fact that the IFP is the fourth political home of the 1982-trained army force pilot. His curriculum vitae (CV) shows his involvement in politics dates back to 1973, when he was elected vice-chairman of the United Party in KwaZulu...

ANC MP Mike Sutcliffe — who shadows Miller in local governmen...
Hope of retrenchments slashing costs

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — The KwaZulu-Natal government was hoping that retrenchments later this year would slash the personnel expenditure bill in the education department so that funds would be released for other expenditure, it emerged at meetings of the provincial legislature's education and finance portfolio committees yesterday.

Superintendent-general of the education department, Mike Jarvis, said R6,36bn or 93% of the R6,8bn education budget was allocated for personnel expenditure. This would leave only about R500m for other expenditure.

He said the department was aware of the need to cut personnel expenditure. Its allocation was 13% higher than the 80% recommended by the national department, Jarvis said.

Provincial education committee chairman Roger Burrows said the department was banking on the creation of a "retrenchment tool" at national level and he believed the "political will" existed to cut personnel costs in both teaching and nonteaching areas.

However, the "retrenchment tool" was expected to come into effect only in the second half of the year, he said.

Its implementation would be preceded by new teacher-pupil ratios having been worked out in consultation with teacher organisations. Teachers from overstuffed schools would be redeployed to understaffed schools.

If they declined, they would be retrenched. Other teachers would then be employed at understaffed schools, Burrows said.

Jarvis said that in the interim, the department was adhering to teacher-pupil ratios of 1:35 and 1:40 for primary and high schools respectively. About 7,200 temporary teachers had their contracts terminated due to last year's budget crisis. However, some teachers were now being re-employed, but only at schools where the termination of contracts negatively affected the "interim norm" of 1:35 and 1:40.

It would become clear in the next few weeks how many teachers had been re-employed, but the figure could be 3,600. The nonrenewal of the contracts of the 3,600 teachers could result in a saving of about R100m on the R6,36bn personnel bill, Jarvis said.

The department budgeted only R36m for the construction and maintenance of schools and the hiring of buildings. The latter alone amounted to about R21m.

To fulfill contractual obligations and provide for other essential services, a total of R94,1m was needed, Jarvis said.

The department would not be in paying schools' entire water and electricity bills and shortfalls would have to be covered from school funds. The budget for services such as cleaning and security had also been "restricted" to R18m and problems were expected on this issue, Jarvis said.
ANC joy as ‘godfather’ quits

JUSTIN ARENSTEIN

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ANC joy as ‘godfather’ quits

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In fact, Tollon-coated Mkhwanazi’s quiet resignation as the tail end of his budget speech on Wednesday caused such pandemonium among the opposition officials that the legislature’s speaker had to scream for the first time in four years to restore order.

Mkhwanazi has been dogged by scandal almost from the inception of the province in 1994.

As one of three senior former homelands politicians granted key positions in the province through the Nongqawela Accord in repayment for assistance during the struggle, Mkhwanazi was repeatedly slammed in auditor general reports from the former Kangwane.

But none of the press coverage of his trips to Disneyland at taxpayers’ expense, his questionable acceptance of free farms or his tendency to authorise massive and costly construction projects to dubious companies in his home village seemed to slow him down.

Starting with a non-existent department, Mkhwanazi soon boasted the most bloated portfolio in Mphumalanga. It was through the parks board that Mkhwanazi rode roughshod over land claims by rural communities and engineered the contentious multibillion-rand Dolphin Deal with the Dubali-based Dolphin Group, granting it exclusive commercial rights to the province’s key game reserves for 25 years.

Weathering public outrage, Mkhwanazi moved on to authorise a R5.4-million deal for incompatable and useless computers.

The expensive hardware has been gathering dust in a government storeroom for almost a year.

His resignation this week immediately prompted speculation about internal ANC purges or an even greater scandal about to break.

Although there is no clear evidence of a purge has surfaced, grassroots ANC activists are reeling that the powerful former homeland leader has been squeezed out.

The Nongqawela Three: Mkhwanazi, safety and security strongman Steve Mabona and Speaker Elias Ginindza, were displeased by activists and exiles alike as tainted compromise leaders.

Only Ginindza remains after Mabona was forced to resign last year for engineering fraudulent driver’s license for parliamentary deputy Speaker, Baleka Mbete-Kgoatlale.

But Ginindza too is losing his grip amid growing claims of inefficiency.

ANC insiders are adamant that he will not make it onto the leadership lists for the 1999 elections.

The sudden suspension of Marupeng on Thursday is seen as the first strike against her public reputation.

Even though she was one of the ANC’s ‘chosen ones’, Marupeng was not allowed the face-saving chance to resign or prepare a public defence.

She was instead summarily suspended from both the party and the legislature almost immediately after the caucus was presented with proof that she had awarded a large catering contract to friends.

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PRETORIA: President Nelson Mandela has ordered a probe into extensive claims of corruption and maladministration since 1986 in at least 16 government institutions in three provinces.

According to a presidential proclamation in the Government Gazette, the three provinces are the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal.

Mandela said he had referred the allegations to Judge William Heath's unit after consultation with the three premiers.

The allegations included serious mismanagement, improper or unlawful conduct by state employees, unlawful expenditure or intentional or negligent loss of public money, and corruption.

In terms of yesterday's proclamation, the Heath unit should examine claims of such offences since January 11 1986.

It would focus on five departments in the Eastern Cape, three in KwaZulu-Natal and eight in Mpumalanga.

Eleven alleged offences in the Eastern Cape education department were listed in the proclamation. They included the appointment of officials in return for favours or payment, irregular overpayment of some officials, irregular supply of textbooks and the theft or loss of cheques.

Similar offences allegedly occurred in the Eastern Cape's public debt commission and the departments of health and welfare, public works and water affairs.

Mpumalanga institutions mentioned included the provincial legislature and the departments of education, agriculture, inland revenue, safety and security, public works, and roads and transport.

Alleged offences in these departments included the irregular use of state vehicles, unauthorised claims for subsistence allowances and unlawful payments for goods not delivered or for services not rendered.

The Heath unit would also investigate the unlawful, unauthorised or irregular use of state or public land in Mpumalanga by the department of home affairs of the former KaNgwana homeland government.

In KwaZulu-Natal, the departments of education, local government, housing and transport would come under scrutiny.

The transport department was allegedly connected to a settlement of about R41 000 paid to one of its officials after he was involved in a car accident.

Allegations with regard to the two other departments included the unlawful or unauthorised use of state vehicles, credit cards, irregular granting of applications under the housing subsidies scheme and the theft of state vehicles.

Civil disputes arising from the Heath investigation would be handled by a special tribunal set up last year, Mandela said in the proclamation. — Sapa
Mandela orders corruption probe in three provinces

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In terms of the proclamation, the Heath unit should examine claims of such offences since January 1, 1986.

The investigation would focus on five departments in the Eastern Cape, three in KwaZulu-Natal and eight in Mpumalanga.

Eleven alleged offences in the Eastern Cape education department were listed in the proclamation.

Mpumalanga institutions mentioned included the provincial legislature, the departments of education, agriculture, land revenue, safety and security and public works, roads and transport.

Alleged offences in these departments included the irregular use of state vehicles, unauthorised claims for subsistence allowances and unlawful payments for goods not delivered or for services not rendered.

The Heath unit would also investigate the unlawful, unauthorised or irregular use of state or public land in Mpumalanga by the home affairs department of the former KaNgwane homeland government.

In KwaZulu-Natal, the departments of education, local government, housing and transport would come under scrutiny.

The transport department was allegedly connected to a settlement of about R41 000 which was paid to one of its officials after he was involved in a car accident.

Allegations with regard to the two other departments included the unlawful or unauthorised use of state vehicle credit cards, the irregular granting of applications under the housing subsidies scheme and the theft of state vehicles.

Civil disputes arising from the Heath investigation would be handled by a special tribunal which was set up last year, Mandela said in the proclamation.

— Sapa
Current Affairs

THE HEATH SPECIAL INVESTIGATING UNIT

IN NEED OF MANY MORE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

There is no end in sight to corruption fighting (264) 31/7/98

The Heath Special Investigating Unit, which is working on more than 90 000 cases of possible government corruption, has undertaken two new huge projects.

One is a probe into 16 government institutions in three provinces, and the other is an investigation into alleged irregularities in 17 Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal municipalities.

The cases already on the unit’s books involve sums of about R6,2bn, says Guy Rich, personal assistant to Judge Willem Heath.

The unit, the first of its kind in SA, was established by President Nelson Mandela in March 1997, under Judge Heath, to investigate serious cases of malpractice, corruption and fraud involving state assets or money.

It works in tandem with a special tribunal which tries civil matters arising out of the investigations.

The court has the power to make orders, issue interdicts and warrants of arrest and subpoena witnesses. It also works closely with the Office for Serious Economic Offences, the Public Protector and the SA Police Service.

Apart from the civil cases tried by the tribunal, evidence of criminality is referred to the authority that initiated the investigation for further action.

The unit’s predecessor — the Heath Commission — recovered, or prevented the misuse of, billions of rand. It reversed 92 unauthorised promotions in the Bishop Auditor-General’s Office in 1996, saving R8bn.

And it reversed the social pensions payout tender in the Eastern Cape, saving the province a further R220m.

The Special Investigating Unit has earned on the tradition with a staff of 36 investigators, seven lawyers and 12 administrators.

It is dealing with a number of controversial issues, including the R14bn stage production Sarafina, intended as a vehicle for information about the killer disease AIDS.

The production contract was awarded to the theatre company Committed Artists, headed by playwright Mbongeni Ngema, in 1995.

The Auditor-General and the Public Protector subsequently uncovered irregularities in the awarding of the tender and in the financial control of Committed Artists.

Three months ago the Heath Investigating Unit recovered assets worth about R4bn — three motor vehicles, two trailers, musical equipment and merchandise — purchased by Committed Artists in the name of Ngema, with funds allocated to Sarafina 2.

The assets are now under the control of the Department of Health. The investigation is continuing into other issues arising out of this case.

Judge Heath is likely to be busy for years, given the case load and budget constraints. The unit is requesting more resources from the Justice Department.

Depressing as it is to discover the extent of corruption in SA, it would be worse if these cases of wrongdoing were not exposed and the money involved not recovered.

Erlend Haeklurst

UNCOVERING THE ROT

Other cases the unit is handling include:

- The recovery of farms, worth between R45m-R50m. They had been leased by individuals from government more than 10 years ago. The farms had been abandoned, the contracts lapsed and the losses failed to pay rent.
- The recovery of 372 State-owned vehicles, valued at about R33m on behalf of the Department of Transport in KwaZulu-Natal.
- The securing payment worth R4.5m following a Daily Bread Feeding Scheme scandal in the Eastern Cape.
- The recovery of R22.5m belonging to the Eastern Cape government in a private company’s bank account. The money had originally been earmarked for a public corporation that lends to small businesses.
- The stropage of the cabling of a R540 000 cheque that had been stolen from the Koskot Town Council.
- The recovery of about R1.3m in overpayments of allowances to councillors in Butterworth, Eastern Cape.
- An investigation of 55,000 cases arising out of the housing subsidy scheme in KwaZulu-Natal. The total value of the misappropriations is about R150m.
- An investigation into a State building project in Queenstown, worth about R125m, following allegations of non-compliance with tender procedures.
- An investigation into a R2.3m claim in the Northern Cape arising out of a rental agreement between government and a private company, where there are allegations that proper tender procedures were not followed.
- A probe into unauthorised leasing of government photostat machines in the Northern Cape. The damage is estimated at R17m.
- Assisting the Eastern Cape Development Agency to recover loans worth more than R100m made to small businesses.
- The recovery of R3.5m in salary overpayments made in the former Bishop Audit Office.
- Helping to trace a blank warrant voucher that was stolen from the Department of Justice in Mthatha. The warrant voucher was subsequently drawn on the Department of State Expenditure to the value of R4.3m.
- An investigation into numerous Motor Finance Scheme cases where there were allegations of fraud. In many cases the defendants signed acknowledgements of debts which amount to R435 000.

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promoted President Mandela at the ANC conference in December to applaud the fact that we have worked together in spite of our differences," says Buthelezi in response to a question from the FM Durban Westville's Habib says the big thaw is a consequence of efforts by the ANC nationally and regionally to defuse tensions with Inkatha.

"We are seeing the beginning of a real restructuring of political parties," says Habib. "This is a process of ironing out the contradictions of transition.

The ANC was historically a broad church organisation incorporating diverse political viewpoints, which are now showing cracks and tension."

He says that it is a cautionary tale for the ANC that it has a more common ground with outside organisations than its current compatriots in the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the South African Communist Party (SACP). This is particularly so at an economic level, where Inkatha is a strong ally of government's Growth, Employment and Redistribution policy.

This Habib says, has led to calls by the likes of Deputy Environmental Minister Peter Mokaba for the ANC to consider an Inkatha alliance and jettison its Cosatu and SACP partners. "It would be a mistake to put it all on one side, but he does find himself having more in common with Buthelezi than his existing alliance colleagues," says Habib.

Buthelezi, for his part, has been at pains to rule out an ANC-Inkatha alliance or merger as long as Cosatu and the SACP remain in tow. "Nevertheless he seems to have secured, without entering an alliance, a post-election pact that gives Inkatha a role in government and himself as a Deputy President," Habib says.

Habib remarks that issues like international mediation will gradually be mothballed because they are marginal compared with the fundamental questions of a new relationship developing between the two parties. The secondary items will only be dusted off and thrust at the ANC if the new relationship sours.

Whatever view one subscribes to, there has been a fundamental political shift. Inkatha and Buthelezi have softened their stance towards the ANC.

Some believe that a closer relationship between the ANC and the IFP could expedite the reconciliation process.
KwaZulu-Natal audit 'was hampered'

Farouk Chothia
DURBAN — An audit into salaries paid by the KwaZulu-Natal government during the 1995/96 financial year had been "severely hampered" by the failure of certain departments to submit personal files, provincial auditor Harry Wheeler said in a report released yesterday.

The report, which deals with personnel expenditure, identified the education department's Ulundi office as being among the main culprits. It submitted 164 of 364 of the files requested by the auditor-general's office.

The health department's Ulundi office failed to submit 71 of the 119 files requested.

The report said the files were essential for proper auditing procedures, and the matter was "raised a number of times with the departments concerned."

Accumulation of personnel expenditure was not audited because three different computer systems were in place at the time, and there were difficulties in obtaining reports and data, according to the report.

The report said finance department figures showed there were 166,173 public servants in the province at the end of February this year but the employment of 1,385 public servants could not be verified.
Contract for Peace Education Probed

The conflict for peace education is not simply a question of access to education. It is also a reflection of the underlying political and social dynamics of the society in which it exists. The struggle for peace education is often framed in terms of conflicts over identity and power, and these conflicts can be complex and multifaceted. In many cases, the provision of education is seen as a tool for maintaining or challenging these power dynamics. For example, in some contexts, education is used to reinforce existing power structures, while in others it is seen as a means of empowering marginalized communities.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other international organizations have played a role in promoting peace education, but their efforts have been met with resistance in some cases. This resistance can take many forms, from outright opposition to more subtle forms of displacement or marginalization. The provision of education is often seen as a threat to existing power structures, and this can lead to various forms of resistance, including violence.

In order to understand the complex dynamics at play in the struggle for peace education, it is important to consider the political and social context in which it exists. This includes the role of power structures, the influence of international organizations, and the resistance that may be encountered in efforts to promote education for peace. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for the development of effective strategies for promoting peace education and for ensuring that education is used as a tool for fostering social justice and reconciliation.
KwaZulu-Natal given rave review

Simon Barber

WASHINGTON — The US commerce department, in a bulletin aimed at US business, is raving about KwaZulu-Natal as a destination for US investment.

It describes the province as SA's "most globally competitive" and projects that its contribution to gross domestic product — now 15% — will rise "dramatically" over the next decade.

Prepared by commercial officers at the US consulate in Durban, the bulletin says "the vitality of Africa juxtaposed with lucrative trade and investment opportunities" has made KwaZulu-Natal "the brightest performer in the rainbow nation of SA".

Domestic manufacturers and foreign investors are described as flocking to the province, drawn by "two of the continent's premier harbours", Durban and Richards Bay; the proximity of "increasingly business-friendly" Mozambique, and "spatial development initiatives" in the region, especially the "enormously attractive Lubombo strategic development initiative" to develop tourism in SA, Mozambique and Swaziland.

Low transport costs, ports pointed at Asian markets, some of the world's cheapest electricity, "probusiveness provincial and municipal government and a superb quality of life, including climate, cultural life, housing and recreational opportunities" are cited as "major underpinnings of KwaZulu-Natal's competitiveness".

Deals are said to abound for US firms offering planning and engineering services, health-care products, security equipment and vocational training.

Meanwhile, the state department has released its latest annual assessment of travel conditions in SA for US visitors, which is a less encouraging document.

US citizens are urged to exercise caution near city hotels and "public transportation centres" since "criminal activity, such as assault and armed robbery, is particularly high in these areas".
FINAL steps were taken this week to turn Cape Town into a megacity of three million people governed by one body.

This will replace the seven local authorities formed only two years ago when 18 local councils were merged in a R500-million shake-up that is still incomplete.

One New York-style executive mayor and about 40 full-time councillors will run the show and its R6-billion budget instead of today’s seven mayors, seven CEOs and 340 councillors.

The controversial single-tier megacity became a certainty when Constitutional Development Minister Valli Moosa on Tuesday steered the Municipal Structures Bill through the National Assembly.

The Bill outlined the final phase of local government transition, and this phase would begin when municipalities held elections towards the end of 2000, said Moosa.

The number of councillors in the country would drop from 11 000 to 7 500 to make it possible to have more full-time councillors who were better-paid.

"One of the enduring problems of the transition has been the inability of newly elected leaders to assert democratic control over local administrations," he said.

"The response of many CEOs to instructions from the council is that these cannot be carried out for 'legal' or 'capacity' reasons. We have moved to create a more empowered political leadership with a clear interface with the administration via a municipal manager.

"We have created the executive mayor as an option that allows for the emergence of strong and visionary local leadership able to put its stamp on the new developmental character and direction of a municipality"

However, the megacity proposals for Cape Town may be challenged in the Constitutional Court by the Cape Metropolitan Council, said Pierre Uys, chairman of the CMC’s executive committee.

The National Party-controlled council's legal experts were looking at the legislation and checking whether it was constitutional, said Uys.

"If it is not, we will definitely challenge it."

Officials claimed the Bill was unconstitutional because it infringed on the rights of municipalities by not giving them at least two options.

One council for an area with three million people was wrong and democratically distanced from the communities, said Uys.

A megacity would cost more to run than the present councils because salaries would move upwards as responsibilities increased.

Saleem Mower, chairman of Cape Town City Council’s executive committee, said the ANC fully supported the megacity concept.

They believed it was the right way to go in terms of restructuring local government to meet the needs of communities throughout the metropolitan areas.

"We have an excellent housing policy but we don't have the land, and other local councils are opposed to making land available for houses."

A megacity would address fundamental needs of people's poverty, where 55 percent of African people in the Cape lived below the poverty datum line and 49 percent of coloured people were just above it.
P.S. LOCAL AUTHORITIES - N. CAPE
1996-1999
Northern Cape needs money
Premier investigates rival

MANNE DIPICO, the Northern Cape premier, must feel like the forgotten son of South African politics. Hardly anything that happens in his vast, arid province captures the attention of the rest of the country.

Few have bothered to find out about his peaceful coexistence with the remnants of Orama, that exclusive homeland for Afrikaners who dream of a white South Africa.

While the country was abuzz over an internal ANC revolt to oust Free State Premier Patrick Lakota, Dipico was putting out a similar fire. Hardly a word was murmured.

He has set up a commission to investigate allegations that the ANC provincial secretary general, William Steenkamp, is behind a campaign to replace Dipico with a coloured chairman and premier.

The majority of the predominantly Afrikaans-speaking province's residents are coloureds, and there is a feeling that Dipico is not paying enough attention to this constituency. He rejects this.

Dipico is well aware the media ignores his province because its people are not continually killing each other. Nor is there any major corruption resembling what has allegedly happened in the Eastern Cape.

In fact, the only possible untoward behaviour by the Northern Cape's people is a looming boycott of payment for television licences, because most residents receive only one of the three SABC channels.

But Dipico has moved quickly to defuse this as well, and will discuss the matter with SABC group chief executive Zwelakhe Sisulu in Kimberley on Thursday.

Without summoning the media to record his every move, Dipico and his government have started to deliver on election promises. With a population of 780,000, the housing backlog stands at only 48,000, and the premier is confident the slate will be wiped clean within a decade. So far, 1,900 houses have been built, and subsidies for another 2,200 approved.

The Masakhane campaign has been unsuccessful in most parts of the country. However, Northern Cape residents are encouraged to pay proper tariffs rather than flat rates, and the campaign is bearing fruit. Some areas record payment levels as high as 96 percent.

Despite being a poor cousin of the other provinces, according to Dipico, the Northern Cape represents a great opportunity for the mining and agricultural sectors. Kimberley is famous for its diamonds, and the province has exceptionally rich reserves of manganese and iron ore — the largest in the world. It is estimated these deposits will last another 200 to 400 years.

Dipico said: "Our strength is in mining and agriculture, but we must retain wealth by building industries to process our raw materials."

There is no university or technical college in the province, and students who are forced to leave are lost to the region. "They never return, because their chances of employment are minimal. We have too many old people and children. In Pofadder, 80 percent of the population depends on pension grants to survive," said Dipico.

While most provincial governments inherited staff and infrastructure from homelands and the provincial administrations of the former government, the Northern Cape had to start from scratch. The legislature uses the offices of the Kimberley municipality.

Dipico's people are long for a sense of belonging in South Africa and he would like the rest of the country to think of its fellow citizens in the Northern Cape. He said: "That is the spirit of our new Constitution — to build one country."
ANC gives Nats a hiding

National Party now has only three seats to ANC's eight in Oudtshoorn

By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

NATIONAL PARTY leader Mr FW de Klerk confidently told a briefing at Parliament yesterday that quitting the Government of National Unity was a wise decision, came the news that the African National Congress had trounced his party in a by-election.

The ward was a former NP stronghold and the ANC victory vastly weakened the Nats within the Oudtshoorn municipality.

With Mr Johnny Jackson's victory, the ANC now controls eight wards compared to the NP's three.

However, De Klerk, the centre of extreme negative publicity after his performance at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Wednesday, was upbeat at yesterday's briefing.

"Quitting the GNU was the correct thing to do," He said the NP was now fully geared to take on the new watchdog role "to put pressure on Government when it makes mistakes and questioning what they are doing."

Constructive role

The NP was also determined to play a role that was constructive and part of the solution to the problems of South Africa, he said.

On the vexing question of crime and the rise of organisations like People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad), he said that communities were genuinely concerned about issues like gangsterism and drug trafficking.

De Klerk said he understood the frustrations of the people and that all sectors of society must be drawn into the fight against crime.

However, civil society's involvement must not become "counter productive" to those who are dealing with crime.

De Klerk also criticised the lack of internal co-ordination within government bodies engaged in fighting crime.

He said for crime to be effectively fought, the police plan must be implemented. Police must be sufficiently empowered and the military creatively used to assist them.
Reconciliation has paid dividends for provinces

Kevin O'Grady

ADOPTING reconciliatory positions and attempting to allay the fears of the white right wing had been central to the Northwest and Northern Cape governments’ success in ruling their provinces, premiers Manne Dipico and Popo Molefe said yesterday.

Speaking in Midrand, near Johannesburg, yesterday, Northern Cape premier Dipico said that when his province was created after the 1994 election, he realised it was “targeted as a volkstaat, with 70% of the population being Afrikaans speaking”.

However, since taking a “calculated risk” by awarding the Freedom Front one MEC position even though it was not entitled to one, the party had “never again raised the issue of a volkstaat”.

Dipico said: “Reconciliation was the issue, and we had to work at it. To date we’ve been partners, good partners, and because of that we’ve achieved stability.”

The white right wing also had a “very strong base” in Northwest when Molefe’s government took over, the province’s premier said.

“Nobody gave us a ghost of a chance of governing.”

Now the Afrikaans community has increasingly accepted the new government. Schools, even in such right-wing strongholds as Venterdorp, had integrated without problems and farmers had accepted and were contributing to the RDP.

Dipico and Molefe were speaking as part of a three-week series of briefings by ANC ministers, premiers and MECs on “24 months of governance: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and the way forward”.

Problems the Northern Cape government had experienced since coming to power included the size of the province and communication problems related to that, the small slice—2%—of the national budget the province received and the absence of a tertiary education institution considered necessary to building the province’s human resources.

The possibility was now being discussed of establishing a satellite campus on Ekonom premises with the involvement of Free State, Stellenbosch, Vuta and Western Cape universities and a number of technikons.

Molefe said his government had taken strides in attracting investors to the province but greater efforts needed to be made to offer incentives “including export processing zones”.

Education had been a focal point of his government and this was shown by the fact that 200,000 more children were attending school this year than last year and 243 of 500 planned new classrooms had been built.

A policy of emphasising the teaching of mathematics and the sciences, subjects black schoolchildren were traditionally discouraged from studying, had been adopted.

He admitted his government had been “very slow in terms of housing projects”, having completed only 2,000 of a planned 25,000 new homes in a province where there was an acknowledged 190,000-home backlog.

Of great concern was planned gambling legislation which would require it to sell its 40% share in Sun International casino operations within two years.
Western and Northern Cape likely to get less money from government

By Chris Volckering

The commission examined the budget for the commission and the $1 billion in funding for the commission. It was noted that the funding is based on the commission's budget and the amount of money the commission would receive from the government.

The report concluded that the commission would receive less money from the government due to the lower budget. The report also noted that the commission would receive less money due to the lower budget.
Provincial boundary hearings to begin

BY JUSTICE MALALA
Provincial Correspondent

The Shubane Commission of Inquiry— which may change the political landscape and demographics of the North West and the Northern Cape dramatically—will begin hearing oral submissions in Kimberley tomorrow and is expected to wrap up its work at the end of March.

The commission, led by socio-political analyst Khehla Shubane, was appointed by President Mandela and Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Mohammed Valli Moosa last year to resolve the longstanding Taung/Kuruman/Kudumane border dispute between the two provinces.

The areas, which have been in dispute since the 1994 elections, presently fall under the North West province and have a population of more than 700,000. The Northern Cape also has a population of 700,000.

If the commission recommends that the three areas fall under the Northern Cape, this would mean a “virtual doubling” of African voters in that province.

Political parties and pundits say this would lead to the ANC in the province gaining a massive voter injection, turning a “marginal” province into a safe one because its support was huge in African communities.

The ANC won the provincial elections in the Northern Cape by a small margin, gaining only 15 of the 30 seats in the legislature, while the National Party garnered 13 seats. The Freedom Front took two seats.

The NP has previously said that it hopes to win the Northern Cape provincial elections in 1999.

“Sittings will take place over two days,” Shubane said in a statement.

“The commission will receive oral evidence from groups which have already made written submissions to the commission.

“We urge groups with an interest in this matter, but which have not made written submissions yet, to do so swiftly,” Shubane said in a statement.

Other sittings of the commission will be in Pampierstad, Pudumong, Kuruman, Kudumane, Hartswater, Vryburg and Mmabatho over the next month.”
Stofile’s new challenge

The premier designate of the Eastern Cape, Arnold Stofile, faces a monumental task when he takes office next month to establish effective government in the province — and deal with large numbers of civil servants who are being paid for doing very little. Colleague Patrick Cull of the Eastern Province Herald uncovered a few examples of issues he will have to deal with (see table below).

Vrystaat

The President of the outgoing Senate, Kobe Coetsee, and new senator Patrick “Terror” Lekota simply could not help their provincial selves when the former Free State premier was sworn in this week. “Welcome to the Senate,” Coetsee said at the end of the ceremony, “Now it’s a Free State.”

Lekota paid tribute to the outgoing chairman, a fellow Free Stater, saying he was one of the key figures in the emergence of South Africa into a democracy.

With Lekota virtually certain to be the first chairperson of the new National Council of the Provinces, provincial control over the leadership of the Upper House is ensued.

A way to go

A CIRCULAR sent this week to Cape Town ratepayers showed that it has, to a large extent, been able to avoid the new South Africa wave of affirmative action. Not the glossy photographs of its five top senior official were all male — and not one of them is Xhosa-speaking.

Spellcheck

PROFESSOR Mahood Mamdam of the University of Cape Town has written a long and interesting review of Reconciliation Through Truth: A Reckoning of Apartheid’s Criminal Governance by Kader Asmal, Louise Asmal and Ronald Suresh Roberts in the latest issue of the South African Review of Books.

But one has to wonder how well he read the book although Kader Asmal’s name is spelt “Kadar” in the review.
The 'camp of shame'  

Bushmen forced to live in squalor

In an act branded as racist and reminiscent of the old South Africa, the 4,000-strong San community of Schmidtsdrift near Kimberley has been forced to live in appalling conditions in a "camp of shame".

The San leadership said the Northern Cape Premier Mannie Dipico told them the Bushmen were "citizens of a lesser standing" and that the Tawana would "enjoy preference" over them in the quest for land.

The San have been prevented by a provincial government "moratorium" from occupying a 50-million farm bought with their own trust fund, which consists of their own money and over a century's contributions.

Buying the farm was made possible, said Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom, "instead, they have had to live for seven years in squalor, disease and malnutrition, all restricted to a tent camp where disease and malnutrition are rife.

The 400 of the San were employed by the former Defence Force as trackers in the war in Namibia.

Repeated requests by Saturday Argus for an interview with Mr Dipico were denied, even though a reporter sat outside his office in Kimberley for hours.

Mr Dipico's spokesman, Steven Major, said the premier was attending to "press matters" and could not confirm if Mr Dipico had uttered the racist sentiments atributed to him.

A leader of the Tawana Marlo Mabogo told Saturday Argus: "We are being treated like second-class refugees and all attempts to reach a settlement with the government have been ignored. At the last meeting with the premier he shouted at us, accusing us of playing ping-pong with them.

"He said because we are Tawana the Tawana would receive preferential treatment over us in their quest for land.

"Mr Dipico's alleged racial insult was confirmed by Robert Doroof, leader of a San group in the Tawana. He added that his people had been caught up in a power play between central and provincial government.

An angry San marched on the provincial government offices on Thursday demanding that the premier personally accept an urgent memorandum. They were told Mr Dipico was "unavailable".

The director general of the Northern Cape, Martin van Wyk, accepted the memorandum on Mr Dipico's behalf.

More than 4,000 members of the Tawana and Khwe community originally from southern Angola and the Caprivi Strip in Namibia, said they had been forced to endure "inhumane treatment" at the hands of two governments, both of which "marginalized us and consigned us to promises of housing until our voices are heard.

"We are full citizens of this country and are tired of being discriminated against. All the time we are being made to feel unwelcome and that we have no rights in this land."

But Mr Majekci denied the allegations of discrimination, saying that the Khwe were being discriminated against because they had fought on the side of the previous government in the liberation war in the '50s and '60s.

He said the "Bushmen problem was inherited from apartheid authorities" and that financial constraints prevented his government from dealing with the matters on the farm at Flatfontein.

Saturday Argus visited the Bushmen settlement at Schmidtsdrift and was shocked to witness the dismal conditions. Many residents suffered from malnutrition and lung diseases, including tuberculosis, were rife among the young and old.

This was caused by crushing poverty and the absence of vital services like health and food services.

On tours it was found that the elderly and small children suffered most from malnutrition. In many cases, there were too young or too ill to breastfeed their babies.

Schmidtsdrift commanding officer Charles Hallatt said: "Tuberculosis (TB) remains the most feared disease and the single most deadly to the community. There are more than 10 new patients report for consultations every month.

"Every new TB patient normally has four to five direct contacts with other people. There are only about 3,000 people and those who have to deal with 1,004 patients in
San starve in 'camp of shame'

From page 1

August last year alone. That leaves little time, if any, for tracing the remainder of the infected people."

He said the infrastructure at Schmidtsdrift had been built by the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and was maintained by its personnel.

"Nothing would have existed if it was not for the SANDF. We provide beyond our mandate a medical service to all in need and not only the 154 people presently employed by the SANDF," said Mayor Hallatt. "We try to provide a welfare service with one qualified welfare officer and three nursing staff to ensure broken spirits are healed and that the flame of hope keeps burning.

"The means to do just that becomes a question to be answered by the politicians after their next lunch or their next stay in a luxurious hotel. We hope they are giving it a thought," he added.

Back to basics: Manta Oelofse teaches simple arithmetic to San children in tent town
One nation: San members of the Schmidt'sdrift settlement demand restoration of their human rights.

‘Hidden agenda’ to blame for people’s plight – SANDF

Paul Oliver
Staff Reporter

The horrific conditions prevalent in the San settlement at Schmidt'sdrift near Kimberley must be placed squarely at the door of the Northern Cape government.

That’s according to the Defence Force commanding officer of the settlement, Charles Hallat, who said: “The provincial government reeled when they saw the magnitude of the problem.”

The national Government, through Land Affairs minister Derek Hanekom, is sympathetic to the plight of the people. “But it seems as though the provincial government has a hidden agenda,” Major Hallat said.

In April the SANDF were forced to spend more than R184 000 solely on the medical bills for residents of the settlement.

Only 350 soldiers had to care for the entire community of 4 500 and the SANDF had to foot most of the bill.

On a tour of the settlement the hopelessness of the situation soon becomes apparent.

There is no electricity except at the main buildings at the heart of the settlement and the telephone system is unreliable. Telephones are connected to solar panels and in overcast or rainy weather the settlement is cut off from the outside world.

Major Hallat said: “The San people are regularly exploited by salesmen and those offering credit. Clever businessmen realise there are communication problems and sell them goods and services under false pretences. In some cases customers are offered liquor and then signed up while in a state of intoxication, but the law prevents us from interfering.”

Major Hallat added that the family structure of the San at Schmidt'sdrift was slowly crumbling as teenagers became more educated and started dominating the household.

“The young people are exposed to different things from their parents and the glitter of Western life is like a magnet. Because the San have such soft natures, children are seldom disciplined and left to learn by their mistakes. This does not work in a Western-type society,” he said.

Major Hallat said another worrying factor was the “alarming increase” in teenage pregnancies.

“The influence of television, a Westernised lifestyle and the recklessness of youth lacking proper parental guidance results in more and more reports of venereal disease and teenage pregnancies,” he said.
In the political arena, I will...
but the real issues are more...
the question of yesterday —
the core of the matter —
the question of today.

The question of yesterday is what I
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It is a question of the
continuing struggle of
the Church, in the face of
the challenges of the
modern world.
Council cannot pay workers on time

Deborah Fine

CONTINUED non-payment of municipal services was one of the main factors which had rendered the Warrenton Town Council, near Kimberley in the Northern Cape, unable to pay its employees on time, town clerk Nico Coetsee said yesterday.

He conceded that council employees had increasingly been receiving their salaries later than the normal 25th of every month and confirmed that they had not yet been paid for October. However, he said they would receive their pay today.

Coetsee said "very low" levels of municipal payments combined with increasing operating costs had squeezed the municipality’s ability to pay its workers on time, because the council was often forced to wait until payments had reached a certain level before it could pay its workforce.

He was responding to calls by the traditionally white Independent Municipal and Allied Trade Union (Imatu)

Record Made in India exhibition coming to SA

Business Day Reporter

India would stage its biggest Made in India exhibition in SA in February, India's consul-general in Johannesburg, Skand Ranjan Tayal, said yesterday.

The show, running from February 11 to 14, will be organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry, which represents 3 500 firms with a total capital investment of more than R300m. It has 23 offices in India and 12 overseas, including one in Johannesburg.

Tayal said the value of trade between SA and India had increased from R235m in 1993 to more than R2bn last year, and it was now set to reach "new heights"
MEC tells of ‘difficult and intricate’ division of revenue

Deborah Fine

THE Northern Cape tabled a balanced budget of R2,136bn yesterday, which increased social spending by 8% of the province’s total expenditure for 1998/99 and provided R116,3m for capital projects.

Finance and economic affairs MEC Goolam Akharwaray said the division of revenue between provincial departments was “difficult and intricate” because “almost every sphere of activity (was) disadvantaged.”

Incoming revenue comprised R3,064bn from the national revenue fund and R72,8m raised by the province.

The main sources of provincial revenue were a projected R35,6m from vehicle licences, R10m in interest on investments and R3,5m from gambling licenses and the horseracing industry.

Funds generated from hospital fees were expected to increase to R9,8m because of improvements in patient billing systems.

Akharwaray said education, welfare and health were allocated R1,723bn, an increase of 4% compared with the previous year.

Education was allocated R811,8m or 38% of the budget, representing a 15,1% increase on last year. Welfare was given R566,1m, which was 2,7% more than the previous year, while R50,68m was available for health.

An 8% increase Welfare and health allocations made up 26% and 16% of total expenditure respectively.

Transport was given R128,9m, an 8,5% decrease on last year, while local government and housing were allocated R46,47m, a 39,8% decrease compared with 1997/98. This was because all transfer payments to local authorities would be paid directly by national government rather than via provinces.

Agriculture, economic affairs and tourism, public works, nature conservation and other services were collectively allocated R133,56m, or 11% of the budget. Reductions in these areas were unavoidable given the pressing need to provide social services, Akharwaray said.

The National Party (NP) and the Democratic Party (DP) in the province were concerned about the financial and fiscal commission formula used to determine the province’s slice of national revenue, which was “far too small.”

DP leader and legislature speaker Ethne Papenfus and NP deputy leader Jan Brazeille said the commission focused too heavily on population numbers, failing to recognise that service delivery was more expensive where populations were small but scattered. They welcomed the increase in social spending, but warned that reductions in transport spending could have “dire consequences.”
Efficiency of Provincial Governments is Questioned
First election volley expected in the N Cape
Umtata printers paid to do nothing

CAPE TOWN — About 230 employees at the government printing works in Umtata are being paid R15,5m annually to do practically nothing.

Home affairs director-general Albert Mokoena told Parliament's public accounts standing committee yesterday that the unprofitable plant could not be closed down because of the moratorium on retrenchments in the public sector. Retrenchment would be more expensive than paying the workers to do nothing.

Where there were too many people to do one function, frustration sometimes led to alcohol abuse, extended sick leave and bouts of absenteeism, he said. From January to November 1997, sick leave totalled 3 663 days, or 24 days per worker.

Committee chairman Ken Andrew said the works were managed "appallingly". Salaries represented 71% of expenditure and some orders which should take three months to execute took about a year.

Deputy director-general Ivan Lambton said many of the employees had irregularly been given higher salaries and rankings which they had not had to for that reason. The findings of the White commission into irregular promotions. Lower salaries would take effect from March 1 and ways were being investigated to recover the excesses paid.

Mokoena said a tender had gone out for a feasibility study on how to convert the works into a profitable enterprise.
No signs of North West threat to cross-provincial border

Wyndham Hartley

KIMBERLEY — Despite concern about violent disruptions to the election in the Northern Cape by disgruntled residents of the North West, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) mounted a highly successful poll yesterday in the vast province.

Police at the towns of Hartswater and Jan Kempdorp said that they were aware of threats from residents of Taung and Pamperslad in the North West that they would vote in the Northern Cape.

At a Hartswater station, police said their biggest problem had been to redirect four elderly men to the correct station.

There was a low-key security presence in key areas, with police and the SA National Defence Force patrolling voting stations and main roads.

Provincial electoral officer Gugu Matlaopane said there had been no reports of security breaches or violent incidents at any polling stations in the province.

She said that by 10am the IEC had confirmed that 32% of all the voting stations were functioning. The fact that there were many mobile stations abroad meant that it was impossible for stations to be open 100% of the time.

Matlaopane said she was satisfied that all stations were functioning within an hour or two of the scheduled start. Stations in isolated rural areas of the province had queues waiting for them when they opened on schedule at 7am.

Matlaopane said there had been no problems with election material.

However, the high percentage of illiterate voters in the province slowed down the election process as presiding officers had to help them. There was also reports of slow scanning of bar codes.

Premier Manne Dipico, who arrived late to vote in the Galashewa township, chose not to exercise his prerogative to head to the front of the queue, and joined the long queue to wait his turn.

BD 31699 (263A)
Bakkies and buses ferry voters in Northern Cape

Wyndham Hartley

KIMBERLEY — The Northern Cape wakes up early. Voters were queuing in the dark for what was for many only the second time in their lives that they had cast a vote.

In the enclave formed by the curve of the Vaal and Harts Rivers, farm workers stood patiently in lines for hours. Punctuating the queues were the farmers.

There was a significant but low-key security presence in the provincial capital, with SA Defence Force troops patrolling main roads and police vehicles cruising the areas surrounding the voting stations.

At a station in Hartswater, north of Kimberley, a police officer said everything was running smoothly. “If they carry on like this all 2,800 voters will have cast their ballots by lunch time,” he said.

“But sadly this does not mean that we can pack up and go home.”

In many places the party’s election machines were in full swing once the sun came out. The African National Congress organised buses to shuttle between townships and voting stations. Farmers with bakkies were also transporting voters to the polls.

Kimberley stood up and took notice when a helicopter carrying De Beers chairman Nicky Oppenheimer arrived before lunch time.

Oppenheimer and his wife had just flown from London to SA and then took a helicopter from Johannesburg to Kimberley. It is believed Oppenheimer bought residential property in the diamond town specifically so that he could return to vote in the district.

The Independent Electoral Commission said that there were long queues in the town’s polling stations, particularly in the township of Galeshowe.

All appeared to be peaceful and cheerful, with the only rumbles coming from voters made to wait by the arrival of special voters, who were taken to the front of the queue. The ordinary voters said special voters should have voted on days allocated for them earlier this week.

B3 3/1/99 (2639)
Election 99

Real Manne wait in the queue

ELECTION 99 XI

WAU GUARDIAN

Weekend Edition
Dipico's new cabinet causes controversy

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — Northern Cape premier Manne Dipico has enlarged his provincial executive by three and promoted mainly coloured members to the posts. This seems to be aimed at consolidating the African National Congress' support in the coloured community as the ANC's victory came from attracting a substantial number of coloured voters away from opposition parties.

Two former members of the executive council for the ANC, Faith Nkala and Bulelani, have lost their places and Freedom Front MEC Johan Heuning has also been replaced. In addition, the three posts that became redundant for the National Party left the government of provincial unity have been reactivated.

New members of Dipico's team include Joni Bonokwane (economics and tourism), Dipuo Peters (health) and Fred Woyberg (safety and housing). Peggy Hollander, a former NP MEC, returns for the ANC in the social services and population development portfolio.

A Democratic Party member of the legislative assembly, Chris Liebenberg, said it was clear from the appointments that Dipico was trying to consolidate the gains he had made among coloured voters. He expressed concern that in a province which had the worst record of all nine for processing provincial legislation the Northern Cape now had to pay for an extra three MECs.
PS - LOCAL AUTHORITIES - KWAZULU/NATAL
1999
Premier, MEC fired

By Jimmy Seepe

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Ben Ngubane has been fired and will be replaced by the Inkatha Freedom Party's non-sense Arts, Science and Technology Minister Mr Lionel Mthuli.

The axing of Ngubane comes amid claims that the IFP provincial leadership was unhappy with his handling of gambling licence applications.

Ngubane's removal has sent shockwaves through the province.

The African National Congress provincial leadership has described his sacking as "a purge to please the extreme rightwing in the IFP".

IFP president and Home Affairs Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi made the announcement in Ulundi yesterday.

Ngubane's removal is the latest in a campaign the IFP has conducted against leaders who do not follow its policies.

Ngubane is the second IFP premier to be removed since 1994.

Dr Frank Mdakale was fired in 1997.

In a statement Buthelezi described the axing of Ngubane as an attempt by the party to correct KwaZulu-Natal's poor matric results.

Also fired yesterday was ANC deputy chairman and education MEC Dr Zwell Mkhize.

Buthelezi said Mkhize would be replaced by Mrs EkaNkou-Shandu.

KwaZulu-Natal's poor matric results have been cited as the main reason for the removal of Ngubane and Mkhize.

Both Buthelezi and Ngubane said while they recognised that the provincial leaders tried their utmost to make the province's education system a success, it became clear that "this year's matric results have shown that even their best (efforts) were objectively not good enough".

Buthelezi said "The present status is particularly regretful in the light of the fact that just a few years ago the erstwhile KwaZulu government prided itself with the highest matric pass rate in the country."

He said both Mthuli and KaNkou-Shandu would prove to be a good team that would "ensure that schools once again become the place where pupils learn and teachers teach."

Buthelezi rejected speculation that Ngubane's removal was linked to the gambling licence issue.

"The removal from office of Ngubane is objectively immaterial and irrelevant in respect of the stages of the casino licences," he said.

The party still has to decide on Ngubane's future deployment. Buthelezi said Ngubane was willing to be deployed to wherever the party needs him.

Reacting to Ngubane's departure yesterday, ANC spokesman Mr Dumisa Makhaya said "The ANC has been expecting this for quite some time because Ngubane has been refusing to dance to the tune of extreme rightwing whites within the IFP."

(264) 1/12/99
IFP sacks KwaZulu premier from post

Arts and Culture Minister Lionel Mtshali may leave cabinet to lead province

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN - A shake-up in the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) has led to the sacking of KwaZulu-Natal premier Ben Ngubane and education MEC Vincent Zulu amid speculation that Ngubane will return to central government and Zulu to a diplomatic post.

IFP sources said Arts and Culture Minister Lionel Mtshali would be installed as premier at a sitting of the provincial legislature on Thursday Ngubane would take over Mtshali’s national portfolio, which he held before becoming KwaZulu-Natal finance MEC and later premier.

Sources said the African National Congress’s (ANC’s) top brass was dissatisfied with Mtshali who, apart from a public spat with his director-general Roger Jardine, was involved in a row with the US government IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi was apparently not happy with Ngubane’s performance after a dispute concerning casinos.

An IFP source said Mtshali once accused Ngubane of wanting to hand over the “economy of the province” to the ANC through the issuing of casino licences in Durban.

Another source said the position of KwaZulu-Natal finance MEC Peter Miller, under whose control gambling fell, was also uncertain. Senior IFP officials allegedly undermined him by ordering Buthelezi’s special adviser, Mario Ambrosun, party treasurer-general Arthur Konukherme and provincial MP John Aulsebrook to draft new gambling legislation Miller opposed this and it was unlikely that he would be willing to pilot the new legislation through the legislature.

The IFP went ahead with drafting the legislation after legal experts indicated that existing legislation was in conflict with national legislation as it gave the provincial cabinet — not the gambling board — the power to issue licences.

One source said the issuing of licences would start from scratch. The new board could have 20 members, including five public servants. The strategy seemed to be to pack the board with IFP sympathisers, who would then push for a Durban licence to be given to British casino magnate John Aspinall — said to be a close friend of Buthelezi’s.

It was previously reported that the board had recommended a consortium in which Johnas, led by former ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa, should be awarded a licence.

The provincial ANC expressed shock that Ngubane, like his predecessor Frank Mdlalose, was allegedly sacked for refusing to be part of “shady casino deals”.

The Democratic Party said the Health unit should be called in to investigate, as there were claims the Gambling Association of SA had given the IFP R100 000 for its 1996 election campaign in exchange for “legislative favours”.

In a joint statement, Buthelezi and Ngubane dismissed as “preposterous” suggestions that Ngubane’s removal was linked to the gambling issue. They said Ngubane would resolve the licence problem before leaving the province.

IFP sources said Ngubane was likely to be replaced as party chairman by Mtshali. Zulu would be replaced by national deputy public works minister Eileen kaNkosana-Shandu. It was unclear who would replace her in the National Assembly. Sources said Buthelezi had negotiated an ambassadorial appointment for Zulu in the Middle East.

Appointment could backfire: Page 2
Fall guy Ngubane
ignored tradition

By Malcolm Ray

The departure of Inkatha Freedom Party's KwaZulu-Natal premier Dr Ben Ngubane is politically complex and fraught with footnotes. His departure came at the expense of electoral politics and follows a host of leadership purges since 1994.

The pattern is peculiar. In 1993 the then general secretary, Dr Ziba Jyane, was kicked out of his post. This was followed by the unceremonious removal of former president Dr Frank Mdlalose in 1997 and Correctional Services Minister Sopo Masina in 1998 from their respective portfolios.

Officially, the IFP boasts the largest removal of Ngubane, less than two years after his predecessor was a consequence of electoral politics in the party. The party - a responsibility of provincial education MEC Vincent Zulu.

Another reason cited for his removal is his opposition to casino deals in the province by members of his party. Two questions arose in the performance of a provincial, MEC proceeds to get a deal.

And why was Ngubane's alleged opposition to casino deals in the province and perhaps support of legislators less for casino deals seen as sudden?

Both reasons obscure a more intricate reality. Politically the removal is of a party in profound decay. Leadership issues and infighting in the last three years typify a muddled movement.

Less tangible but more enduring is a dilemma the IFP must shed its legacy of patronage, politics and modernity, which have been its traditional and predominantly rural base.

At stake is a crisis of centile and identity facing the party. Whereas its electoral base was during the 1980s under the custody of Zuma nationalism, it has now lost its predominance. The party faces two challenges: political and economic. The first has been the loss of political and economic dynamics introduced new difficulties in the mid-1990s.

Economic growth, job creation and rural development in the province are growing sources of political pressure which the party has not adequately addressed.

Unemployment rate

It is estimated that the unemployment rate in the province is roughly 26 per cent. Very little has been done to attract new investment.

And the provincial government has not kept pace with a rapid urbanisation process which has seen a proliferation of peri-urban areas.

It is not unreasonable to suggest that the performance of the IFP's rural constituency will necessarily be driven less by national than a desire for socio-economic delivery.

In the public eye, provincial government is responsible for this state of affairs.

Thus the IFP's closure relevance as a political force in the province means abandoning its traditional brand of politics for an influence of development and administrative dynamics. It is time for the party either to win or lose support.

In this context, Dr Ben Ngubane's recall was sealed. Sources in the IFP say he is well aware of the state of affairs. Described as a "moderate technocrat and progressive", his removal is rumoured to have been a driving force for growth of the province.

His departure in the last five years was with opposition parties and business. He is weighing behind his commitment to urban growth and industrial development.

His approach to party democracy and open debate was as odd as the "authoritative and loyalist" style of traditional leadership. He is a hallmark of the IFP according to some observers. Others viewed in the provincial power vacuum point to his "independent" status in the party.

He has been a more reconciliatory presence among the leaders, pushing for less concessions for the IFP in order to speed up the implementation of the accord. And one.

Some political commentators point to the rise of a "technocratic wing" in the party - including Ngubane, Mdlalose, Jyane and Mzimako. However, they emphasise the need to ensure that the new leaders have a position that conforms to the party's democratic norms.

That the party's leadership now has an effective relationship with the council, the IFP leadership should engage in a more meaningful and open dialogue.

In the run-up to the election, he has been a strong voice in the party. Nonetheless, he has been a voice in the party's democratic norms.

Nzimande is convinced that support of a merger would necessarily have occurred in the adoption of a "long-planned political identity", which is the IFP's leadership.

It seems as if the IFP's nationalism is not a strong tradition that is winning support. To suggest that the party's leadership is as seen in a rush to Zuma tradition and the identity of the party.

As Nzimande succinctly explains: "The rationale for the IFP's existence is a longstanding national identity, which is the traditional leadership. The technocrats therefore represent a very necessary role for development and growth in the province.

More general is the danger that threatened to submerge the identity of the party under a grand reconstruction effort led by the African National Congress.

"The worry is that the party's technical leadership is a force that is not long-planned political identity, which is the IFP's leadership."

Political identity

Opinion by IFP leader Mzimakubeka Mlondoloza was Plaintiff and President of the party. As a voice in the party, he seems to suggest that the party's leadership is a force that is not long-planned political identity.

Mlondoloza is convinced that support of a merger would necessarily have occurred in the adoption of a "long-planned political identity," which is the IFP's leadership. However, he has been a voice in the party's democratic norms.

In the run-up to the election, he has been a strong voice in the party. Nonetheless, he has been a voice in the party's democratic norms.
Just tools of the party

DESPITE the reasonably fair amount of political power and constitutional authority vested in the position of provincial premier, it has become clear that their positions and time in office are increasingly subject to the whims of their party bosses.

This has been demonstrated by African National Congress premiers.

It could be argued that, in the two occasions of Inkatha Freedom Party premiers Dr. Frank Mdlalose and Dr. Ben Ngubane, the machinations of party bosses were central to their eventual departures.

This is not surprising. What is interesting is the alleged reason for Ngubane's departure - that he has to take the blame for last year's poor marine results in KwaZulu-Natal.

This is absolutely incredible. If the public were to accept this reasoning, there should be some consistency and a principled approach to the issue of premiers and their performance in all provinces and all other policy sectors in which there is poor performance.

Now the IFP has to lay down a set of principles to say how it will implement and enforce this practice in future.

Bad principle

A bad principle of governance has been introduced and an equally bad precedent has therefore been set.

Should this year's marine results in KwaZulu-Natal be poor again, the public would argue, it was justified in expecting the IFP to abide by its own principles and dismiss the new premier, Lionel Mthethwa.

Secondly, if Ngubane can be fired for poor marine results in the province, why not also blame him for the poor performance of the province's department of transport during the Amandla-Abende campaign? After all, KwaZulu-Natal had the highest road death statistics of all provinces during the Christmas holidays.

Again, if we were to take this reasoning to its logical conclusion, all provinces would have new premiers this year.

For instance, Premier Gerald Moseloi and his safety and security MEC should have been fired by the National Party for the continuing spate of bomb attacks in Western Cape.

Similarly, Premier Dr. Nathi Mthethwa and safety and security MEC Paul Mashatile should be preparing to leave office as a result of their unsatisfactory performance in crime prevention in Gauteng.

Mqomvela Premier Mathews Phosa should have resigned already for the bad performance of all these MECs who were fired for allowing corruption to go undetected and unpunished in their departments.

Eastern Cape and Northern Province premiers and their MECs for social welfare should have been fired for the corruption involving pension claims in those provinces.

And now for the most ridiculous but logical conclusion of the IFP's reasoning, applied at national level the ANC should have asked President Nelson Mandela and the ministers of health, education, safety and security and housing to leave office because of poor performance.

Unconstitutional

Obviously, it would be absolutely ridiculous for this type of practice to be adopted as normal political practice in this country.

In fact, it could possibly be unconstitutional for a premier to be dismissed from office over the bad performance of one or more sectors of policy-making in a particular province.

Constitutional experts therefore need to examine the constitutional implications of what the IFP has done.

The Constitutional Court could justifiably look into the constitutional validity of the IFP's decision as it raises important implications for governance.

Performance in any area of provincial policy-making - be it education, housing, health or safety and security - is, first and foremost, the responsibility of the MECs.

It would be unwise to expect premiers to dip their hands into all provincial departments because they could be accused of interfering in the responsibilities of their MECs.

It is the job of the MEC for education, not the premier, to see to it that the sector performs well.

If the premier were to call the sector of public expenditure his or her responsibility, the sector's failure would be his or her responsibility as well.

Constitutionally, the premier is the manager who oversees the performance of all the MECs in his cabinet.

If MECs fail to execute their functions, premiers have the constitutional power and legal authority to dismiss them and appoint more competent MECs.

Poor performance

However, if a premier can be dismissed together with an MEC for the bad performance of any sector, this reduces the premier to the level of an MEC.

This might be politically justified for a political party, but there is a high probability that this is unconstitutional.

There is therefore a need for political parties in South Africa to separate the sphere of party politics from the sphere of government.

As members of a political party, premiers and their MECs might be equal in status, but as members of government performing their specific roles, they have well-defined constitutional responsibilities to fulfil.

To treat them as if these differences did not exist makes a mockery of these constitutional provisions.

If the IFP wanted Ngubane to run the education department of KwaZulu-Natal, then it should have placed this responsibility in his office and done away with the education MEC right from the beginning.

What the party has done is not helpful at all to the project of building a system of autonomous sub-national governments with integrity.

It is highly probable that Ngubane was dismissed for reasons other than the poor performance of the education portfolio in his province.

(The writer is a researcher at the Johannesburg-based Centre for Policy Studies.)
Colonial names of Durban streets to change

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban - Three of Durban's main streets are set to lose their colonial-era names within a month, the first of an avalanche of such changes planned for the city in the months ahead.

Executive councillors from Durban's two central councils were to meet today to discuss a proposal to change the names of Smith, West and Gardiner streets to Mandela, Chris Hani and Oliver Tambo streets respectively.

Speaking at the African Renaissance Festival in the city at the weekend, metro mayor Obed Mlaba announced that a radical change of colonial street names, statues and monuments was planned.

It is believed that Smith, West and Gardiner streets are likely to be the first to change, possibly within a month.

Councillors from the North Central and South Central councils have already received copies of a letter from ANC councillor Nonyuzwa Shabalala, proposing the "urgent" renaming of these streets.

Council critics of the move, which include the New National Party's Geoff Oldfield, say the ANC, which has a majority in the council, plans to rush through the three name changes in time for next month's conferring of the freedom of the city on President Nelson Mandela.

In an interview yesterday, Mlaba admitted he "would be thrilled to have an agreement to rename these three major streets" by then.

"How can anyone say we are rushing ahead with these changes? If anything, we've been too slow. We've had a democratic council for five years and we're only getting around to these important changes now," Mlaba said.

Transformation is already sweeping through the city's chief colonial landmark, the city hall. Portraits of past mayors will soon be replaced with those of John Dube, Dorothy Nyembe, Mahatma Gandhi, Isaiah Shimbe and other community and cultural figures.

The past mayors will retain a diminished presence in the gallery in the form of miniature portraits.

Pictures of the last four kings of the Zulu nation will preside over the passage from the parking area to the foyer.
Colonial era street names to go

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Durban — Three of Durban’s main streets are set to lose their colonial era names within a month, the first of an avalanche of such changes planned for the metro in the months ahead.

Executive councillors from Durban’s two central councils were this week to discuss a proposal to change the names of Smith, West and Gardner streets to Mandela, Chris Hani and Oliver Tambo streets respectively.

Speaking at the African Renaissance Festival in the city at the weekend, Metro Mayor Obed Mlaba announced a radical change of colonial street names, statues and monuments was on the cards, but did not go into detail.

Councillors from the North Central and South Central councils have already received copies of a letter from African National Congress councillor, Nomvuza Shabalala, proposing the “urgent” renaming of these streets.

Council critics of the move said the ANC, which has a majority in the metro, planned to rush through the three name changes in time for next month’s conferring of the freedom of the city on President Nelson Mandela.

In an interview, Mr Mlaba backed the proposal. While the logistics of physically changing all the street signs in time for the award ceremony were daunting, he “would be thrilled to have at least an agreement to rename these three major streets” by then, he said.
Uproar over discovery of ID book scans at IFP councillors' homes
Cool, calm crowds turn out to vote in Durban

Pule Molebeledi

DURBAN — Forecasts of voter apathy among the nearly 3.5 million KwaZulu-Natal voters seemed off mark yesterday as thousands of voters braved hours of queuing to cast their votes.

Even in Indian areas, where registration levels were relatively low, large numbers went to vote.

Despite the absence of the passion associated with the 1994 elections, the mood of voters, standing in long, snaking lines, was upbeat.

Outside the Durban City Hall, Igbat Rasool, 48, said he was happy to see so many people turning out to vote. "This is what democracy is all about," voting in a free and fair environment," he said.

Rasool was keen to vote even though he had been unemployed for the past three years after being retrenched. The former salesman said he survived by hawking.

Chatsworth electoral officer Sabir Seedat said all was going well at the polling station. voters at the Dawnyride Indian primary school, except that some youths were refusing to allow older people to vote first.

Seedat was concerned that the station would not be able to process the 3,000 expected voters by 9pm, as voting was proceeding slowly. Seedat said it took one minute to assist each voter.

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) might just be forced to extend voting," he said.

Seedat had just refused a potential voter permission to cast her vote because she had brought a photocopy of her identity book. Attempts by the husband to ensure his wife voted, saying she had lost her identity book, were in vain.

Seedat advised her to have the copy certified and return to vote.

In contrast with the calm of Umlazi, the KwaMipag community hall rang with the shouts of youths restraining suspected queue jumpers. "But" police posted outside the polling station were in a relaxed mood, indicating that all was under control.

The local electoral officer, Gugu Mbonambi, complained that the zip machines were too slow, to process the IDs and that this was lengthening the kilometre-long queue. She asked the IEC to allow them to bypass the machines.

To help the elderly, the station set up two queues, for the young and the old.

The atmosphere at the voting centre in the largely white, middle-class area of Northwood in Durban North, was calm and relaxed.

Many voters read novels and newspapers while the line inched forward, even after the arrival of Health Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and Education Minister Sisulu. Bengu did not raise a stir.
Verbal intimidation fails to mar peaceful poll
ANC, IFP look set to form coalition in KwaZulu-Natal

DURBAN: KwaZulu-Natal was heading for a photo-finish between the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party last night in an election result that is considered good for the province and means coalition government for the next five years.

Neither party got close to a true majority, with the most probable scenario being that the two major parties will be obliged to work hand-in-hand to run KwaZulu-Natal. Premership of the province looks likely to be part of a negotiated trade-off also involving cabinet posts.

Both the ANC and IFP, while still clinging to hopes of being outright winners, were strongly hinting last night that they would be happy to form a coalition.

"A well-balanced partnership could benefit KwaZulu-Natal by promoting the peace process and provincial decision-making. But it will not be easy. There are many tricky issues to tackle — from mutual blame for gunrunning to gambling legislation.

A high-performing Democratic Party ate into New National Party support, the Indian vote and some black areas to clinch third place in KwaZulu-Natal ahead of a disappointed NNP in provincial performances that mirrored their achievements nationally.

Political parties said they were generally satisfied with the way the Independent Electoral Commission ran the election in the province.

At 8pm last night the ANC and IFP were equal at 40%, representing 32 or so seats each of the provincial legislature's 80 seats.

Support for the IFP was down provincially, but not nearly as much as pre-election polls predicted, and nationally it declined from more than 10% in 1994 to a little more than 8%.

Then came the DP with about 10% (eight seats), the NNP with 4% (four seats), the Majority Front 1.5%, the African Christian Democratic Party 1.9% and, surprisingly low, the United Democratic Movement at 1.2%.

Politicians in the province had a nail-biting time yesterday as their fortunes fluctuated wildly.

"We are being patient, but it is an agonising wait," said IFP national spokesperson, the Rev Musa Zondi. He said the feeling was that the IFP would win.

"The unknown factor is by how much," said Zondi.

"The close contest was a message from the electorate that it wants both parties to play a strong role."

ANC provincial leader Sibusiso Ndebele was also confident of victory, but added "The ANC will always seek cooperation in the understanding that there must be great unity among political parties." — Own Correspondents
TALKS SCHEDULED, BUT ...

ANC, IFP deny plan to trade high places

DURBAN: An IFP source says his party is clear which KwaZulu-Natal posts it will offer the ANC. The premiership is not among them. PHINDILE NGUBANE reports.

According to the IFP source, his party was "not happy" with the ANC's proposal, which had not been included in the ANC's initial peace package for the province. The IFP believed it had been prompted by a realisation that the ANC would not take over KwaZulu-Natal, the source said.

Last night, indications were that the IFP would hold on to the majority in the province by a narrow margin.

The source said the ANC had also proposed that it be given the health, transport and safety and security portfolios. The IFP apparently intends to offer the ANC the economic affairs and tourism portfolio instead.

The IFP proposed that the ANC also chair three portfolio committees, the source said. These would not include the safety and security committee. The former incumbent, ANC member of the legislature Bhethu Cele, was accused by the IFP of undermining its MEC for Safety and Security, Inkosi Nyanga Ngubane.

ANC provincial chairperson and premier candidate Sbu Ndebele said reports of the proposal were untrue. He said the composition of the provincial executive would be discussed only when the final election results were known.

IFP spokesperson Musa Zondi said there was no trading between the two parties. The premiership suggestion was "mere speculation.

Despite the denials, a meeting has been scheduled for ANC and IFP provincial leaders to discuss the ANC proposal this week.
Coalition rule on the way for KZN

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Pretoria – The Inkatha Freedom Party and the African National Congress have committed themselves to negotiate a coalition government in KwaZulu Natal.

After the results announcement last night, the IFP said in a statement that it would begin discussion on the formation of a coalition with the ANC in the province.

It won 34 seats in the provincial legislature while the ANC won 52. The Democratic Party came third with seven seats, the New National Party won three, the Minority Front won two seats, and the African Christian Democratic Party and the United Democratic Movement each won one.

"We believe that the electorate has sent a clear message to both the IFP and the ANC that it wishes to see the two parties build on the progress of recent years in building a peaceful and prosperous future for the province," the IFP said.

The ANC chairman in the province, S'bhe Ndebele, said the two parties had co-operated in the past and would continue to do so.

In Gauteng, the fanfare during the announcement of the election results at the electoral centre last night could just as well have been the funeral march for a once proud liberation movement, the Pan Africanist Congress.

The party had failed to secure the 50,000 votes required to win a single seat among the 78 that make up the provincial legislature.

Joining the PAC in calculating the damage done on June 2 is the New NP, which managed a paltry three seats, down from the 21 it held post-1994.

The DP ousted the New NP as the opposition by getting 13 seats, up eight from the 1994 tally. The ANC took 50 of the 78 seats.

In all the other provinces, the ANC took the lion’s share of seats, with the UDM making a reasonable showing only in the Eastern Cape, where it took eight seats to the ANC’s 47.
Now for the horse-trading in KZN

ELECTION 1999

21

PHILIPPA POWELL AND WONDER

10/4/99

NOW FOR THE HORSE-TRADING IN KZN

(%4)

MJG 4/10/99

BERNARD 4-10/99
to retrieve their service. The law reads: "No person may serve the government in the ANY fixed place knows the importance of the new section in 1997, and knew that the

Kwazulu-Natal seeks way to retrench public servants

a. The Kwazulu-Natal government in the province from outside the province, except for those who are employed by the government in a permanent capacity. The law also states that the government may not retrench a person who has served the government for a period of at least five years, unless the person is retrenched for reasons of financial necessity. The law also contains provisions for the compensation of retrenched public servants, including the provision of retraining and other assistance to help them find new employment. However, the implementation of the law has been slow, and many public servants have been retrenched without adequate compensation or assistance. The government has also been criticized for its failure to provide proper consultation and notice to affected public servants. The law was passed in 1997, and it is hoped that it will be

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Natal freezes salaries of 'ghost employees'

Province steps up drive to root out corruption in state department

Primalashni Pillay

KwaZulu-Natal has frozen the salaries of about 600 employees who are not registered with the provincial education department and may be ghost workers.

Department spokesman Mandla Msibi said yesterday that all employees — from teachers, cleaners, senior officials to superintendent-general Mike Jarvis — had to register with the department.

They also had to provide proof of their qualifications.

The registration process started last year as part of efforts by the department to root out corruption.

It is believed that ghost workers have cost the department at least R20m in salaries and benefits.

Ghost workers are people who illegally draw salaries in the name of teachers who are dead, have resigned or never existed.

Last year the province identified several "ghost schools" that were registered with the department, but existed in name only.

Another problem faced by the department is that some teachers have fake qualifications.

About 50 people were arrested last year for having fake qualifications and some received prison sentences ranging from 18 months to four years, Msibi said.

The impostors were repaying about R1.5m they earned in salaries and other benefits, he said.

Msibi said staff was given ample time to register and that the department expected to have about 86,000 registered employees. However, a probe found about 600 unregistered names on the payroll.

Msibi said the department would stagger the freezing of salaries from this month to allow internal audits to take place, “if nobody comes forward (to complain about not receiving their salaries) then it could be that these are the ghost employees,” he said.

The 600 employees include teachers, clerks and cleaners.

Last year the department published the names of teachers who should be employed in the province’s 5,000 schools.

The public was then asked to identify names that should not have been on the list.
King isolated in Zulu power play

Changes in local government are the source of renewed intrigue in the Zulu royal house, writes Ivo Powel

The latest spat between Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and the Zulu chiefs under Inkhatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi on the other roads like an intrigue from another time — a battle for the soul and the legacy of the Zulu people.

The king reportedly lives in fear for his life after the assassination of the Zulu high chief, the council of elderslegates the Kwazulu Natal House of Traditional Leaders, issued a statement condemning the alleged failure to identify with them or provide his people with the symbolic leadership vested in him.

Members of the king’s inner circle at Nongoma in northern Kwazulu Natal have apparently gone into hiding amid threats and attacks on their homes.

Pressingly, the assassination failed to quell the king’sBirthday celebrations recently or to provide release for the forces of change and conflict.

Buthelezi, chair of the provincial House of Traditional Leaders but who has given an interview to the theIP’ national newspaper in which he attacked the character of the king. He detailed alleged involvement of the monarch in apartheid supported political parties in the 1970s, and presented him as a wanted and a suspect.

By way of contrast, at the IFP’s congress in Umhlanga last month the party passed a resolution describing Buthelezi as a "toucing him..."

The IFP’s viewpoint on the problem with the king is that the current political situation is the entrenching of democratic principles in the structure of local government.

While the 1996 Act created provisions for the establishment of a trust to serve as a financial support to the king, the new law extends the powers of elected representatives.

Chief Buthelezi — as customary — are permitted to stand for election, and while in certain cases "traditional authorities that traditionally observe a system of customary law in the area of a municipality" may be represented at municipal level by their traditional leaders, the new law limits representation to 10% of any municipality.

At the same time, the work of the Munster pall Demonstration Board — also mandated in terms of the 1996 legislation — has further confirmed the authority of the monarch in the land of Zululand.

In dousing municipal structures, the IFP’s national council has specified that municipal offices in the new dispensation will be based on a model of economic activity as defined by the IFP’s 1996 Act: the former tribal trust lands under the apartheid bucket system — will be brought together with urban areas to form the new local government structures.

The result is that the king’s role is to be the voice of the traditional leaders and is to be the only role played by traditional leaders in the new dispensation.

"Traditional leaders will still have an important role to play," Oliver observed. "We are looking at a co-operative model whereby the king as the representative of tradition is involved in a dialogue with local government structures in developing their areas.

As custodians of land through customary law, the chiefs will also be the heads of local community structures and will be directly elected under their control."

What Oliver doesn’t specify is that in the new dispensation, the same strings will be held by municipal structures. Under earlier legislation, money paid to local government structures in areas represented by the monarch was directly under his control. This was in addition to the stipends paid to them as members of the House of Traditional Leaders.

But for the IFP, the financial considerations are unlikely to hurt as much as the political considerations.

The role of the monarch in the politics of Kwazulu Natal lies at the heart of the IFP’s vision of a “Kingdom of Kwazulu”, as enshrined in the party’s provincial constitution. This builds political power around a constitutional monarchy in which the powers of the king are severely circumscribed in favour of the authority of the House of Traditional Leaders.

The house is led by Buthelezi wearing the hat of “traditional prime minister to the king” — an undefined office which anthropologists have questioned as being without precedent or substance, and which the king himself has challenged, inclusively through the courts.
Durban produces landmark local government database

MARGIE INGGS

Durban – Durban Metro had successfully completed the first complete technology address database of formal and informal dwellings, buildings and land parcels in the history of local government, Steve Leach, the council’s geographical information system (MetGIS) project manager, said yesterday.

Launched in November 1998, the project cost R4.8 million and involved surveying 355,000 formal and 184,000 informal dwellings and buildings, which housed 2.5 million people.

The 900-strong project team comprised mainly community-based individuals.

Leach said the system would be continually updated and would benefit users as the information would be available from a central source.

“It could be adopted by other metros,” he said. “The philosophy has been offered to other major cities.”

Leach said he believed there were only two other similar databases in the world, in the Middle East and in South America.

“The database is very significant for business,” said Jeya Wilson, the chief executive of the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry. “Detailed information is critical for decision-making at every level and, without it, any accurate forecasting or planning is impossible.”

Commentators said the database could also play an enormous role in attracting investment and development interest to the region.
Bisho slams the lid on itchy fingers

BISHO's days of cowboy accounting could be over. The Eastern Cape, long the administrative laughing stock of SA, has finally taken firm — and often brutal — steps to ensure that "crisis budgeting", unpaid creditors and empty coffers could become nothing more than an embarrassing part of the province's history. The man behind the turnaround is Eastern Cape Finance and Economic Affairs MEC and former union stalwart Enoch Godongwana.

When Godongwana presented his first budget last year he had a R1-billion debt on his hands, of which the lion's share belonged to the education department. This ballooned to R2.2-billion after the provincial government (267D)

By QUENTIN WRAY

budget was finalised.

Despite this, Godongwana this week insisted the province could meet its obligations and would end the year with its overdraft within Finance Minister Trevor Manuel's 2% of budget guideline.

Godongwana said he welcomed Manuel's hard-line stance on over-expenditure because it gave him a "big stick" to wield in his dealings with departments.

He seems unperturbed about the maelstrom of ill-feeling that many of his decisions have caused. He has put in place a centralised payment system, insisted on electronic payment of staff and creditors and introduced safeguards to try to ensure that the potential for fraud is reduced.

Godongwana said "a central chequebook is not ideal, but where no financial discipline exists you need to take extraordinary measures." Political insiders say that the education and health departments are very displeased with the new status quo.

The province's complex and outdated IT environment is threatening to collapse the system.

Auditors PriceWaterhouseCoopers are finalising a list of all provincial commitments, to be presented to Godongwana this week — ECV Weekend.
Eastern Cape’s redundant civil servants and ghost workers pull super-salaries

Nice job, nice car... nothing to do
Bisho on brink of pay strike

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Bisho – Eastern Cape civil servants are threatening to strike after the provincial government failed to meet the April 30 deadline on promotion payments.

Since February, only 19,000 of more than 60,000 civil servants have received their payments at a cost of R300 million.

Labour unions involved in the provincial union caucus have threatened to organise pockets to force the government to meet their demands.

Eastern Cape provincial director-general Dr Mvuyo Tom said the delay was “regrettable” in meeting the deadline set in an award by the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA).

Mr Tom said some officials charged with the task of implementing the payments were unhappy with incentives offered to them.

There were problems in the payments of subsistence and travel allowances as well as miscalculations by various departments which resulted in the return of some civil servants’ files.

Mr Tom said the proposal for the extension of the deadline to May 21 was rejected by the unions, who insisted on taking the matter to the Labour Court.

Union caucus chairman Anthony Diesel said that workers had no intention of disrupting government services.

“We are exploring all legal avenues at the moment,” Mr Diesel said.
Nehawu calls Eastern Cape march

FRANK NXUMALO
LABOUR EDITOR

Johannesburg – The National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) would march to Bisho in the eastern Cape tomorrow as part of a planned mass action to force the provincial administration to implement public service salary agreements and arbitration awards by the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), the union said at the weekend.

Pikule Mapola, general secretary of Nehawu, said the CCMA had handed down arbitrations in favour of the union in January to the effect that the provincial government had to pay rank and file promotions monies due to 10,000 Nehawu members since 1994.

"Nehawu is left with no option but to seek alternative relief. A number of options are being looked at, including the possibility of filing for legal relief from the labour court."

"Our national office bearers, in their meeting today, decided on a programme of action, which will begin with a rolling mass action on Tuesday, May 11 1993," Mapola said.

Mapola said a series of marches had been planned across the province, especially in the centres of Bisho, Umtata and Port Elizabeth. The Bisho march would be the main one.
David Greene

Eastern Cape's electoral boss hopes for 70% turnout
Cosatu to fight UDM’s growth

6th 12th 99

Renée Gravitzy

THE Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) plans to intensify its efforts to mobilise support for the African National Congress (ANC) in the Eastern Cape ahead of the election, in recognition of a rising threat by the United Democratic Movement (UDM).

Cosatu said yesterday that special attention would be given to the Eastern Cape as opinion polls were increasingly indicating that a significant number of people might vote for the UDM.

This initiative forms part of the federation’s election campaign which was discussed at a two-day executive committee meeting this week. The committee resolved to make available large numbers of personnel from Cosatu’s head office and its affiliates to assist in the campaign.

Cosatu has already raised about R1.6m from affiliates for the campaign. This was in line with a resolution adopted last year that affiliates would contribute R1 per worker for voter education and a voluntary R1 per worker to go directly to the ANC.

Cosatu general secretary Mthathu Shilowa — who together with second vice-president Peter Malepe will coordinate the campaign — said almost all affiliates had contributed fully to the campaign.

It is believed that divisions exist in unions such as Finance Union Sasbo over the campaign. Shilowa said the federation did not want to exaggerate the presence of those who did not support the ANC.

The UDM, led by former Transkei leader Bantu Holomisa, said it was not surprised by Cosatu’s announcement that it would concentrate its efforts in the Eastern Cape.

The ANC would not be drawn on the issue but said it would not focus on one province.

Cosatu refused to comment on possible co-operation between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party ahead of the poll, saying the matter had not been discussed.