

PS - LOCAL AUTH. - KwaZulu Natal

1998

ANC 'willing to renegotiate' KwaZulu

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — 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 would be 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",

(264)

constitution with IFP

BO 12/1/98

observers said.

SA Communist Party (SACP) and Congress of SA 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 Lekota, secretary-general Kgalema

Motlanthe and deputy secretary-general Thenjwe Mntso — 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 "vilifying" the IFP.

Durban proof that two-tier govt model works in SA — IFP

Deborah Fine

(264)
BD 22/1/98

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 a "megacity".

Critics of the metropolitan model have claimed that the two-tier system is unsuitable for SA cities because it resulted in the 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 be 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 Moosa's megacity plan

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — The Durban metropolitan council's executive committee had rejected Constitutional Development Minister Valli Moosa's proposal that all cities be obliged to implement the "megacity model" as it believed there should be room for variation, committee chairman Margaret Winter said yesterday.

The committee was not opposed to the draft local government white paper, but it wanted Moosa to note that the "dynamics

in all areas are a little different".

The white paper could recommend the "megacity" model, but it should leave room for the choice of another model, Winter said.

She said the committee took the decision at a meeting last week and had already made its views known to Minister, the forum where Moosa interacted with provincial local government MECs.

The committee was controlled by the African National Congress (ANC), the party to which Moosa belonged.

"We are not flying in the face of any decision (but) are making an input in a discussion that is still taking place," Winter said.

She said the "megacity model" would result in the scrapping of substructures. There would be a single council, possibly with only 45 members, in Durban, and large ward committees.

There will be one councillor for 84 000 people. The ward committee will be too far from the council. It will be a disbenefit," she said.

Winter said Durban councillors preferred the continuation of the two-tier system, but there was room to rationalise and improve it.

One option was to "scale down" substructures and vest more power in the council. This would ensure that the council was in a better position to spearhead redistribution and development throughout the metropolitan region.

It would also address the issue of wealthier substructures being reluctant to assist poorer ones. A council with more

powers could also raise capital expenditure loans for all substructures. Currently, poorer substructures had difficulty raising loans, Winter said.

Another problem was that both the council and substructures were autonomous, she said.

Their relationship was a voluntary one, so substructures were not obliged to adhere to agreements reached. There needed to be "something more" to guarantee that agreements would always be upheld, Winter said.

Durban Metropolitan Council
 Farouk Chothia
 Durban

KwaZulu spent unauthorised R70.5m -

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 in a report released yesterday cheque fraud in 197 cases had added up to R9.4m of which R2.9m was recovered. Attempted fraud worth R12.6m in another 57 cases

was "timeously 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 over-spending), transport (R7.9m) and the premier (R3.5m) for unauthorised spending.

However, significant costs were also routed through social welfare and population development (R595 066), 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

BP 3/2/98

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, closing and transferring of bank accounts had delayed the report.

National Party official defects to ANC

Sowetan 6/2/98
Adam accuses Nats of
being locked in politics of
the past (264)

By Siphso Khumalo

A DURBAN National Party councillor Mrs Frangula Adam ditched her 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 Siphso Gcabashe 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 Gcabashe

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

North Central mayor Mrs Lydia Johnson, who is aligned to the ANC, said 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

Still no shebeen queens serving traditional beer in central Durban

Durban has a long way to go before it can be called a truly African city, writes Durban correspondent Farouk Chothia

FD 24/2/98 (264)

You can eat pasta at famous restaurants in the Durban city centre and drink lager or tequila at its bars, but you are unlikely to find samp or traditional beer on menus.

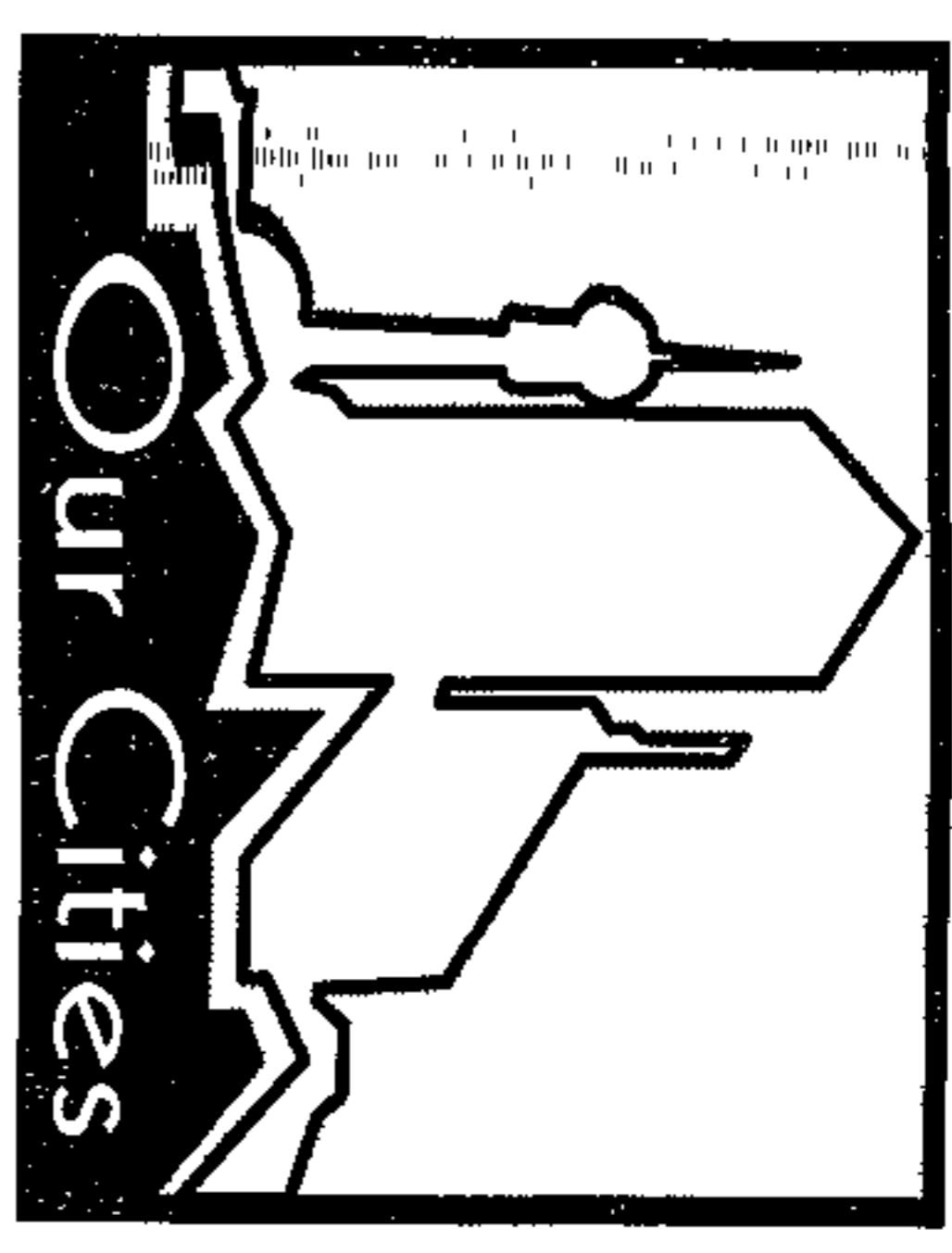
Yet this is what many foreign tourists expect. After all, they relish a couscous of Marrakesh or guzzle a palm wine of Lagos when visiting these cities.

Indian prime minister Inder Kumar Gujral was served a bland English meal when he lunched at Durban's new International Convention Centre last year and Dutch journalists on a promotion tour of the city were not taken to the Indian markets to smell the fish and taste the spices.

Why? Is it because of the legacy of apartheid and colonialism? Durban the only SA city with a strong tradition of European, Indian and African cultures?

It is time for the ownership patterns of the hospitality industry to change to allow each of the cultures to flourish.

How about shebeen queens serving drinks under thatched-roofed bars the beachfront? Why do only men wearing turbans, but not those dressed in traditional Zulu regalia, come to guests at hotel entrances? Could there not be more places like Bat Centre — painted with African murals and playing African music — overlooking the bay? Durban north central suburb's executive committee chairman



No manusa Dube says things are changing as black businessmen move into the forefront. There are plans to build a statue of Shaka, to map a Ga-Mkhosi trail, and to build a game park in the picturesque Valley of a Thousand Hills.

Tourists do not come to Durban for the beach — they have it in their own country. They want to see the air — what is in your culture — violins or drums? What is your history? Was this not the place of Shaka and Gandhi?

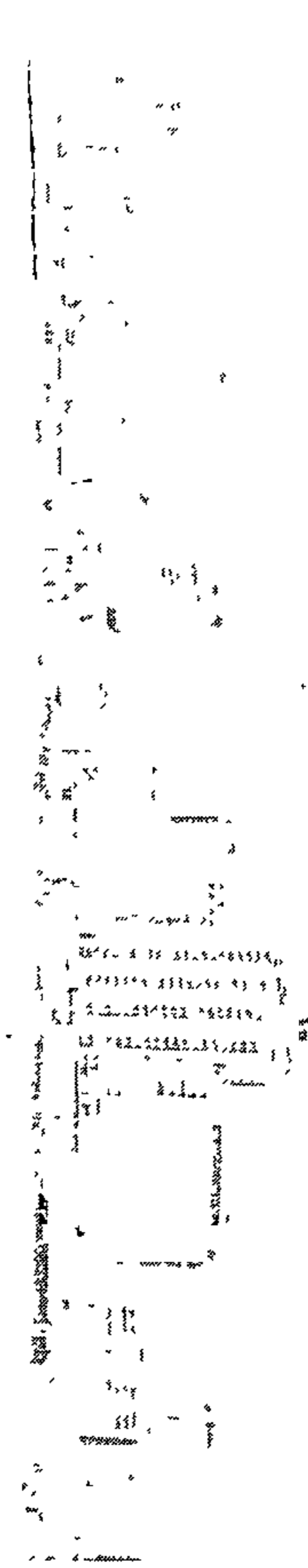
Instead, the Durban beachfront has a strong Miami feel to it with its neon lights and plastic-encased sun decks. Some beachfront entertainment spots have witnessed a drop in business in recent years as their historically white clientele have headed for the suburbs out of fear of crime.

The Blue Lagoon area, historically a "nonwhite" entertainment spot, has retained a vibrant night life. However, the racial divide remains. Indians largely confine themselves to one section of the lagoon, and blacks to another. Whites are nowhere to be found. The night club scene also remains polarised.

The divide is also glaring on the residential front. Whites are vacating the flats overlooking the bay on the palm tree-dotted Victoria Embankment as they perceive a rise in crime, grime and noise with the arrival of black tenants. As a result, flats are being left unrented, or are for sale. Some flats have been unsold for a year, with even prize price drops failing to attract buyers who no doubt cast their eyes to nearby Albert Park — the first residential area in Durban where the Group Areas Act crumbled. Today there are slum-like conditions there.

Some blame the degeneration on the arrival of blacks, particularly the "transient" student community. Organisation of Civic Rights chairman Sayed-Iqbal Mahomed disagrees. "The major problem is that landlords ... no longer bother about maintenance. Lifts are not repaired, walls are damp and buildings are infested with cockroaches."

He complains that the Durban metropolitan council has not launched any initiative to rescue Albert Park. Bylaws are not enforced and



Foreign tourists expect a touch of authenticity when visiting tourist destinations like Durban. Picture SA GUEST INFORMATION

many landlords violate health and fire regulations. He says flats throughout the city centre are being converted into sectional title and shareblock ownership. The negative effects of this are clear: more middle- and low-income earning families are being displaced. They are forced to look for accommodation further away from work, or cram into flats with relatives.

The housing crisis is compounded by the rezoning of residential property into commercial property. "This trend started 10-12 years ago in Stamford Hill and has spread into suburbs like Berea and Musgrave

The limited housing stock the city has keeps reducing," Mahomed says. Then there are the homeless. According to a survey last year, there are about 10 000 in the city centre. This figure does not include massive informal settlements in places such as Cato Manor and Clare Estate.

In the city centre, the homeless are concentrated around the Warwick Avenue triangle, Ungeni Road and the Berea station area.

City officials say Durban's total population was estimated in the 1980s to be as much as 4-million, but, judging by the number of people who voted in recent elections, this was a

gross exaggeration. The population is more likely to be 2.5-million, about half of whom are informal settlers.

Metropolitan council executive committee chairman Margaret Winter says one of the council's biggest problems in housing people is land. Most vacant land in the city is privately owned and expensive. The council has been encouraging property owners to opt for low-income housing, as this removes the threat of land invasions.

Winter says Durban is to become a pacesetter in a potentially new trend in SA — providing housing through medium-rise flats Section

21 companies will be formed, with subsidies granted to them by the provincial housing board to build flats. As construction will be more expensive, rent will have to be paid. However, this payment will eventually lead to ownership.

The idea has been taken from Rotterdam, with which Durban is twinned. The first project has been earmarked in the Sydenham-Clare Estate area.

Dube says the council is striving to bring housing closer to the workplace. She cites as an example plans to build a housing complex for low, middle and high-income groups, in the northern part of the city centre.

"The system has worked in the Netherlands, and the high-income group will subsidise the low-income group. There will be dense two-storey houses for low-income earners and semi-detached, detached and country houses."

Analysts say the northern part of the city is becoming a prime business node based on the convention centre and Natal Building Society headquarters. A string of offices and shops is being developed.

The node — with developments in other parts of the city — could spearhead a renaissance in Durban, but it is doubtful that it will be an African renaissance. After all, US fast food chain McDonald's is hungrily waiting to open its first Durban outlet there.

□ This is the last in the six-part series *Our Cities*. The previous articles appeared on January 27, 29 and February 3, 5 and 10.

Omnic and Nail in R17bn merger talks

Amanda Vermeulen

TALKS are under way to merge media, communications and financial services group New Africa Investments (Nail) with industrial holding company Johnnic to create a R17bn black-controlled conglomerate.

Separate cautionary announcements were published by Nail, its subsidiaries Metropolitan Life and African Merchant Bank (AMB), and Johnnic on February 16. Although these are apparently not directly linked, officials have confirmed that they pertain to talks between the four companies. Executives at Johnnic and Nail declined to comment on the record yesterday.

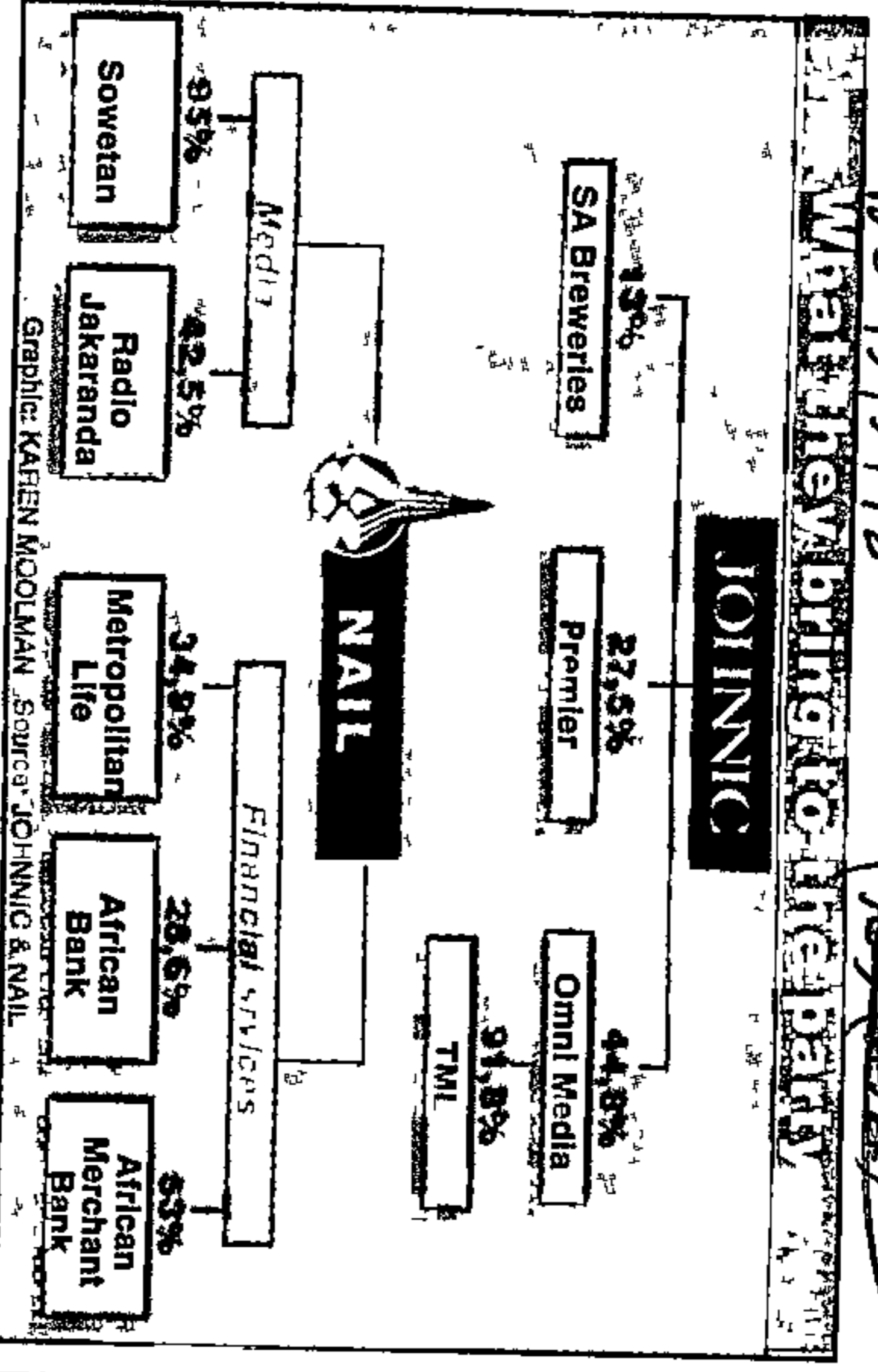
The deal taking shape is apparently designed to boost Johnnic's share price by linking it more closely to Nail's high-performing financial services interests. This would make it easier for shareholders in the National Empowerment Consortium (NEC) to repay their loans taken for the 1996 transaction in which Johnnic was unhooded from Anglo American.

Nail owns 1,9% of Johnnic through MetLife. The insurance group is one of the biggest lenders to NEC members. It is understood that Nail, which already plays a significant role in the Johnnic group, will become its controlling shareholder. It will then inject its financial services assets, including MetLife and AMB, into Johnnic, which has publicly stated its goal of becoming a serious player in financial services.

The talks may also lead to a merger of Nail's media interests, held in New Africa Publications, with those of Johnnic, represented by Omni Media, the parent company of Times Media. Ltd. Nail owns 50% of BDFM Publishers, owners of Business Day and the Financial Mail.

Omni Media — which owns 92% of TML — may be collapsed and merged

BD 13/3/98



with Nail's media interests. These include the Sowetan newspaper and a stake in Radio Jacaranda. This is not the first time such a move has been suggested. Last year Nail and TML had discussions about merging their publishing interests.

It is also understood that this enlarged media group — falling under the Johnnic umbrella — may be interested in buying 'The Citizen', which is the Perskor stable. The paper — which has a large black readership and would be a good fit with the Sowetan — is one of the unknown factors in the proposed merger of media groups Caxton, CTP and Perskor.

Caxton director Gordon Utian said yesterday there were "no official talks" on the future of 'The Citizen'. He said the situation was fluid, as the merger talks with Perskor were still dominating the agenda.

The wild card in a possible Nail-

Johnnic merger is Johnnic's 13% stake in SA Breweries. Johnnic is believed to be unhappy with holding portfolio investments — such as SAB — over which it has little influence.

Speculation is that Johnnic will dispose of its R6bn SAB stake. This would unlock value for the black empowerment shareholders by providing cash to repay the NEC's loans and to increase their stake in strategic investments, such as food group Premier.

Another option would be for Nail-Johnnic to swap its SAB shares for shares in Premier or even a merged Liberty Life-Standard Bank. This would take place in terms of voting agreements on the SAB shares between Liberty and Johnnic shareholders Anglo American. Such a move would kill two birds with one stone by beefing up Johnnic's food interests and enlarging its financial services portfolio.

Liberty turns in 20% earnings rise

Madeline van Niekerk

LIBERTY Life, which is in merger talks with Standard Bank Investment Corporation, lifted headline share earnings 20% to R12,15 in the year to December, helped by a new accounting system that conformed with international norms.

The dividend rose 33% to 42.5c (320c), including a 40c share bonus to celebrate the group's 40th birthday.

CE Roy Andersen said he hoped to conclude negotiations by the end of April. A merger would create an R80bn banking, life assurance and financial services giant. Libhold's shares rose 420c to R162,20 on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange yesterday, while Stanbic gained 800c to R298.

Andersen said Liberty was restructuring because there were too many layers, with seven listed companies. "If we flatten the bigger structure, we will qualify for a full FTSE 100 listing."

Earnings attributable to Liberty Life shareholders increased to R1,18bn (R970m), helped by the new account-

ing system which includes investment surpluses in earnings. Previously, these were credited to reserves.

The total consolidated surplus rose 23% to R3,08bn.

Andersen said total new business grew 32.6% to R6,26bn, beating the targeted R6bn — "quite an achievement" in the shrinking insurance market.

Liberty Life's total assets grew to R101bn from R82bn.

Liberty Holdings, which has a 53.9% share of Liberty Life, lifted total consolidated attributable profit 23% to R1,74bn on a restated basis. Liblife Strategic Investments headline earnings improved 22.6% to R789m, while First International Trust pushed up net income after tax 43% to R220.5m.

Chairman Donald Gordon said Liberty International, whose share earnings rose 30%, was "looking at taking over a life company, with two or three major companies on our short list, but we are under no pressure to do it."

Picture: Page 3 Marriage could be swift: Page 15

Durban councillors arrested for corruption

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — THE Minority Front suspended Durban councillor Siva Pillay's membership yesterday, but the African National Congress (ANC) did not do likewise with metropolitan council tender board chairman Ndumiso Maduna after the two were arrested on corruption charges.

Durban mayor Obed Mkhabela (ANC) said Pillay was arrested on Wednesday after he allegedly received a sum of money "on the pretext" that he was in a

position to influence construction company tenders. Further investigations led to Maduna's arrest.

Mkhabela said the ANC would wait until the outcome of the court case before suspending Maduna. Minority Front leader Amichand Rajbanshi said Pillay claimed he was innocent, but he was suspended pending the court outcome.

Police spokesman Capt Vish Naidoo said Pillay and Maduna appeared in court on corruption charges. Pillay was granted R2 000 bail. Maduna was remanded in custody.



ARS 712130

Provincial money-lending scam exposed

30 19/3/98

(264)

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 regula-

tions. 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 de-

pendent on defeating corruption.

KwaZulu-Natal welfare MEC Gideon Zulu also disclosed that four Swazis had been arrested in Pongola 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.

Provinces swallow the bitter pill: cut and save

(264) (BT) 22/3/98
 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

THE Finance Ministry has sent out an unequivocal message: overspending will no longer be tolerated. The provinces are heeding the call and none of the nine Budgets presented this week tabulated a deficit for 1998/99. Whether they can keep to budget remains to be seen.

KwaZulu-Natal

KwaZulu-Natal's R1.9-billion overspend in the past financial year has effectively eliminated the province's safety net and put all provincial capital projects on ice, writes MICHAEL SCHMIDT.

Construction will grind to a halt and maintenance slow to a trickle under the R17.9-billion "austerity budget" announced by Premier Ben Ngubane at Ulundi on Friday. Despite KwaZulu Natal getting the biggest of the nine provincial budgets, and an increased central government commitment of 8.5%, 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 provinces like Gauteng and the Western Cape. The freeze on capital projects has been dictated by the total elimination of all "roll-over" 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 and infrastructure".

Ngubane blamed the R1.9-billion "expenditure surge" over the previous financial year's R1.6-billion budget on increases in personnel costs and the payments of social grants.

The situation was exacerbated by an overexpenditure of R2.64-billion by the key education, health and welfare departments, which the national government has insisted get 85% of the budget.

Ngubane said "it's a very tight budget and it's going to mean cutting every department to the bone — except health, welfare and education, but even those won't be fully funded".

With one in four people in the province infected with HIV, the health department welcomed its budgetary boost of 20% to R4.4-billion. The troubled education and culture department — which will cut 5,000 temporary teachers' jobs at the end of the month — will get 12.2% more at R6.8-billion.

The welfare department's funding goes up by 18.8% to R3.9-billion.

In calling for a belt-tightening exercise, Ngubane resolved to put his own house in order first, cutting the budget for the premier's office by 32% to R59.4-million.

Gauteng

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

In fact, says MEC Jabu Moleketi, job losses amounted to 12,000, many of them in the depressed mining and manufacturing industries.

The R15.07-billion budget for 1998/99 holds out little prospect for public-sector led employment creation. The reason 58% of the budget's total spending is devoted to salaries of the province's 122,000 workers. And, laments Moleketi, "the province has no mechanisms to reduce staffing numbers other than by natural attrition and voluntary severance packages".

The portion of funds dedicated to salaries is particularly high in education (86% and health (60%) which combined employ 92% of Gauteng's public servants. This leaves only R1.2-billion of the Budget to be dedicated to capital spending, which Moleketi estimates will create 13,000 direct and 19,000 indirect jobs, less than 10% of which are sustainable.

He expects casinos to play a significant role in boosting job numbers. The four cas-

nos licensed to date will generate investment worth R4-billion over the next two years, creating 16,500 new jobs during construction and 8,800 long-term jobs.

Western Cape

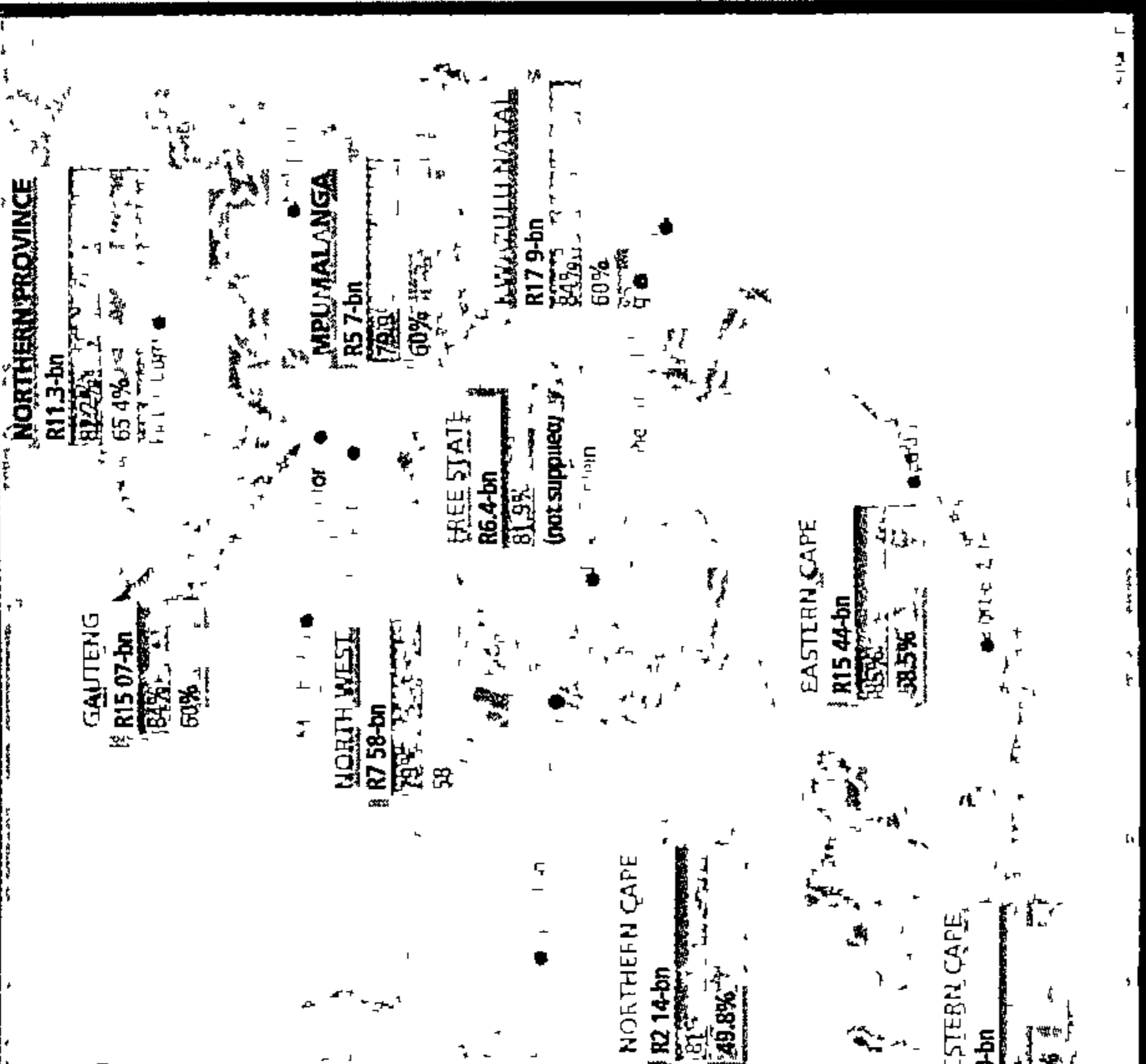
Taking into account its R9.5-billion allocation from national government and the revenues it raises, the Western Cape will have just over R10-billion to spend, R59-million more than the previous

year. MARCIA KLEIN reports that about 86% of the total budget will go to education, health and social services. A budget deficit of R627-million will be repaid to central government in four yearly tranches, the first of which is R114-million.

The Western Cape received R9.5-billion from national government and will collect revenue of R624.7-million from motor and casino licences and hospital fees.

THE PROVINCIAL BUDGETS

LEGEND
 Total budget
 Social spending
 Wage bill as % of total



Personnel expenditure currently accounts for 58% of the total, and this will be adjusted to 55% during this year and 53% in three years.

The Western Cape is thriving compared with certain other large provinces. Last year its economy grew on average at 1% more than the national economy. 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 cur-

rent fiscal year, but it expects formal sector jobs to grow by only 2%. Provincial MECs deny that 10,000 jobs will be cut this year. The education allocation of R3.6-billion was higher than expected, and will lead to fewer cutbacks than originally planned. About 2,000 people, and not the 4,500 initially expected, will lose their jobs. Health, which this year receives R2.9-billion, has already shed 6,000 jobs in three-and-a-half years.

'We don't know how much was stolen'

Call for 'fresh look' at financial management

David Greybe

BD 23/3/98

(264)

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 are 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 this 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.

Buthelezi for either a foreign intelligence agency or the apartheid government's National Intelligence Service.

Ngubane said the allegations were "preposterous" and the IFP supported Komgkramer's decision to institute a

the same way it expected MPs in the National Assembly to behave

PAC MP Patricia de Lille was suspended from the assembly last year after she suggested that certain ANC leaders had spied for the apartheid government.

IFP's Miller 'is overloaded'

BD 24/3/98 (264)

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 1996. However, the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) was refusing to fill the vacancy because it would be constitution-

ally 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.

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KwaZulu-Natal wants extra R500m to meet deficit

Farouk Choithia

ULUNDI — Newly appointed MEC Peter Miller said yesterday the provincial government was expecting bridging finance of R500m from central government on top of a grant of R900m to deal with its 1997/98 deficit of R1,95bn.

Tabling the Adjustment Estimates Bill before the legislature and its finance portfolio committee in Ulundi, Miller said the 1997/98 financial year had been the provincial government's "annus horribilis".

He wanted "united action" from the seven parties in the legislature to ensure such a crisis was never repeated. The KwaZulu-Natal government would be making a "concerted effort" in the new year to receive a fair and equitable share of the national budget, as it was currently underfunded, he said. An agreement listing conditions for the release of the R900m grant would

be signed within the next few days, Miller did not specify what the conditions were.

Observers pointed out the agreement was in terms of section 100 (a) of the constitution which gave central government the prerogative to "intervene" when provincial governments failed to fulfil their obligations.

Central government could issue a "directive" to the province, listing the steps it needed to take in order to meet its obligations.

African National Congress MP Mike Sutcliffe said the decision to invoke section 100 (a) of the constitution reflected the gravity of the financial crisis in KwaZulu-Natal.

It was the first step towards central government "taking over".

The provincial government had to "get the ship back on course" if it wanted to avoid this, Sutcliffe said.

Miller said the KwaZulu-Natal government also hoped to receive bridging

finance of R500m from central government in order to avoid paying an exorbitant sum of money in interest to banks.

Miller did not specify how KwaZulu-Natal intended to repay the R500m, but said it would take the province a few years to "manage" itself out of its predicament.

The provincial government had set aside R428m in the 1998/99 budget to further reduce the R1,957bn deficit.

The three amounts would leave a deficit of R131m. Miller did not explain how it would be wiped out, though he would presumably do so by cutting the 1998/99 department budgets, one MP said.

Miller stressed he still had to study the financial situation.

He would be officially taking over as finance MEC only at the start of the new financial year.

National Party MP Gordon Haygarth said he wanted to know whether

the R1,957bn figure was accurate, or whether some departments were "hiding" their true deficits.

He was raising the question because of concern that the provincial education department might not have paid a "whole lot of accounts".

There were reports that education MEC Vincent Zulu had been prevented from boarding a plane recently, as the department had not settled its account with a travel agency.

If departments planned to make payments from their new budgets, the consequences would be serious, Haygarth said.

Miller replied that all payments had to be made by the end of this month, and he would "like to believe" that no bills had been "hidden away" for later payment.

"I must conclude that the deficit is accurately portrayed. If not, you will be the first to know," Miller told MPs.

PD 27/3/98 (264)

The unpopular Peter Miller has skills the IFP cannot overlook

(264) DD 1/4/98

THE choice of Peter Miller as finance MEC of KwaZulu-Natal reflects the dearth 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 Ulundi-based public servants. 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.

Apartheid is undoubtedly responsible for the shortage of a 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, seemed to have been 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 executive committee from 1986 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

KwaZulu-Natal's new finance MEC, Peter Miller, takes up his post today. Durban correspondent Farouk Chothia looks at his varied career in the province



KwaZulu-Natal's Peter Miller has been given the province's key portfolio of finance MEC

tension between conservative whites and Zulu traditionalists after they found themselves in a single party, province and government. Both had shared a common ideological hatred of the ANC, but their relationship was defined by the segregationist policies underpinning NP rule.

This led to tension over issues such as whether Ulundi or Maritzburg should be the capital and whether whites should pay allegiance to the Zulu monarch. This made people like Miller unpopular among the IFP's Zulu nationalists.

In 1995 rumours were rife that Miller would be axed as local government and housing MEC in favour of Buthelezi's then-close confidant, Walter Felgate. Miller was refusing to heed instructions to pass contro-

versial legislation which fitted in with the IFP's bid to entrench traditional rule and usurp central government powers. At the time, Felgate was leading the charge against Miller. Ironically, Felgate is now an ANC member while Miller remains an IFP member who is being given more power.

One view is that Ngubane and Buthelezi now see Miller as playing a significant role in the IFP's 1999 election campaign in regaining white votes. Through his new portfolio, he will have to instil confidence in the provincial government by turning it into a financially healthy and efficient administration.

Ngubane's potential to do well as finance MEC fell short because of a heavy workload. He is also the IFP's national chairman.

ANC MP Mike Sutcliffe — who shadows Miller in local government and housing and will in finance as well — says he has two good qualities: he is "responsive" to the legislature, and knows how to use the media to put pressure on public servants in the fight against corruption and inefficiency.

Sutcliffe says one of Miller's weaknesses is an inability to develop a long-term vision. "He is good at dealing with existing plans, procedures and rules, but there is no creativity on the future. This is important in the finance portfolio."

The big question is whether Ngubane, and more importantly, Buthelezi will back Miller when he demands financial discipline and accountability from cabinet colleagues and clears the dead wood from the

public service

The precedents are not good. Ngubane came up with a performance enhancement plan last year. But he acknowledged recently that the plan produced encouraging results in only the health department, which falls under ANC MEC Zweli Mkhize. In the IFP-controlled welfare department, it was "completely stifled" by some officials.

The obvious question was why Ngubane did not order disciplinary action against these officials, or whether he was afraid because they were "untouchables".

Miller seems aware of the risks the new portfolio carries. "In essence, I've inherited a bankrupt estate and some of my colleagues say I have been given the poison chalice. But I am prepared to give it a go."

P.T.O.

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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 51-year-old trained air 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 Kokstad. Between 1981 and 1986 he was the New Republic Party Natal caucus chairman. Then he joined the National Party (NP), but his CV does not mention this.

Miller was one of the first NP members to defect in the post-1990 era, joining the IFP in 1993. It seemed the logical thing to do: many Natal whites saw Buthelezi as a "western statesman", an alternative to the "communist dictators" in the ANC. But Miller is bound to have asked himself whether he was wrong in his assessment of Buthelezi, who began a campaign to scupper the 1994 elections.

Miller epitomised the



KwaZulu-Natal's Peter Miller has been given the province's key portfolio of finance MEC

tension between conservative whites and Zulu traditionalists after they found themselves in a single party, province and government. Both had shared a common ideological hatred of the ANC, but their relationship was defined by the segregationist policies underpinning NP rule.

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Hope of retrenchments slashing costs

Farouk Chothia

(264) MD 2/4/98
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 overstaffed 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 termi-

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

The department would not be 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 R19m and problems were expected on this issue, Jarvis said.

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ANC joy as 'godfather' quits

JUSTIN ARENSTEIN

THE forced resignation of Mpumalanga's godfather-like environmental affairs MEC and the suspension of the province's deputy speaker on possible corruption charges this week caught everyone in the province off balance — including the victims' own party, the ANC.

Both MEC David Mkhwanazi and Cynthia Marupeng had convinced observers that they were invulnerable after weathering a series of nepotism, fraud and corruption claims, including the recent Dolphin deal and the BMW scandals

In fact, Teflon-coated Mkhwanazi's quiet resignation at the tail end of his budget speech on Wednesday caused such pandemonium among his departmental 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.

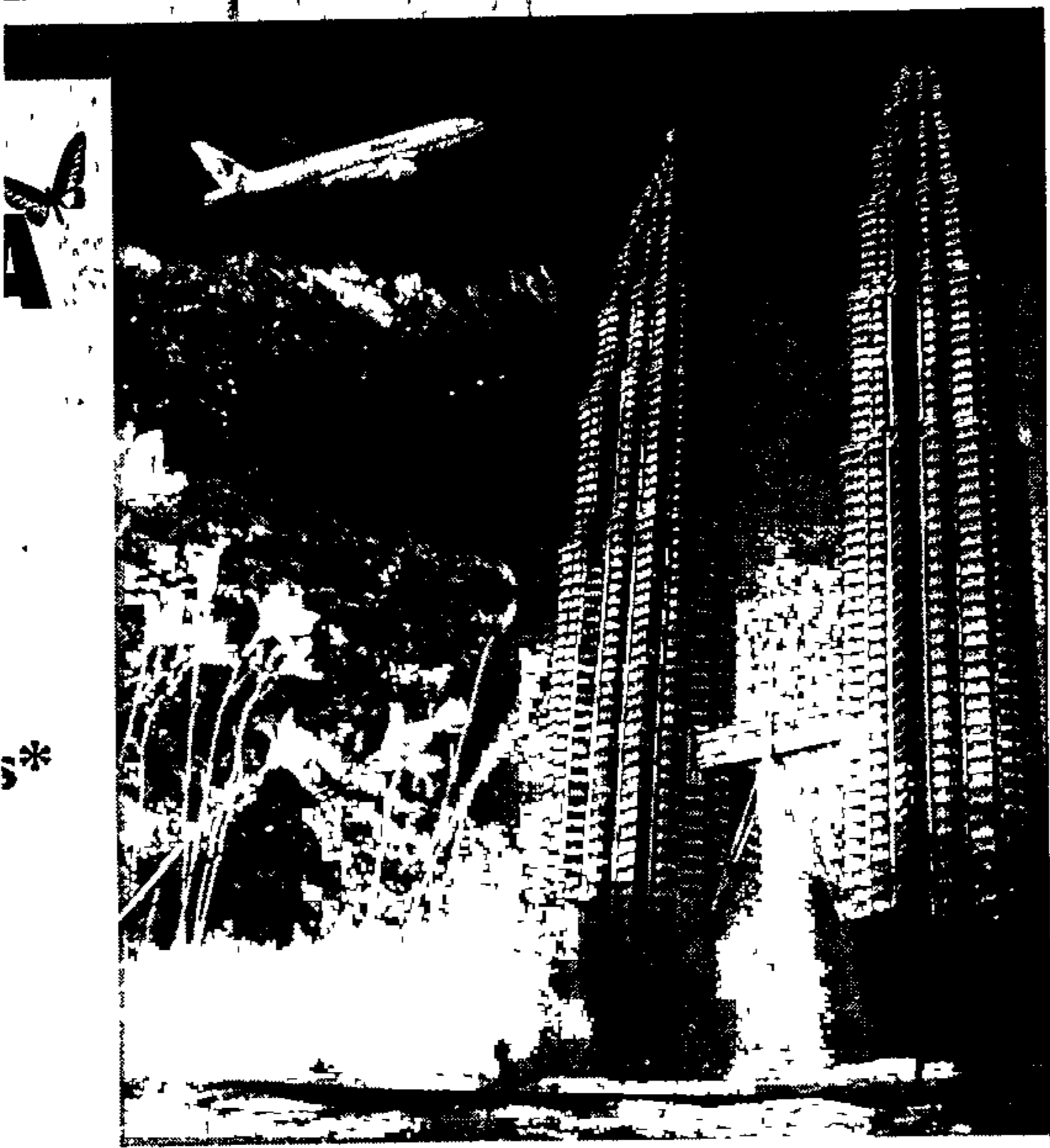
As one of three senior former homeland politicians granted key positions in the province through the Songimvelo Accord in repayment for assistance during the struggle, Mkhwanazi was repeatedly slammed in auditor general reports from the former Kangwane.

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 Mpumalanga.

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 Dubai-based Dolphin Group, granting it exclusive commercial rights to the province's key game reserves for 25 years.

ST 26/4/98 (264)



Weathering public outrage, Mkhwanazi moved on to authorise a R5,4-million deal for incompatible 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 no clear evidence of a purge has surfaced, grassroots ANC activists are rejoicing that the powerful former homeland leader has been squeezed out.

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

Only Ginindza remains after Mabona was also forced to resign last year for engineering fraudulent drivers and learners licenses for parliamentary deputy Speaker, Baleka Mbete-Kgositsile.

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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ANC joy as 'godfather' quits

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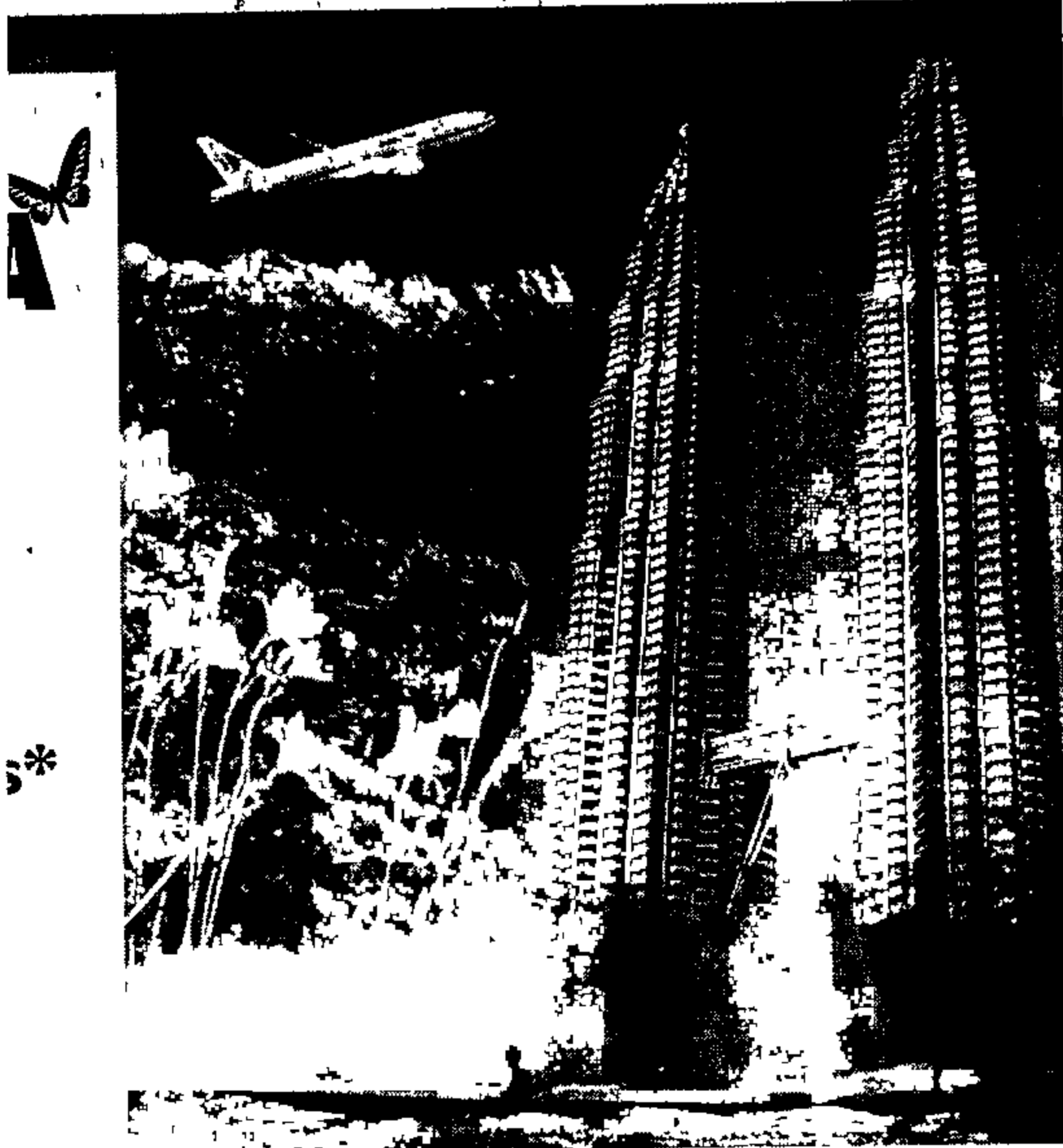
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ST 26/4/98

(264)



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CRACKING WHIP



CRACKING WHIP. Justice Minister Dullah Omar (left) and Acting President Thabo Mbeki have authorised the Special Investigation Unit to probe serious allegations of corruption and maladministration in municipalities, a university, colleges and parastatals

Special unit empowered to flush out fraudsters

BY MIKE FARI FAYLOR

THE GOVERNMENT has set up as the formidable powers of the elite East London-based Special Investigation Unit (SIU) were unleashed this month to combat rampant corruption in South Africa. Various State Institutions and individual officials in the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, the Northern Province and Kwa-Zulu Natal are about to feel the sting of the country's most successful anti-corruption organisation as the SIU homes in on them.

This follows a July 15 proclamation in the *Government Gazette* which authorises the SIU to probe serious allegations of corruption and maladministration in municipalities, a university colleges and parastatals.

Millions of rands in state assets, funds and property are involved and adds to the 90 000 cases - representing R6,2 billion - under investigation by the 60-person unit.

The deputy head of the unit, Advocate Gerhard Visagie, confirmed the latest batch of investigations and said: "The unit and its predecessor - the Health Commission - has recovered or safeguarded R8 billion of State assets and funds since its inception." He said the safeguarding had been undertaken by interdicts to prevent the loss of state assets, property and money.

In the firing line are the Eastern Cape Development Agency, the Transkei Development Corporation, the Ciskei People's Development Bank, the University of Venda, the Western Cape College of Education, the Mpumalanga Development Corporation and 16 Eastern Cape municipalities. The proclamation was signed by Acting President

Thabo Mbeki and Justice Minister Dullah Omar.

The SIU, headed by East Cape judge Wilhelm Health, was established in terms of the Special Investigation Unit and Special Tribunals Act No 74 of 1996 by President Mandela and is empowered to probe allegations of corruption retroactive to 1976. The unit now operates nationwide and has opened another office in Umhlati as well as functioning from provincial centres when conducting investigations. Personal assistant to Judge Health, Guy Rich said: "This modus operandi allows easy access to officials and the various departments or organisations."

The Mpumalanga Development Corporation (MDC) is to be probed for alleged unlawful, unauthorised and irregular payments made to former managing director, Patrick Mogorosi. The MDC will also be placed under scrutiny for "insufficient administrative and accounting procedures to exercise financial control and control of assets and non-compliance with statutory provisions."

Allegations of the awarding of unlawful, unauthorised or irregular contracts as well as the loss of State funds through theft and fraud will also come under investigation.

The unit will investigate the University of Venda for allegations of misconduct by its vice-chancellor over appointments and promotions of persons contrary to the interests of the university as well as the unauthorised use of a credit card.

The Border Training Centre (Eastern Cape) will be probed over the alleged theft and misuse of vehicles, the approval of 100 percent increases in meeting allowance payments to members of the Board of Trustees of BTCC, and eight other allegations of corruption and financial mismanagement.

The Western Cape College of Education will have to explain allegations of unlawful payments of salaries to employees and the removal of computers and stationery from the college for private use.

The Eastern Cape Development Agency and four affiliate organisations will be scrutinised over allegations ranging from entering into irregular contracts to unauthorised loans being made to board members, employees, relatives and friends.

The local authorities of Bedford, Cala, Despatch and Engobo will be taken to task over allegations of the payment of allowances to councillors that contravene laws and directives.

Cofimvaba's TLG will have to come up with a reason why it used several bank accounts in different towns and failed to disclose these accounts to the auditors.

Hamburg will be targeted over the alleged misappropriation of funds by councillors and employees for the payment of survey and legal costs to private individuals.

The King William's Town TLG allegedly engaged in the unauthorised and irregular creation of top posts for employees and the conclusion of contracts contrary to the public interest. Allegations that the TLG made unauthorised and irregular transport allowances to employees will also be investigated.

Of the 16 Eastern Cape local authorities 12 are cited for their failure to collect rates and taxes -

ECN Weekend Service

Probe into corruption ordered

(264) (~~255~~) (~~255~~) ~~B~~ CT 29/7/98

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 maladministration, 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 vehicle 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

~~(264)~~ (264) ~~(264)~~
PRETORIA — President Nelson Mandela yesterday ordered a probe into extensive claims of corruption and maladministration since 1986 in at least 16 government institutions in three provinces

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

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

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

In terms 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 and the departments of education, agriculture, inland revenue, safety and security and public works, roads and transport.

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BD 29/7/98

THE HEATH SPECIAL INVESTIGATING UNIT

IN NEED OF MANY MORE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

There is no end in sight to corruption fighting

(264) FM 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 Bisho 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 carried 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 R14m stage production *Sarafina 2*, 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 Pro-

pector 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 R4m — 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

Etienne Hazelhurst

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 lessees 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 discovery 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 stoppage of the cashing of a R540 000 cheque that had been stolen from the Kokstad Town Council.
- The recovery of about R1,3m in overpayments of

allowances to councillors in Butterworth, Eastern Cape.

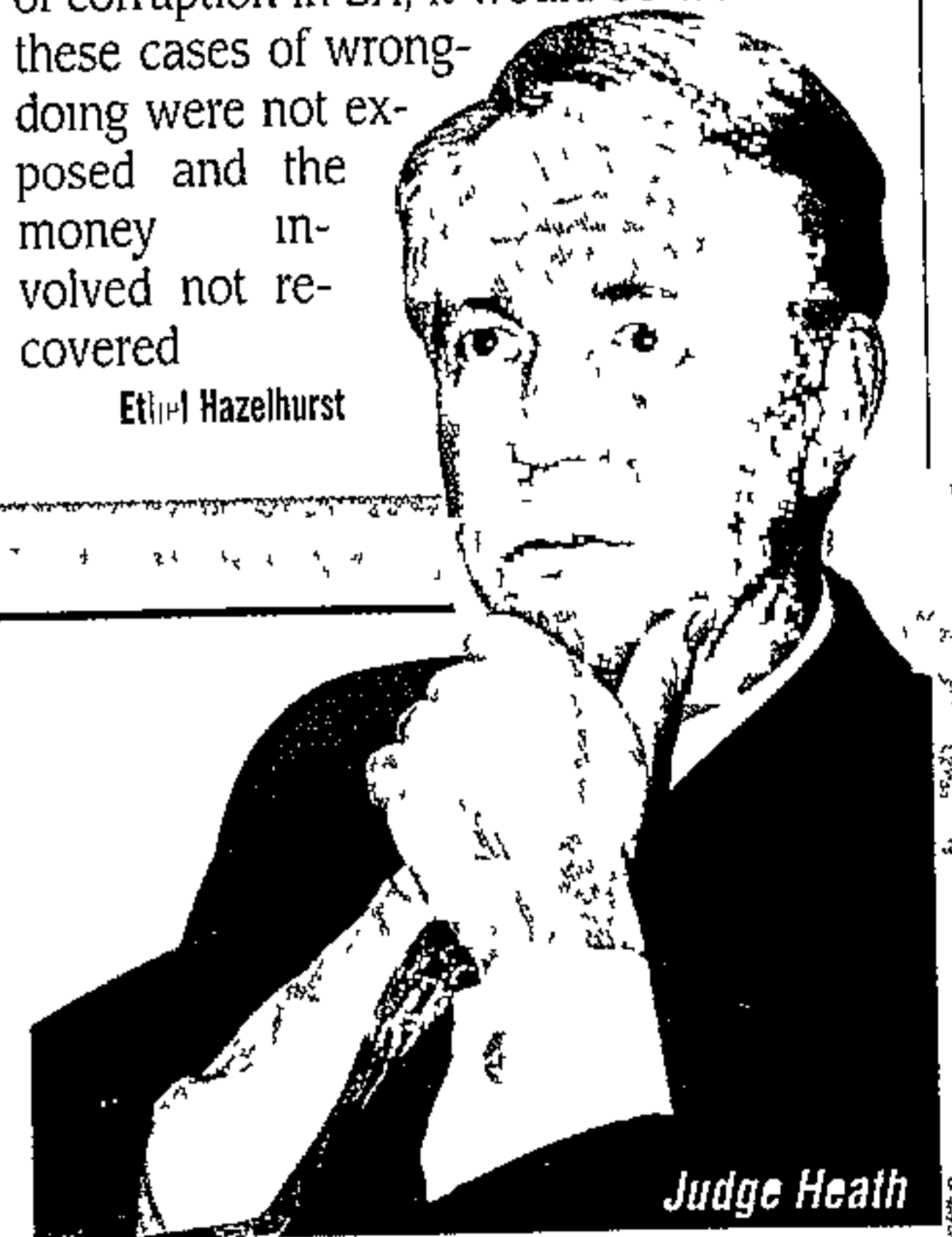
• An investigation of 53 000 cases arising out of the housing subsidy scheme in KwaZulu-Natal. The total value of the misappropriations is about R150m.

• 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.



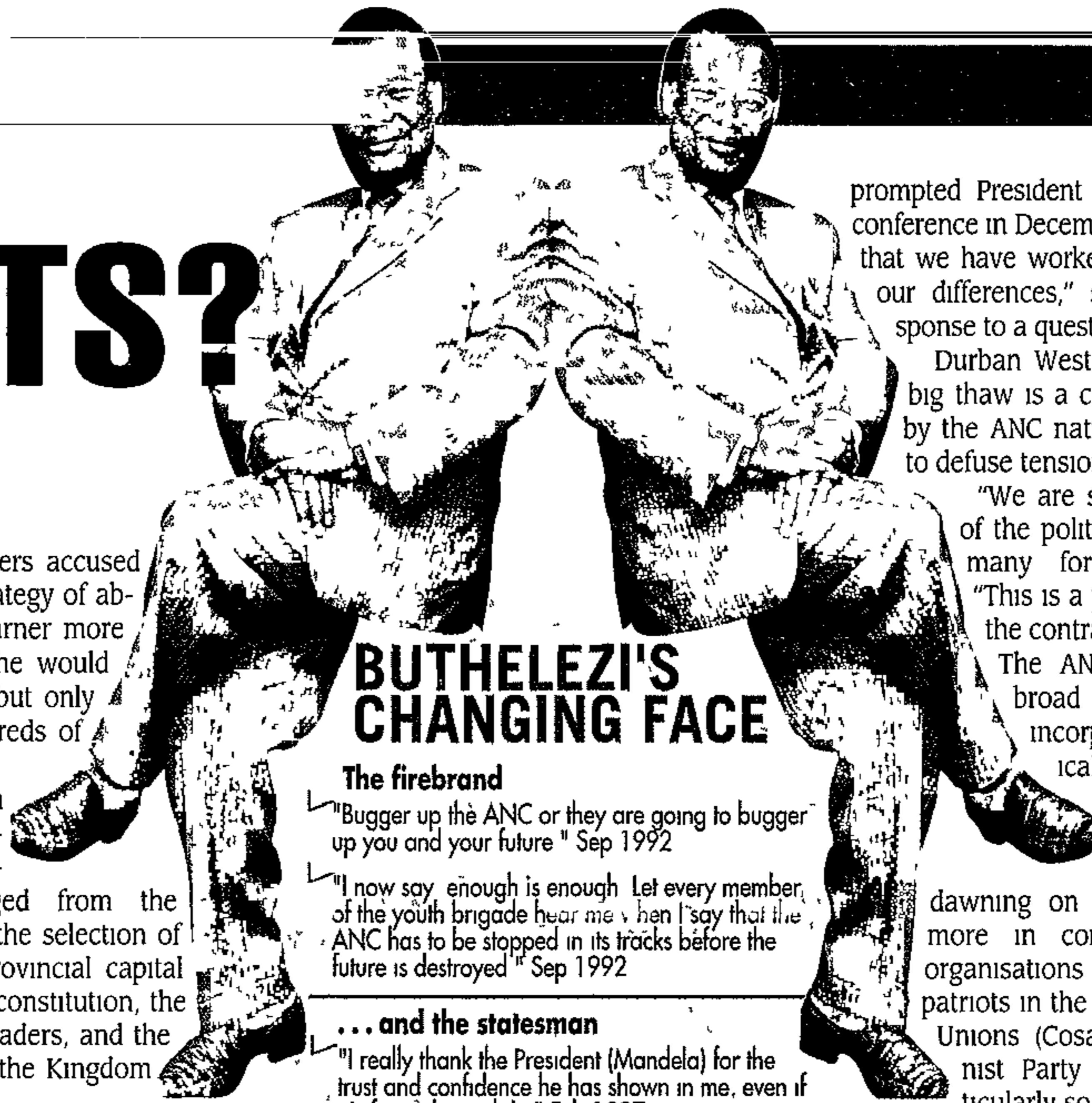
Judge Heath

• The recovery of R3,5m in salary overpayments made in the former Bisho Audit Office.

• Helping to trace a blank warrant voucher that was stolen from the Department of Justice in Mpumalanga. 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.

SPOTS?



BUTHELEZI'S CHANGING FACE

The firebrand

- ↳ "Bugger up the ANC or they are going to bugger up you and your future" Sep 1992
- ↳ "I now say enough is enough. Let every member of the youth brigade hear me when I say that the ANC has to be stopped in its tracks before the future is destroyed" Sep 1992

... and the statesman

- ↳ "I really thank the President (Mandela) for the trust and confidence he has shown in me, even if it's for a short while" Feb 1997
- ↳ "We can no longer afford divisions and we must realise that in the end, if our country is to succeed, we must stand together, failing which we are doomed to fall together" Dec 1997

interests of SA, others accused him of a cynical strategy of abstention likely to garner more publicity knowing he would rejoin the process, but only at the cost of hundreds of lives

There were also a string of bitter disputes after the elections. These ranged from the parochial issues — the selection of a KwaZulu-Natal provincial capital — to the provincial constitution, the role of traditional leaders, and the issue of preserving the Kingdom of KwaZulu

All that, it now appears, is part of the past. After all it is difficult to reconcile the Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who in late 1994 stormed uninvited into an SABC TV political debate programme, disrupted proceedings and hijacked the event, with the man who just over a week ago embraced Mbeki and called for sacrifices on all sides in the name of national interest. There are those who believe that such apparently schizophrenic behaviour is part of a deliberate strategy.

Two quite different explanations are offered by senior academics. Alexander Johnston, head of politics at the University of Natal, takes a cynical view, arguing that there has been no fundamental shift in Buthelezi's stance and that he is simply pursuing lost voters.

A more benign interpretation is offered by University of Durban Westville senior political science lecturer Adam Habib, who believes the *toenadering* is genuine. He says that present relations between the ANC and the IFP represent the first tangible signs of the long-predicted realignment of political forces in post-apartheid SA.

Johnston asserts that Inkatha has undergone a shift in style rather than substance. He argues that if one strips away the rhetoric, there have been few if any changes to Inkatha policy. "Any moderating of rhetoric may well be aimed more at the electorate than the ANC. Underneath it all Buthelezi still tows the same hard line when it comes to issues such as

the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the demand to revisit KwaZulu-Natal's provincial constitution — cornerstones of Inkatha policy and philosophy."

The softening could also have something to do with a practical realisation that though Inkatha is likely to remain the biggest party in KwaZulu-Natal, its majority will be small and necessitate strong inter-party co-operation.

Johnston adds that Inkatha risks alienating the substantial section of its constituency that is deeply suspicious of any overtures to the ANC. "There is doubtless a constituency within Inkatha that actually wants the bellicose rhetoric to continue."

"While Buthelezi's tone was less militant, I would beware of drawing too many inferences from one performance," says Johnston.

Though he repeatedly highlights the differences between IFP and ANC, Buthelezi is also quick to point out that the two parties have worked well in the Government of National Unity.

"We have worked together in this situation in spite of our differences and it has not been easy, but we are about to complete our term next year. This is what has

prompted 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 beginnings of the political restructuring that many forecast," 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 dawning on the ANC that it has more in common with outside organisations than its current compatriots in the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) and SA 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 Environment Minister Peter Mokaba for the ANC to consider an Inkatha alliance and jettison its Cosatu and SACP partners. "Mbeki would never put it as crudely as that, 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 a Deputy Presidency," 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. Herb Payne

KwaZulu-Natal audit 'was hampered'

Farouk Chothia

(264)
DD 13/8/98
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 Barry 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.



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**Real Africa
Investments Limited**

(Registration number 94/00398/06)

("RAI")

Announcement

Investment Bank Limited ("RAD") is authorised to
acquire 30% interest in Open Learning Group

Contract for 'peace education' probed

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — The KwaZulu-Natal Tender Board did not adjudicate in a "peace education" contract, believed to be worth between R7m and R10m, awarded by the provincial government, board chairman Edmund Radebe said yesterday.

The contract was allegedly awarded to a consortium which included the Centre for Development Research Facilitation, an organisation in which provincial director-general Otty Nxumalo's wife, Tshitshi Mbatha, was involved. Premier Ben Ngubane said recently

that the board granted a "relaxation authorising the director-general to proceed with the details of the KwaZulu-Natal peace initiative."

Radebe said he would reserve his comment on Ngubane's claim until he had checked with the board's office. "I'd love to see the letter requesting relaxation and the letter from the board granting relaxation," Radebe said.

In a strange twist, Ngubane, in a recent reply to questions posed by the Democratic Party (DP) in the legislature, said Radebe served on a seven-member panel that decided to award the contract to the consor-

tium. Radebe confirmed this, but said he had served on the panel in his "private capacity". The panel was independent of the board.

DP MP Wessel Nel said it defied understanding that Radebe would serve on such a panel in a private capacity and not even ask why the matter was not before the board.

"The more we dig into the debacle the more shambolic it becomes," Nel said.

Radebe said he was approached to serve on the panel by RTM Human Resources Consultants. Its CEO is RT Msomi, who also served

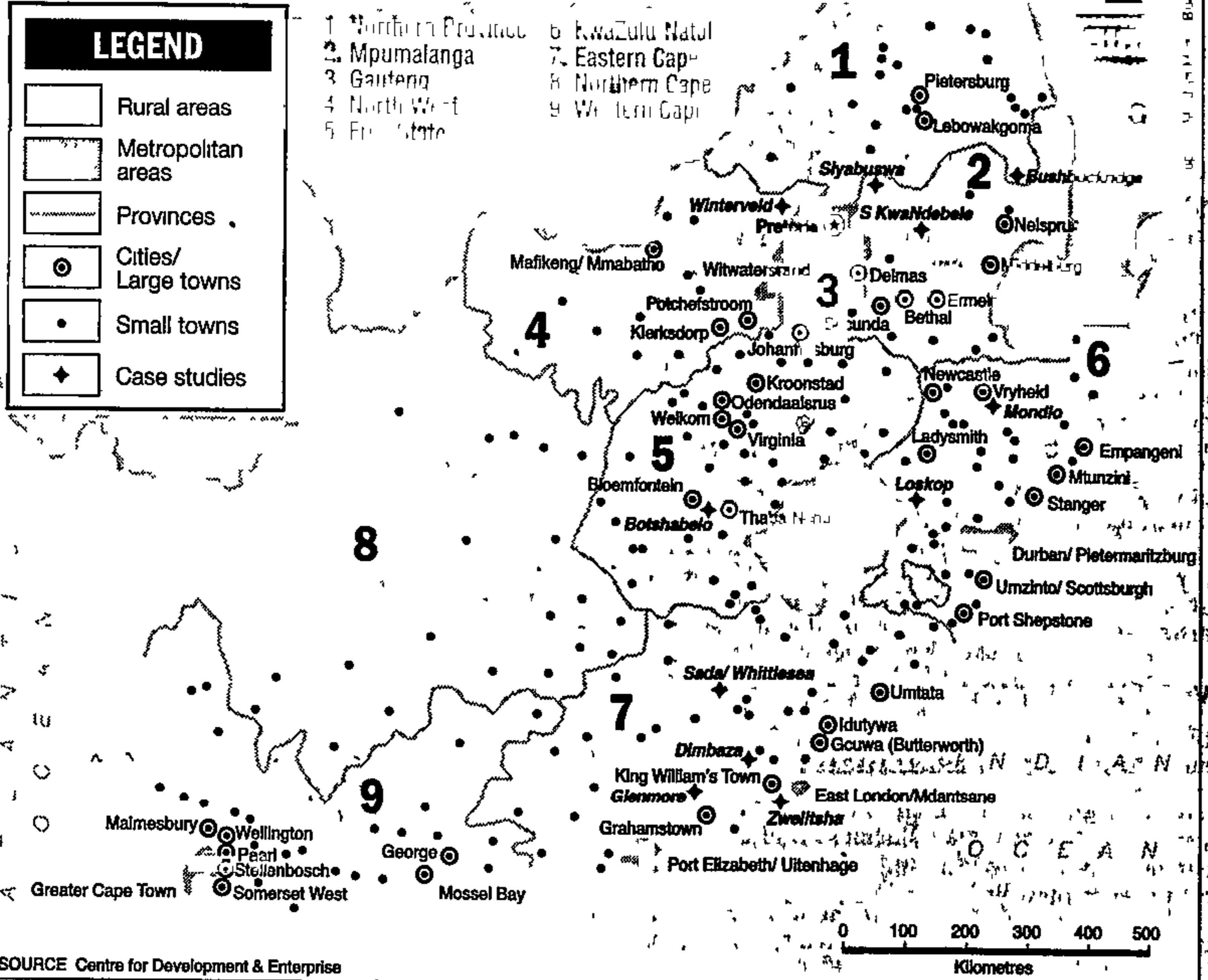
(264) BP 21/10/98

on the panel Nxumalo declined to confirm or deny earlier this week whether Msomi was a friend of his.

Radebe said the consortium, which was led by the Institute for Multi-Party Democracy, had put forward the best proposal. However, whether "people involved in the consortium declared their interest to the government, I would not know", Radebe said.

He did not find anything untoward in serving on the panel. Advertisements placed in the local media called for tenders for the development of a "peace education curriculum".

Displaced urban areas



KwaZulu-Natal given rave review

Simon Barber (264)

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, probusiness 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".

DD 23/10/98

TOM HOOD

Mother City to become a megacity

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 11 300 to 7 500 to make it possible to have more full-time councillors who were better-paid

able 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 Mowser, 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

New York-style mayor to run show

(264)
ST(CM) 8/11/98

PS - LOCAL AUTHORITIES - N. CAPE
1996 - 1999

Northern Cape needs money

THE massive structural economic problems in the Northern Cape will worsen unless the national government takes specific steps to address them, Northern Cape premier Manne Dipico told the Senate on Wednesday.

He also said the viability of second-tier government would be threatened if provincial governments were not given the means to perform the functions laid down for them under the Constitution.

A House rule was suspended to allow Dipico to address Senators during their debate on a report on a Senate committee's visit to the province

He said economic growth rates in the Northern Cape had consistently been below the national average and unemployment had increased relentlessly for over 15 years

Fruits of liberation

"Our people expect to enjoy the fruits of liberation resulting from the demise of apartheid yet we have been unable to make a major change in their lives.

"Prospects for economic recovery in support of the RDP are virtually nil unless there is a deliberate policy shift

on the part of national government towards stimulating regional economic development"

The sustainability of the region's economy, and of the province as a political entity will be "seriously compromised" if this is not done.

Although the provinces were charged by the Constitution with a range of functions which would help their economic development, they were inadequately equipped to do so.

If the Northern Cape was not properly empowered to carry out these functions, which included education, hous-

ing, health, roads, trade and police, it would not be able to fulfil its constitutional obligations to its citizens

"This is clearly an untenable situation, one which we believe may ultimately threaten the political sustainability of second-tier government," he said.

Dipico also expressed reservations about revenue sharing formulae for provinces proposed by the Fiscal and Financial Commission, saying a more accurate analysis, using more comprehensive and reliable data, was needed - *Sapa*

Kawelhan 22/3/96

(263A)

(263A)

(263A)

Premier investigates rival

(263A) ST 4/8/96
By CYRIL MADLALA

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 residents of Orania, 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 Lekota, 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 this 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 possibly 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



MANNE DIPICO: Silent success

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 300 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 technikon 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 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

(263A)
By Rafiq Rohan
Political Correspondent

Sowetan
23/8/96

NO SOONER HAD 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 its 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

BD 7/5/96

(263A) (266)

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, and 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 Ventersdorp, 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 receives and the absence of a tertiary education institution considered so necessary to building the province's human resources.

The possibility was now being discussed of establishing a satellite campus on Eskom premises with the involvement of Free State, Stellenbosch, Vista 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-house 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.

BUSINESS REPORT

SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL FINANCIAL DAILY

FRIDAY MAY 10 1996

Western and Northern Cape likely to get less money from government

By Christo Volschenk

ECONOMICS EDITOR

Cape Town — The Western and Northern Cape are likely to get less money in real terms from the government in next year's budget — other provinces will all get more.

The Financial and Fiscal Commission tabled its proposal in parliament yesterday for grants to the nine provinces in the 1997-98 financial year.

The commission the task of overseeing the equitable distribution of national government funds to the nine provincial governments.

Last year the commission presented the government with a formula to distribute just more than half the funds it has in a financial year between the provinces in what it called "equitable terms".

In the current financial year, R75 billion will be distributed to the nine provinces in this way and another R69 billion will be spent by

the national government.

The commission yesterday proposed the grants for the Western and Northern Cape be cut by 3,8 percent in real terms from this financial year to the next financial year. The grants for Northern Province and KwaZulu Natal will increase 3,6 and 2,9 percent.

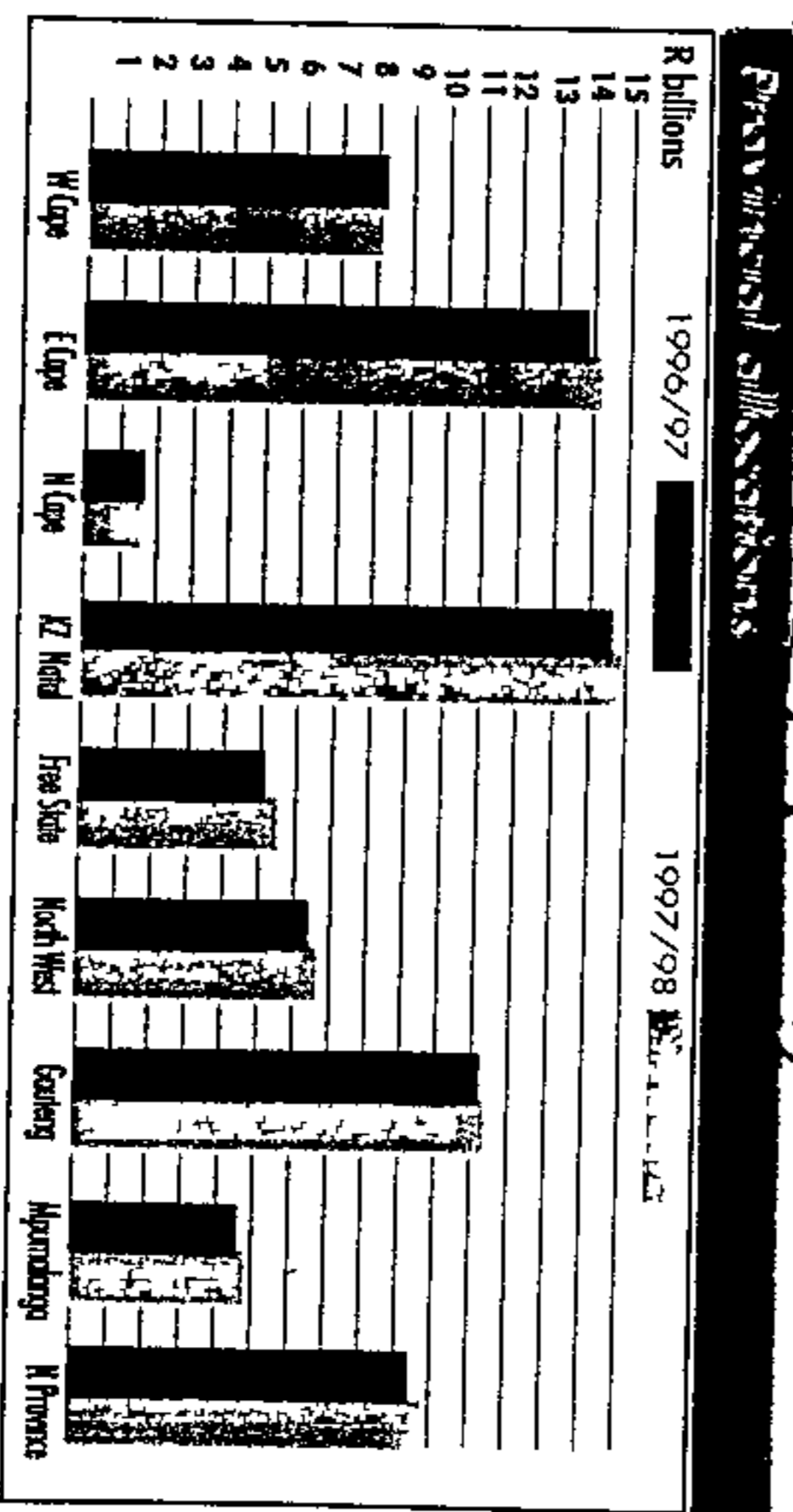
The commission also tabled projections for the financial years up to 2002-2003. It showed that the share of the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Free State

would decline consistently throughout the period.

"By the year 2002-2003 greater equity will have been achieved between the provinces," the commission said.

Its proposal is based on the assumption that the economy will grow by 3 percent in real terms in the current financial year.

The government would budget for another decline in the deficit before borrowing in next year's Budget, the commission said.



cf (BR) 10/5/96 (263A)

Nov 23/1/97

Provincial boundary hearings to begin

(263A)

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 long-standing 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. 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.

"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.

Northern Cape receives additional R218m from govt

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN—The Northern Cape provincial government had managed in its negotiations with central government to secure an additional R218m over its initial allocation, finance MEC Goolem Acharwaray said when presenting his R2bn budget yesterday.

The Democratic Party (DP) welcomed the news of the increase and said that the suc-

cess of the province was dependent on adequate funding.

Acharwaray said the province had highlighted the serious implications and consequences for service delivery which would result if its allocation was not increased. It received a basic amount of R1,52bn which increased after carry-through costs and social grant increases to R1,97bn. In addition to the state's allocation, provincial revenues

of R70,5m from licences, interest and hospital fees had been budgeted for. The Northern Cape received 2,45% of the basic R80,4bn allocated to provinces, compared with 2,35% last year. This was 2,2% higher than the amount recommended by the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC).

Acharwaray expressed concern over the FFC methodology used in determining the provincial allocation, which

was based mainly on population size. "At no stage whatsoever was cognisance taken of the actual needs, historical backlogs and unique situation of this province," he said.

Total estimated expenditure for 1997/98 was 11,4% higher than last year, though 6,3% lower than the revised figure. Social services had received priority with education (R706m), health (R325m) and welfare (R551m) receiving

R1,58bn or 77,3% of the total available, an increase of 15,7% over last year's allocation.

The education budget rose 8,5%, welfare 32% and health 8% but the amount for transport was 13,8% lower.

An amount of R100m was earmarked for capital spending. Acharwaray said due to previous lack of co-ordination it was decided to present a multi-year development and capital item budget this year.

The 'camp of shame'

Bushmen forced to live in squalor

APR 14/6/97 (277)(263A)

PAUL OLIVER
STAFF REPORTER

In an act branded as racist and reminiscent of the old South Africa, the 4 300-strong San community of Schmidtsdrift near Kimberley has been forced to live in appalling conditions in a "camp of shame".

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

The San have been prevented by a provincial government "moratorium" from occupying a R7-million farm bought with their own trust fund, which consists of their own money and overseas donations.

Buying the farm was made possible by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom.

Instead, they have had to live for seven years in filthy, freezing conditions in a tent camp where disease and malnutrition are rife.

About 350 of the San were employed by the former Defence Force as trackers in the war in Namibia and Angola.

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 Majiedt, said the premier was attending to "pressing matters" and could not confirm if Mr Dipico had uttered the racist sentiments attributed to him.

The San leaders have accused the provincial government of abusing their human rights by forcing them to live in appalling conditions and not allowing them to move.

Leader of the !Xu clan Marlo Mahongo 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 he is a Tswana the Tswanas would receive preferential treatment over us in their quest for land."

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

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 unable to do so as he was in Johannesburg. Saturday Argus established that Mr Dipico was in Kimberley being interviewed on crime.

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

More than 4 300 members of the !Xu and Khwe clans, 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 "marginalised us and reneged on promises" made during the past seven years.

Mr Mahongo said: "First the Nationalist government broke their promise of supplying us with houses and now the new democratic Government chooses to ignore us. We will not stop with our protests until our voices are heard."

Northern Cape government to blame, says army spokesman - report and more pictures on page 6

"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 Majiedt denied the allegation that the !Xu and Khwe were being discriminated against because they had fought on the side of the previous government in the border

war in the '70s and '80s.

He said the "Bushmen problem was inherited from the apartheid government" and that financial constraints prevented his government from going ahead with the resettlement on the farm at Platfontein.

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 necessities like food and health services.

On a tour it was found that the elderly and small children suffered most from malnutrition. In many cases mothers were too young or unable to breastfeed their babies.

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

"Every new TB patient normally has four to 19 direct contacts with other people. There are only three nursing personnel who had to deal with 1 084 patients in



STEVEN LAWRENCE
"Cheated": Ndoto Dikwanga and his wife Kandambo at the San settlement near Kimberley.

DANGER: SMOKING CAUSES CANCER

15 mg tar, 1.4 mg nicotine /s per Government agreed method

DUNHILL
Kings
20
Paris New York

To page 6



STEVE LAWRENCE

Canvas landscape: hundreds of tents dominate the San area at Schmidtsdrift. 'The San are regularly being exploited by those offering credit'

San starve in 'camp of shame'

(27A) (263A)

From page 1

ARG 14/6/97
 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 Major 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



STEVE LAWRENCE

Back to basics: Manta Oelofse teaches simple arithmetic to San children in tent town

ONS SOEK ERKENNING AS MENS



PAUL OLIVIER

One nation: San members of the Schmidtsdrift settlement demand restoration of their human rights

'Hidden agenda' to blame for people's plight - SANDF

APR 14/6/97

(263A)

PAUL OLIVIER
STAFF REPORTER

The horrific conditions prevalent in the San settlement at Schmidtsdrift 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 R134 000 solely on the medical bills for residents of the settlement

Only 350 soldiers had to care for the entire community of 4 300 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. Tele-

phones 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 Schmidtsdrift 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.

San 'bury over a edge lesser standard' jibe

By PAUL OLIVIER

The 4 300-strong San community of Schmidtsdrift near Kimberley, living in appalling conditions in a "camp of shame", claim they have been branded as inferior citizens

The San leadership said Northern Cape Premier Manne Dipico had told them that the "Bushmen" were "of a lesser standard" and that the Tswanas would "enjoy preference" over them in the quest for land

They have been prevented by a provincial government "moratorium" from occupying a R7-million farm bought with their own trust fund, which consists of their own money and overseas donations

The farm purchase was made possible by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom

Instead they have had to live for seven years in filthy, freezing conditions in a tent camp where disease and malnutrition are rife. About 350 of the San were used by the former SA Defence Force as trackers in the war in Namibia and Angola.

Repeated requests by our sister paper *Saturday Argus* for an interview with Dipico to clear up the matter was denied, even though a reporter sat outside his office in Kimberley for hours. Dipico's spokesman Steven Majiedt said the premier was attending to "pressing matters" and could not confirm whether

Dipico had indeed uttered the racist words which the San leaders attributed to him. The San leaders have accused the provincial government of abusing their human rights by forcing them to live in appalling conditions and not allowing them to move.

Leader of the !Xu clan, Mario Mahongo, told reporters "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 he is a Tswana, the Tswanas would receive preferential treatment over us in their quest for land."

The San currently occupy land at Schmidtsdrift that both the Tswanas and the Griquas lay claim to.

Dipico's alleged racial insult was confirmed by Robert Derenge, leader of one of the San clans, the !Kwe.

He added that his people had been caught up in a power play between central and provincial government.

An angry group of San marched on the provincial government offices on Thursday, demanding the presence of the premier to accept an urgent memorandum.

They were told that Dipico was unable to accept the memorandum personally as he was in Johannesburg. It was later established that Dipico was in Kimberley at the time, being interviewed by two journalists on the issue of crime.

The director-general of the Northern Cape, Martin van Zyl, accepted the memorandum on the premier's behalf.

More than 4 300 members of the !Xu and !Kwe clans, originally from southern Angola and the Caprivi Strip in Namibia, said they had to endure "inhumane treatment" at the hands of two governments, both of which had "marginalised us and 'releged on promises' made over the past seven years."

Mahongo said, "First the Nationalist government broke their promise of supplying us with houses and now the new democratic government chooses to ignore us."

"We will not stop with our protests 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 Majiedt denied the !Xu and !Kwe were being discriminated against because they had fought on the side of the previous government in the border war in the 70s and 80s.

He said the "Bushman problem" was inherited from the

apartheid government", and that financial constraints prevented his government going ahead with resettlement on a farm at Platfontein.

The *Saturday Star* this week visited the Bushmen settlement at Schmidtsdrift and was shocked to witness the dismal conditions they were forced to live under. Many suffer from malnutrition, and lung diseases including tuberculosis, which is rife among young and old. In many cases, mothers are too young or not able to breast-feed their babies.



MANNE DIPICO: "Too busy" to meet San group

19 direct contacts with other people.

"There are only three nursing personnel who had to deal with 1 084 patients in August last year alone. That leaves little time, if any, for tracing the remainder of the infected people," Hallatt said.

"The infrastructure that exists at Schmidtsdrift is because of the South African National Defence Force. Nothing would have existed if it were not for them," he added.



THE WAITING GAME: The tent camp at Schmidtsdrift where the San are totally dependent on the SA National Defence Force while they wait for relocation to their own land

Ex-minister to succeed Van Niekerk

Kraai's swan song shocks delegates at NP conference

(263A)

CF 22/9/97

KIMBERLEY: History was made in the Northern Cape at the weekend when Mr Pieter Saalman became the first coloured man to be appointed provincial leader of the NP in the province.

Saalman takes over from Dr Kraal van Niekerk, who announced his resignation as leader at the party's provincial congress here at the weekend.

The new post of deputy leader went to Mr Jan Brazelle, while the three posts of deputy chairpersons went to Mr Francois van Wyk, Mrs Lemfwa van Niekerk and Mr Zanuss Immelman.

Saalman, a physical education teacher, entered politics in 1989 when he was elected to Parliament as a candidate for the United Democratic Party.

When the party disbanded in May 1991, he joined the NP and became Local Government, Housing and Agriculture Minister in the old House of Representatives in 1992. The following year he became Education and Housing Minister.

In the 1994 elections he was re-elected to Parliament and was the party's chief spokesman on Water Affairs and Forestry.

He was appointed as a member of the Northern Cape Legislature in April last year and became the MEC for Public Works when the NP was involved in the provincial government of unity. — Own Correspondent

OWN CORRESPONDENT

KIMBERLEY: In a surprise move at the weekend the leader of the NP in the Northern Cape, Dr Kraal van Niekerk, announced his resignation.

An emotional Van Niekerk announced his resignation as NP provincial leader to shocked delegates at the party's provincial congress in Kimberley.

The 58-year-old Van Niekerk said he would remain an NP member.

He would also stay on in the Northern Cape legislature for a limited period "but not for longer than the end of the year".

"The resignation of (FW) De Klerk as leader of the National Party and the election of Mr Marthinus van Schalkwyk (as NP leader) has started a new era for the party," he said.

Van Niekerk recently stood against Van Schalkwyk in the election battle for a new national leader for the party.

Van Schalkwyk won by taking 75 of the 105 votes.

"The results showed the way forward for the party," Van Niekerk said.

"The three candidates from the old dispensation only received a handful of votes, while a young, new generation MP received overwhelming support."



RESIGNED: Kraal van Niekerk

Offering his full support to the new leader, Van Niekerk said he associated himself fully with the sentiments expressed by De Klerk on his resignation.

"There is an urgent need for the reshuffling of the political arena in South Africa and also in the Northern Cape.

"Renewing and rejuvenating the National Party is essential."

Van Niekerk said he wanted to make room for new blood in the leadership of the Northern Cape.

He said that he was not bitter about his resignation.

He considered it in the best interests of the party and the province — both of which he cared very close to his heart, he said. "In the political arena I will

continue to strive to increase the power base of the National Party so that it can defeat the ANC in 1999."

He warned, however, that the party faced a great challenge in the future.

"To change the name alone won't help — that is chameleon politics."

"The same gogga with a new name or colour will not work in politics."

"The fact that several organised interest groups have developed, like forums and ratepayers' associations, means that the public is not satisfied with the National Party or any other political party."

He added that one of the challenges currently facing the party was Mr Roelf Meyer's resignation.

"We haven't declared war against Meyer. The standpoint of the party in the Northern Cape regarding Meyer and Mr (Bantu) Holomisa is that we would rather work together against the ANC than fight one another."

"Where the National Party stands in terms of the Meyer-Holomisa issue will be determined by the movement's position with regard to the ANC."

"At the moment, all indications — especially from Holomisa — are that the movement is moving closer to the ANC than the NP," Van Niekerk said.

Council cannot pay workers on time

Deborah Fine

BD 13/11/97

(263A)

CONTINUED nonpayment 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 Coetzee 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.

Coetzee 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)

advising its 80 000 members country-wide to embark on a "no pay, no work" action if the local authorities which employed them failed to pay their wages and salaries timeously.

Imatu general-secretary Klasie Claassens cited Warrenton as one of "quite a few" local authorities which had been struggling recently to meet their monthly salaries bills. He said he could not name the other affected municipalities as this could prejudice "sensitive" negotiations between the local authorities and the union.

Claassens warned that union action would cause "widespread chaos this festive season" if councils continued to "renege on their contractual obligations towards their employees".

He said local authorities should get their "financial houses in order" and take action against "councillors riding on the gravy train". Employees were expected to continue working, despite not being paid their salaries, while councillors received substantial allowances, he said.

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 R300bn. 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 R258m 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

B/p

(263A)
19/3/98

THE Northern Cape tabled a balanced budget of R2,136bn yesterday which increased social spending to 81% 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 R2,064bn 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 licences 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 R1,728bn, an increase of 4% compared with the previous year

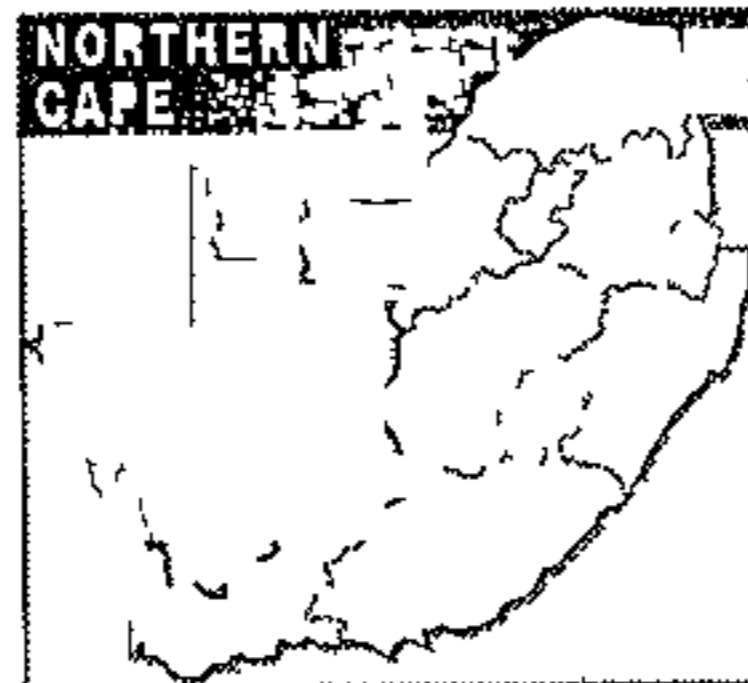
Education was allocated R811,8m or 38% of the budget, representing a 15,1% increase on last year. Welfare was given R566,1m, which was 2,7% more than the previous year, while R350,68m was available for health —

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 R133,58m, 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 Brazelle 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"



First election volleys expected in the N Cape

(263A)

RRG 12/8/98

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Some of the first shots in the battle for the Northern Cape, the sparsely-occupied province which covers a third of South Africa, are expected in the National Council of Provinces today.

The National Party hopes to improve its showing in the mainly Afrikaans speaking province, where the 1994 election results earned it a substantial share in the provincial cabinet before the NP left the governments of national unity and provincial unity in 1996.

The Democratic Party, whose sole member of the provincial legislature is its Speaker, suffered a reverse when a number of its Namaqualand members defected to the NP.

Scheduled for discussion in the NCOP today is a report on a visit to the province by the multi-party select committee on liaison with provinces.

The four-day visit focused on inter-governmental relations and service delivery, likely to be key issues on which the African National Congress will campaign to consolidate its tenuous hold on power in the province.

The committee's report said it was "deeply impressed" by the spirit of goodwill with which the province approached the challenges of social transformation.

"While mindful of the problems facing the province, particularly the dire lack of resources, the committee noted with happiness the tenacious efforts of various sectors of the community to improve the quality of people's lives."

From a reading of the report it is clear these efforts would have to be tenacious in the province, whose open and under-resourced spaces are home to the country's lowest population density.

Local government is in dire straits. Twenty-nine municipalities are not economically viable, and debt collection is erratic and irregular. Current sources of revenue for local government, including levies and agency monies, are not enough.

The report said that local government depended on money from the provincial government to stay afloat, which created tension and dependency. There were also serious capacity problems.

"Most councillors are inexperienced, poorly trained and do not understand local government procedures. They tend to act in ways which undermine good governance."

Financial management skills were sorely lacking and there were continual cash flow problems. Local government transformation was constrained by outdated ordinances and regulations.

The committee recommended a wide range of measures to improve service delivery, including better coordination between provincial, local and district government, and accelerated training programmes.

Also on the agenda for today's NCOP sitting is the election of a new permanent Deputy Chairperson to replace Bulelani Ngcuka, recently appointed the first national director of public prosecutions. Expected to be elected to the post is Naledi Pandor.



New face: Patrick Lekota congratulates Naledi Pandor after she was sworn in to the NCOP as an ANC delegate from the Western Cape

Umtata printers paid to do nothing

(258) (263A)
Linda Ensor ED 11/2/99

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 Lambinon said many of the employees had irregularly been given higher salaries and rankings which they had had to forfeit following 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 Pampierstad 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 82% 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 Galashewe 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 3/6/99

(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 troop carriers 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 Galeshewe.

All appeared to be peaceful and cheerful, with the only rumblings 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.

ire AP

BD 3/6/99 (263A)

Real Manne wait in the queue

Thandi Mahlangu

While most party leaders were ushered to the front of long lines of voters on Wednesday, Northern Cape Premier Manne Dipico steadfastly refused to jump the queue, waiting in line for seven hours before he finally cast his ballot.

"I can't go to the front — I must wait like everyone else," Dipico told the *Mail & Guardian* at about 10am. He stuck to his word, only making his mark (for the African National Congress, naturally) at about 4pm. Dressed in a trendy black leather jacket, he spent much of the day at the polling station at Mankurwane Primary School, which he once attended, with his cellphone clutched to his ear. His stubbornness upset the ANC's

election-day programme, said party media officer Mafu Davids. Other candidates who had voted earlier had to be deployed to cover for Dipico, who had been due to appear at various voting stations in the Kimberley area throughout the day.

"He wanted to wait like everybody in the same way as everybody," said Davids, a little tiredly on Wednesday night. Dipico's bodyguard and a few other comrades waited out the day with him.

"As a leader, you must do everything the people are doing. You cannot be a leader if you are not prepared to experience what other people experience," Davids said. Many of Dipico's co-voters were appreciative of his effort. "I think it's very nice for the premier to stand in the queue with us," said Bortumelo Selao, who was stand-

ing a few people behind the premier in the line. "It's to show that he lives with the people in the location. We feel very proud to have the premier standing in the queue with us."

But not everyone who voted with Dipico agreed. Pensioner Adhiwang William Segani, who poured the premier a cup of tea from his old yellow flask, complained: "I'm very cross. This man should be standing at the front. He's our leader. As young as he is, he's our father."

Dipico may have been spurred into his long wait by the memory of his mother complaining to the media after the local government elections in 1996 about his queue-hopping. While she had waited patiently in line, her son had gone past her, right up to the front and voted. She was later quoted in the *Diamond Fields Advertiser* as saying that



Patient premier Manne Dipico queued for seven hours. PHOTOGRAPH: THANDI MAHLANGU

the young of today lacked respect. While Dipico kept journalists waiting impatiently in Priseska New National Party leader in the Northern Cape Pieter Willem Saaman did the opposite, waiting for journalists to arrive before making his mark.

He said he cast his ballot at about

9.30am, after a TV crew arrived in a helicopter. He had previously posed for *Die Volksblad*, in a mock shot of him voting.

"I'm very happy — our supporters turned out well," he said on Wednesday night. "Luckily it wasn't the summer and the heat wasn't too bad."

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 substantial numbers of coloured voters away from opposition parties.

Two former members of the executive council for the ANC, Faith Matlaopane and Eunice Komane, have lost their places and Freedom Front MEC Johan Henning has also been replaced. In addition, the three posts that became redundant after the National Party left

the government of provincial unity have been reactivated

New members of Dipico's team include Jomo Bonokwane (economics and tourism), Dipuo Peters (health) and Fred Wyngaardt (safety and liaison). 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.

PD 23/6/99

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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 no-nonsense, disciplinarian Arts, Science and Technology Minister Mr Lionel Mshah.

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 to follow its policies.

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

Dr Frank Mdlalose 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 Zwelli Mkhize.

Buthelezi said Mkhize would be replaced by Mrs E kaNkosi-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 Mshah and kaNkosi-Shandu would prove to be a good team that will "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 sends him".

Reacting to Ngubane's departure yesterday, ANC spokesman Mr Dumisani Makhaye 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) Souveran 1/2/99

IFP sacks KwaZulu premier from post

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

hd 1/2/99 (264)

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 Ambrosini, party treasurer-general Arthur Konigkramer 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 Johnnic, 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 Heath 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 kaNkosi-Shandu. It was unclear who would replace her in the National Assembly. Sources said Buthelezi had negotiated an ambassadorship for Zulu in the Middle East.

Appointment could backfire: Page 2

Fall guy Ngubane ignored tradition

Sowetan 3/2/99. (264)

By Malcolm Ray

THE ousting of the Inkatha Freedom Party's KwaZulu-Natal premier Dr Ben Ngubane is politically conspicuous and fraught with foul play. His departure comes in the crucible of election politics and follows a host of leadership purges since 1994.

The pattern is peculiar. In 1995 the then general secretary, Dr Ziba Jiyane, was kicked out of his post.

This was soon followed by the unceremonious removal of former premier Dr Frank Mdlalose in 1997 and Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela in 1998 from their respective portfolios.

Officially, the IFP insists the latest removal of Ngubane, less than two years after his predecessor was a consequence of dismal matric results in the province - 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 arise: the performance of a provincial MEC grounds to get rid of a premier? And why was Ngubane's alleged opposition to crony capitalism in the province and principled support of legitimate tenders for casino deals seen as subversive?

Both reasons obscure a more veritable reality. Politically the picture is of a party in profound disarray.

Leadership tussles and infighting over the last three years typify a rudderless movement.

Less tangible but more enduring is a dilemma: the IFP must shed its legacy of patronage, politics and modernise without losing its traditional and predominantly rural support base.

At stake is a crisis of role and identity facing the party. Whereas its meteoric rise during the 1980s under the canopy of Zulu nationalism harmonised with a predominantly rural constituency and traditional leadership, a complex set of social and economic dynamics introduced new difficulties in the mid-1990s.

Economic growth, job creation and rural development in the province are pressing priorities which the party has not adequately addressed.

Unemployment rate

It is estimated that the unemployment rate in the province is roughly 40 percent. Very little headway has been made to attract investment.

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

It is not unreasonable to argue that the patronage of the IFP's rural constituency will increasingly be driven less by nationalism than a desire for socio-economic delivery.

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

Thus the IFP's sheer relevance as a political force in the province means abandoning its traditional brand of politics in favour of delivering development - a process that in turn requires shifting its objectives towards participation in policy-making and implementation. In short, the party either modernises or risks losing support.

It is in this context that Ngubane's



Dr Ben Ngubane's replacement as KwaZulu-Natal premier follows a host of Inkatha Freedom Party leadership changes since 1994

fate was sealed. Sources in the IFP say he is well aware of the tasks at hand. Described as a "moderate technocrat and progressive", he is rumoured to have been a driving force for growth and development in the province.

His diplomacy in the last year found favour with opposition parties. And business threw its weight behind his commitment to urban growth and industrial development.

His approach to inner party democracy and open debate was at odds with the "autocratic and loyalist style of traditional leadership" that has been a hallmark of the IFP, according to one source.

Others involved in the provincial peace initiatives point to his "independent stand" in the party.

"He has taken a more reconciliatory position than other leaders, pushing for less concessions for the IFP in order to speed up the implementation of the accords," said one.

Some political commentators point to the rise of a "modernising wing" in the party - including Ngubane, Mdlalose, Jiyane and Musa Myeni - after 1994.

They emphasise the need to meet basic needs - a position that confirms rather than resolves the party's dilemma.

Schooled in a culture of authoritarianism and prescriptive loyalty, the IFP leadership now has to engage with a constituency dependent on delivery.

In virtually all his interventions, Ngubane is believed to have pushed the boundaries of dissent in the upper echelons of the leadership.

Analyst David Hemson comments: "Placing innovative policy frameworks and development above patronage politically pushed to the fore urbane technocrats capable of delivering services."

"They saw the need for new skills, attitudes and forms of interaction with the party's constituency and the state."

However, their potential influence on the party leadership was seen as a

threat to Zulu tradition and the identity of the party.

As Hemson succinctly explains: "The rationale for the IFP's existence is the patronage of Zulu people of its nationalist tradition. For the traditional leadership, the technocrats therefore represent a very real threat."

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 irony is that the purely technical solutions favoured by Ngubane and others would inevitably depoliticise the identity of the party and dilute its specifically provincial and ethnic profile.

Political Identity

Opposition by IFP leader Mangosothu Buthelezi was glaringly evident last year when Mzimela mooted a merger with the ANC. It was a move which cost Mzimela dearly.

Hemson explains that support of a merger would necessarily have entailed the adoption of a "singularised political identity which the traditional leadership feared."

It comes as no surprise that Ngubane's replacement by former Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister Lionel Mtshali was swift.

Mtshali is considered to be a strong traditionalist and unwavering supporter of Buthelezi. No doubt his appointment is deliberate.

In the run up to the elections he is likely to insert an election programme with which the IFP succeeded historically in mobilising a potent social and political movement around ethnic chauvinism.

It is into this political blind spot that the IFP will march this time round.

However, sooner or later the absence of a popular tendency in its ranks capable of modernising the party will guarantee more purges, tensions and splits.

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 departure

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 matric 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 matric results in KwaZulu-Natal be poor again, the public would be justified in expecting the IFP to abide by its own principles and dismiss the new premier, Lionel Mtshali

Secondly, if Ngubane can be fired for poor matric results in the province, why not also blame him for the poor performance of the province's department of transport during the Arrive Alive 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 Morkel 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 Mathole Motshekga 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

Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa should have resigned already for the bad performance of all those 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

It seems there is more to the dismissal of the IFP's Dr Ben Ngubane as KwaZulu-Natal premier than meets the eye, **Thabo Rapoo** explains why

(264) *Sowetan 8/2/99*



Former KwaZulu-Natal premier Dr Ben Ngubane.

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 insane 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. The premier might take a special and keen interest in the area, but it is not his or her responsibility to run the department

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

Star 30/31/99
(264)
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 Gardner streets to Mandela, Chris Hanu 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 Gardner 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 Nomvuza Shabalala, proposing the "urgent" renaming of these streets

Council critics of the move, which include the New National Party's Geoff Oldfield,

Decisions not taken in a rush

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, Isiah Shembe 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 to meet this week to discuss a proposal to change the names of Smith, West and Gardiner streets to Mandela, Chris Hanu and Oliver Tambo streets respectively.

(264) (3077)
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.

ARG 31/3/99

Uproar after discovery of ID book scanners at IFP councillor's home

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban - The Independent Electoral Commission has launched an investigation into the discovery of two ID book scanners during a police raid on the homesteads of provincial safety and security MEC Nyanga Ngubane and an IFP regional councillor in the Midlands yesterday.

across the political spectrum said the discovery raised serious concerns about the upcoming election, but did not wish to speculate until all the facts were known.

The IFP has damned National Director of Public Prosecutions Bulelani Ngcuka's "apart-head-style raid" as "provocative in the extreme".

Ngcuka's spokesperson Siphon Ngwema confirmed last night that information had been received on Wednesday "by very credible sources, that there were illegal arms at the residences. We had to act swiftly".

The unit had driven from Pretoria to KwaZulu Natal and raided the rural Bulwer homes in the dark. Once the MEC's house had been searched and a shotgun seized, the police moved to the home of IFP councillor Gamanthu Sithole, where a pistol and the two scanners were seized.

Defending the raid, Ngwema said the investigators had been satisfied that the information was "reasonably true" and were obliged "to enforce the rule of law, regardless of the alleged offender".

Kwazulu Natal Premier Lionel Mtshali accused the ANC of attempting to hide gun-running by the ANC in the Bulwer area with its raid.

IFP spokesperson Musa Zondi said the ANC had "propagated the lie that the minister was stockpiling weapons to escalate violence in the Midlands" in retaliation for safety and security portfolio committee head Bheki Cele's recent clashes with the MEC.

DP provincial leader Roger Burrows also expressed shock. "It is extremely surprising

given the very tense nature of ANC/IFP relations in the Bulwer area, that this was so quickly proceeded with."

NNP provincial leader Danie Schutte said the party had consistently called for the establishment of a judicial commission similar to the Goldstone Commission to deal with violence in KwaZulu Natal. "We believe this debacle strengthens our belief"

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Cool, calm
crowds turn
out to vote
in Durban

164
Pule Molebeledi

DURBAN — Forecasts of voter apathy among the nearly 3.5-million Kwa-Zulu-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, Iqbal 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 at the Dawnridge 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 KwaMgaga 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 cordial and relaxed.

Many voters read novels and newspapers while the line inched forward. Even the arrival of Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma and Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu did not raise a stir.

Verbal intimidation fails to mar peaceful poll

Pule Molebeleli

DURBAN — KwaZulu-Natal had a remarkably peaceful election yesterday, with acts of "verbal intimidation" among party agents at 50 polling stations standing out as the most serious violations, said provincial Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) official Mawethu Mosery.

Mosery said these acts of intimidation had not led to physical violence, but resulted from attempts to prevent rival agents from being present at polling stations.

Police spokesman Bala Nardoo said no election-related violence had been reported yesterday. Potential flashpoints identified by the security ministers' committee had all been quiet.

Nardoo said the killing of two people in Richmond on Tuesday night did not appear to be linked to the election.

Despite glitches at some of KwaZulu-Natal's 3 341 polling stations, the election passed relatively smoothly. Most stations served 3 000 voters on average, while some had up to 6 000.

Long queues persisted outside many polling stations, indicating that in some areas polling would go on after the official closure of the stations at 9pm. IEC provincial spokesman Sharon Kotze said, however, she was confident all stations would report results last night as planned.

Kotze said stations still dealing with large numbers of would-be voters had split the queues in three, with separate electoral officers

attending to all lines, to expedite the process.

Problems had also been experienced with registered people whose names did not appear on the voters' roll arriving at stations to vote. Mosery said such people had been allowed to use tendered votes, in line with a recent change to election regulations.

Mosery said the IEC had ordered Nongoma's electoral officer, Laurence Ntshangase, to leave the area after "he was found with partisan material compromising the IEC's independence."

The Inkatha Freedom Party complained to the IEC after Ntshangase, an African National Congress member, was seen distributing ANC material in Nongoma. Mosery said the commission was still investigating the incident.

BD 3/6/99

(264)

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. Premiership 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 Minority 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 S'bu Ndebele was also confident of victory, but added "The ANC will always seek co-operation in the understanding that there must be great unity among political parties" — Own Correspondents

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TALKS SCHEDULED, BUT ...

ANC, IFP deny plan to trade high places ⁽²⁶⁴⁾

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.

THE Inkatha Freedom Party is likely to decline the ANC's proposal that it be given the premiership of KwaZulu-Natal in exchange for IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's being made the national deputy president

A well-placed IFP source said yesterday that senior leaders of both parties had met informally on Saturday to discuss the deal

A Sunday newspaper reported that the proposal was to be presented to ANC leaders at a meeting of its national working committee in Johannesburg

However, official spokespersons for both parties denied that such a proposal had been made or that it would be discussed by the NWC

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

ET 7/6/99

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 Bheki Cele, was accused by the IFP of undermining its MEC for Safety and Security, Inkosi Nyanga Ngubane

ANC provincial chairperson and premier candidate S'bu 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

(264)

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

ARG 8/6/99

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 32. 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'bu 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 73 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 73 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

**Ivor Powell and Wonder
Hlongwa report back on
KwaZulu-Natal election results**

Election politics will give way in KwaZulu-Natal to political horse-trading as the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party look for political advantage in an election battle that went right to the wire.

By the time the *Mail & Guardian* went to press it was still impossible to call the result with any certainty.

But the narrowness of the margin between the two parties has implications. The winning party will not have an absolute majority and will have to confront the sobering reality that it can govern effectively only in partnership with the other.

Late yesterday afternoon, after a long see-sawing battle of numbers, the IFP was about 3 000 votes ahead of its arch-rival and sometime mortal enemy. But only 60% of the votes in the province had been counted by that point, and results for around 300 polling stations in the Durban metropole, notably from the sprawling townships of Umlazi and KwaMashu, were still outstanding.

However, so were results from IFP-dominated areas in northern KwaZulu-Natal and the South Coast.

In short, though there will be a victor, neither side will have really won in KwaZulu-Natal.



Making their mark: A disabled man and his wife walk past military vehicles guarding the road to the polling station in Shobashobane. PHOTOGRAPH: JEEVA RAJGOPAL

With the Democratic Party emerging as an intriguing dark horse in the provincial contest — registering around 10% of the provincial vote — it could hold the balance of power, with the two major parties seeking to form a coalition government.

But this is more of a theoretical than a real possibility. The ANC and IFP have worked

together in a government of provincial unity in the past, and it is almost certain that they will be looking to accommodate each other and cobble together a cabinet between them.

This is particularly true for the IFP. With the ANC winning a national landslide, it will be in a position of some disadvantage unless it can make an accommodation in KwaZulu-Natal.

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But the road to *reapprochement* could be rocky. After the ascent to the premiership of former national arts and culture minister Lionel Mtshali, already strained relations between the IFP and the ANC in the provincial legislature worsened dramatically.

Ahead of elections the KwaZulu-Natal legislature was unable to sit without dissolving into chaos and walkouts for a single day in 1999.

And while there was certainly a good deal of electioneering in the ways of words that arose, there was also genuinely bad blood — which has grown worse as the government has moved to isolate perceived IFP warlords like legislator Philip Powell and Chief Kalalako Khawula in the wake of investigations by the Directorate of Public Prosecutions.

But win or lose, there will be messages in the vote for the IFP. One is a positive message. The IFP has confounded election polls and pundits like Idasa Markinor which put its support in KwaZulu-Natal 20% lower than elections have shown it to be.

At the same time the party has lost around 11% of its provincial support. The ANC, while it has failed to live up to pollsters' predictions, has nevertheless edged up by nearly 10%.

The ANC appears to have made some inroads into the IFP's rural heartland. Campaigning under the escort of about 200 soldiers and police at the former no-go area of Nongoma two weeks ago appears to have borne some fruit. The ANC gained a surprising 38% of the vote in the area.

The ANC has also made major inroads into parts of the South Coast formerly considered absolutely safe to the IFP.

KwaZulu-Natal seeks way to retrench public servants

Pule Molebeleli

DURBAN — The KwaZulu-Natal government was not entirely happy to spend 92% of its budget on civil servants and would like central government to provide the retrenchment "tool" so that it could trim its public service, provincial director-general Oty Nxumalo said yesterday.

Nxumalo told a media briefing in Durban that the provincial government was hamstrung by the absence of the retrenchment tool to deal with overstaffing.

He said it was, however, going to attend to overstaffing and un-

needed workers in the employ of the state through the implementation of voluntary severance packages after government lifted the moratorium last month.

"We are not happy with spending so much money on personnel but we are hoping the national government will give us the retrenchment tool," he said.

Nxumalo said discussions on such issues were taking place nationally with public sector trade unions. "We are seated with people who do not want to serve, and we do not need them," he said. "But we have no instruments to enable them to exit."

The fact that 92% of the budget was spent on personnel "really betrays efficiency."

He said the provincial government did not yet know how many people it would want to retrench. That would be done through the skills audit undertaken with the public service administration.

Commenting on the provincial government's personnel salary system, Jane Rafferty, deputy director of human resources management, said the audit showed there were 155 000 civil servants working on a full-time basis for the provincial government, with about 10 000 on a part-time basis.

BD 9/19/99

Rafferty said when they started implementing the new system in 1994, records showed that 186 000 civil servants were employed by the provincial government. She was not certain if the outstanding number was lost with the elimination of "ghost" civil servants or through natural attrition. The salary system maintains all records of public servants.

Rafferty said all the 12 provincial departments were conducting personnel audits on an ongoing basis, as the data might not be 100% accurate due to human error.

Nxumalo said the provincial government's anti-fraud campaign,

(250) (264)

launched in 1997, was gathering momentum throughout the entire administration.

He said many departments had implemented specific steps aimed at preventing fraud and unmasking perpetrators of corruption and other criminal activities, including syndicates from outside the province.

To illustrate the zero-tolerance attitude of departments, Nxumalo said it was "painful" to sign dismissal letters for people having stolen "a litre of milk, two rolls of toilet paper, a packet of Panado pills, chicken breasts and Rama margarine" among others.

Natal freezes salaries of 'ghost employees'

BD 27/7/99 (264)

Province steps up drive to root out corruption in state department

Primarashni 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 de-

partment 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 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 5 500 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 Ivor Powell

The latest spat between Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini on one side and the Zulu chiefs under Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi on the other reads like an intrigue from another time — a battle for the soul and the loyalty of the Zulu people

The king reportedly lives in fear for his life after the *amakhosi*, the council of elders gathered in the KwaZulu Natal House of Traditional Leaders, issued a statement censuring his alleged failure to identify with them or to provide his people with the symbolic leadership vested in him

Members of the king's inner circle at Nongo-



Brothers at arms: Mangosuthu Buthelezi (right) and King Goodwill Zwelithini are locked in a medieval power struggle

ma in northern KwaZulu Natal have apparently gone into hiding amid rising tensions in the area, death threats and attacks on their homes

Pointedly, the *amakhosi* failed to attend the king's birthday celebrations recently, or to provide tribute in the form of cattle and gifts

Buthelezi, chair of the provincial House of Traditional Leaders last week gave an interview

to the IFP-owned *Ilanga* newspaper in which he attacked the character of the king. He detailed alleged involvement of the monarch in apartheid sponsored political parties in the 1970s, and painted him as a wastrel and a spendthrift

By way of contrast, at the IFP's congress in Ulundi last month the party passed a resolution describing Buthelezi as a "towering his

torical figure who provides lustre to the entire continent" It urged "Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi to provide the country with his much needed leadership

Behind these almost medieval palace intrigues is the unfolding of some all too contemporary power politics — politics that look as much to the future as they do to the traditional past

The progressive isolation of Zwelithini — which has coincided with the king's own attempts to remove himself from party politics since before the 1994 elections — serves to underline that what is at stake is not so much Zulu tradition as the survival of the IFP

At the centre of the row lies a legislative jigsaw being put together in advance of local government elections in 2000. The main stumbling block is the Municipal Structures Act of 1998 which replaces the Local Government Transition Act of 1993

From the IFP's viewpoint the problem with the new legislation is its most basic premise: the entrenching of democratic principles in the structures of local government

Whereas the 1993 Act created provisions for the *amakhosi* in tribal trust lands to serve as ex officio local government officials, the new law extends the purview of elected representation

While *amakhosi* — as citizens — 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 that representation to 10% of any municipality

At the same time, the work of the Municipal Demarcation Board — also mandated in terms of 1998 legislation — has further compromised the authority of the *amakhosi* at the level of local government

In defining municipal structures, the demarcation board has specified that municipalities in the new dispensation will be centred on hubs of economic activity. In effect this means the deeply rural areas directly controlled by the *amakhosi* — the former tribal trust lands under the apartheid homelands system — will be brought together with urban centres in local government structures

The result is the voice of the *amakhosi* is unlikely to be heard as stridently as in the past.

National director of local government Crispin Olver says direct representation will, however, not be the only role played by traditional leaders in the new dispensation

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

"As custodians of land through customary law, the chiefs will also be in a landowner-to-council relationship with the local councils which can be used in the process of development"

What Olver doesn't specify is that, in the new dispensation, the purse strings will be held by municipal structures. Under earlier legislation, money paid to local government structures in areas represented by the *amakhosi* was directly under their control. This was in addition to 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 *amakhosi* 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 assumed office which anthropologists have questioned as being without precedent or substance, and which the king himself has challenged, inconclusively, through the courts

Durban produces landmark local government database

(264)

MARGIE INGGIS

Durban – Durban Métro 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 455 000 formal and 154 000 informal dwellings and buildings, which housed 2,5 million people

The 600-strong project team comprised mainly community based individuals

Leach said the system would be continually updated and would ben-

efit 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.

ET(DR) 9/9/99

PS - LOCAL AUTHORITIES - E. CAPE
1999



STAMPING OUT FRAUD ... Enoch Godongwana has centralised payments to instil discipline

Bisho slams the lid on itchy fingers

ST (PT) 31/1/99 (267b)
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
By QUENTIN WRAY

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

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 elec-

tronic 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 — *ECN Weekend*

Nice job, nice car ... nothing to do

BLACKMAN NGORO

STAFF REPORTER

A guessing game is being played in the Eastern Cape's corridors of power. The question civil servants ask in Bisho or Umtata is: who really works here and who is just here to draw a salary?

"Look," says one civil servant, pointing at a colleague walking down the hall, "she's a supernumerary."

And that, in Eastern Cape civil servants' speak, means a nice salary, a good car, a daily trip to the office - but no work to do.

The provincial department of agriculture, for example, has 2 000 supernumeraries on its books, and spends R110-million of its R500-million budget on their salaries each year - so 20% of the budget is spent on non-productive staff.

But the provincial minister for agriculture, Max Mamase, says it would be "immoral" to lay them off. "They don't have pensions," he said. "In the release of land we must find a niche for people who are keen to work in agriculture."

Eastern Cape director-general Mvuyo Thom says there are 15 000 redundant civil servants on the so-called supernumerary list in the Eastern Cape. They are all remnants of the civil service of the Ciskei and Transkei homelands, which were incorporated in the new

Eastern Cape provincial government after the 1994 elections. Their offices are mainly in Bisho and Umtata.

Another problem the provincial government has grappled with is the fraud of "ghost workers." These were the hundreds, if not thousands, of people on the payroll who, up to 1988, had received salaries for years without ever working for the homeland bureaucracies or the province.

Either civil servants submitted fictitious names and got paid a second salary each month, or they left the service but continued getting salaries.

According to Mr Thom, this abuse was stopped when the then payment system by cheque, which was open to theft, was replaced by electronic banking. In the past, banks in the former homelands were said to have paid whoever cashed the cheque, as long as that person was known to the banking staff.

"There is a lot of cronyism - even in banks. A lot of people who work in the local banks serve those they know first," says a senior civil servant in the department of agriculture, who blamed supernumeraries for treating members of the public with disdain.

"They leave their homes, come to work and do little more than warm their chairs. They don't have a job title or description," he said.

But most of the civil servants in Bisho's Dukumbane Building and



Have a heart: Agriculture Minister Max Mamase says it's immoral to fire workers

Umtata's Botha Sigcau Building share a common future - and it's a bleak one.

The national government has announced it wants to trim the bloated public service. And while it would be political suicide for the provincial government, headed by ANC premier Makhenkesi Stofile, to talk of removing them from their "employment" on the eve of the elections, civil servants in Umtata expect they will be removed anyway - shortly after June 2.

For this reason, Umtata civil servants are switching their political allegiance from the ANC to the United Democratic Movement, judging from UDM posters and notices in government offices. "If the UDM wins the elections in



Much ado about nothing: the government offices in Bisho, home to scores of redundant civil servants who still draw salaries

the Eastern Cape, we stand a better chance of retaining our jobs," says a civil servant in Umtata.

"And why is the Bisho government ignoring experienced civil servants from the former Transkei? That is why those they are using are unable to deliver anything to the people. They have no idea how to run a government administration."

There seems to be a common thread running through this province with its rural and agriculture-based economy - poverty.

On the one hand, the urban population of Transkei - of which most of economically active adults are civil servants - are disgruntled as they feel left out of the current dispensation. This is a hangover from the days

RRU 28/4/99

when there were high expectations that Umtata would become the capital city of the Eastern Cape.

Transkei civil servants were reportedly unco-operative with the Bisho-based Eastern Cape government. Kicking them out of their jobs will be a major blow to the extended family system. "Most of us feed our mothers and our sisters and sisters' children, as well as unemployed brothers," says a civil servant.

Mr Thom acknowledges that many civil servants are disillusioned. "But I don't think most of them are part of a conspiracy not to co-operate with this government. We have to find a way out for them - re-train them or give them new skills so they can go and find new work - perhaps in agriculture."

Bisho on brink of pay strike

(2630) (15/5/99)
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 R130-million.

Labour unions involved in the provincial union caucus have threatened to organise pickets 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.

An area so poor there is nothing to steal

The Eastern Cape has been bogged down by underdevelopment. David Greybe looks at what difference the election is likely to make to the province's fortunes

David Greybe
2638 BD b/5/99

Provincial results: '94

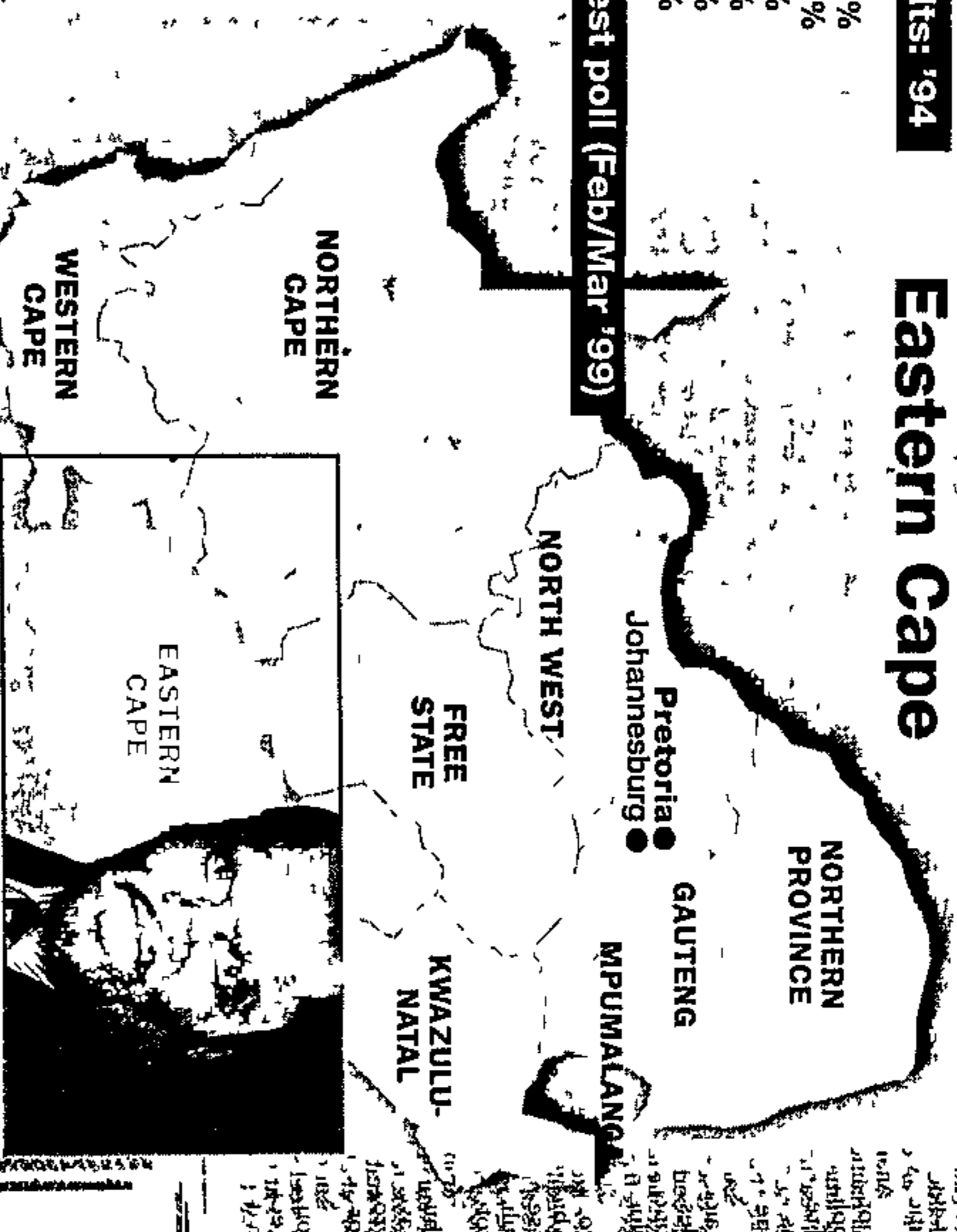
ANC:	84,4%
NP:	10,6%
PAC:	2,0%
DP:	1,2%
IFP:	0,2%
Rest together:	1,6%

Eastern Cape

ANC:	75%
UDM:	7%
NPP:	4%
DP:	4%
PAC, less than 1%	
IFP, less than 1%	
Not known/undisclosed:	10%

Opinion '99 latest poll (Feb/Mar '99)

ANC:	75%
UDM:	7%
NPP:	4%
DP:	4%
PAC, less than 1%	
IFP, less than 1%	
Not known/undisclosed:	10%



Premier Makhakesi Stofile
Graphic: MATTHYS MOSS Source: IEC, MARKINOR/IDC

POVERTY is so widespread in the Eastern Cape and the province is so fractured that one is forced to wonder what difference the election on June 2 will make there. Official figures put unemployment in the province at nearly 50%, and most parties agree that relatively speaking crime is not the problem it is in the rest of SA.

"There is nothing to steal in many areas," one observer remarks.

Government is preparing to retrench more than 15 000 provincial public servants after the elections. It thinks it is getting to grips with corruption. And by focusing on tourism it hopes to turn the economic tide.

Opposition parties argue that conditions are so bad that only radical measures by the provincial government with backing from central government can save the province.

Some believe the only solution lies in a partnership between the private and public sectors. Parties and the people along with a plan to rescue the province's economy.

Cynics believe the province is historically too fractured for such a joint approach.

African National Congress (ANC) provincial leaders blame apartheid, a fractured public service inherited from the homeland era, central government for not giving it more money and the business community for deserting the province.

"A large section of the business community has been very happy to see the ANC failing," says ANC provincial spokesman Mcebisi Bata. "They refuse to join the partnership with government."

The ANC believes that matters can only improve and that a foundation for recovery has been laid with the merger of the former Ciskei, Transkei and Cape administrations.

Wilhelm le Roux MP and New National Party (NNP) deputy provincial leader calls for an "economic state of emergency" involving tax holidays, export incentives, transport subsidies and cheaper rates for tourists.

Central government Le Roux argues should provide subsidised loans for capital expenditure. "If we had had these incentives in place the Coega harbour project — critical to the economic salvation of the province — would have been up and running a long time ago." Central government also needs to relax labour regulations even if only on a temporary basis in the Eastern Cape. "To get market forces to determine the cost of labour," he says.

Democratic Party (DP) provincial chairman Athol Trollip argues that the "progressive collapse of our road network" lies at the heart of the province's difficulties. "The department of public works, by not maintaining our roads, is crippling our predominantly agriculture-based economy."

Despite the fact that so little has changed for the better in SA's most bankrupt and corrupt province the ANC's star appears to be ascending. ANC members privately concede that the appointment of over-the-hill "Oom" Kay Mhlaba as premier in 1994 was a

mistake. His replacement in February 1997 Makhakesi Stofile has seen the return of ANC supporters to the party fold opinion polls say.

The ANC won 84,4% of the provincial vote in 1994 and pointing to the most recent independent opinion poll, is confident it can maintain or even increase its majority.

The opposition United Democratic Movement (UDM), NNP and DP which had hoped to pull in a third of the vote now concede this looks increasingly unlikely. Based on recent polls the opposition parties will do well to win 20% of the provincial vote.

Markinor and the Institute for Democracy in SA's (IADS) Opinion '99 poll conducted in February and March found that 75% of those sampled now planned to vote ANC, up sharply from 67% in November 1998. Undisclosed and "undisclosed" voters accounted for only 10% of the poll.

The poll compilers see the growth in ANC support as part of a longer-term recovery for the provincial party, whose backing bottomed out at 43% in November 1995 — with many joining the ranks of the undecided.

Bata says the ANC has restored good relations with traditional leaders, mainly in the former Transkei. These reached a low point during the 1995 local government elections when chiefs accused the ANC of ignoring their authority and trying to undermine their rule.

The loyalty of chiefs — and, therefore, their followers — is clearly still a worry for the party. UDM leader and former Transkei military leader Bantu Holomisa remains popular in rural Transkei, and has made a point of wooing the rural vote.

President Nelson Mandela took the opportunity at the recent rowdy Freedom Day celebrations in Umtata — at which UDM supporters sang and chanted throughout his speech — to emphasise to traditional leaders present that UDM supporters were being disrespectful to them.

The poll makes the UDM the second strongest party in the Eastern Cape at 7%, but this is still less than half the proportion who indicated they would vote for it just after the party's launch in September 1997.

A top UDM official expresses confidence that his party — the largest unknown factor in the election — will win between 33% and 40% of the provincial vote.

Observers scoff at this, saying if the party took between 15% and 20% of the vote it would be an extraordinary achievement.

UDM president Bantu Holomisa says the level of UDM support will depend on whether the ANC persuaded sufficient numbers of its supporters to register in Mdantsane, outside East London, and around Port Elizabeth.

Significantly, while 2,92-million voters cast their provincial ballot in 1994 only 2,45-million have registered to vote this time. This means that if there is an 80% voter turnout, almost a million fewer people will vote in the Eastern Cape.

Holomisa who was involved in the ANC

election campaign in the province in 1994 says the reason for lower registration levels is poverty: many residents have left for Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban in search of work. Some analysts believe many of the 1994 votes were fraudulent.

Le Roux is confident that despite claims that the NNP faces a thrashing in the province, it will hang on to its 10,6% of the vote. Opinion '99 gives the NNP 4%.

Le Roux concedes that the NNP may lose some white support to the DP, but insists the NNP is picking up "substantial new support among coloured voters". In 1994 the coloured vote — about 300 000 — was split evenly between the NNP and the ANC.

"The main reason coloured voters are disillusioned with the ANC is the widespread poverty, and that as we know, is the result of the unemployment," he says. Coloureds also see the provincial government's policies as

harking back to the apartheid days, in that they favour one group — this time blacks." The DP says it can increase its share from 1,2% to 10% Opinion '99 acknowledges that DP support has grown substantially, but only to 4%.

The Pan Africanist Congress, Inkatha Freedom Party, African Christian Democratic Party and Freedom Front will not win more than 1% each, the poll predicts.

Trollip says the best-case scenario for the opposition is a UDM tally of between 10% and 15%, the DP taking 10% and the rest of the opposition another 10%.

If the combined opposition can win close to 30%, they can make a case for changing some of the standing committees in the provincial legislature.

"Then we can begin to talk about meaningful change," Trollip says. "Then we can hold the government more accountable."

While the DP agrees with ANC promises on employment, housing, education, health, water and electricity, "our fundamental problem has been tardiness of implementation," Trollip says. "It has not happened."

Stofile commented on the province's first neglect in a speech prepared for the Umtata Freedom Day rally but for some reason did not deliver this part to his audience.

"This region exemplifies the magnitude of our challenge as we move towards the millennium. The extent of neglect here exceeds all comprehension," was what he was trying to tell the 30 000-strong crowd.

"A start has been made, but the road ahead is still long and arduous. Anyone who thinks there is a short cut is simply not being honest."

After five sobering years of rule in the Eastern Cape the ANC is taking a cautious line on what its next term can achieve.

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.

Fikile Majola, 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 leg promotions monies due to 10 000 Nehawu members since 1994.

"The awards were given to the trade union parties to the Eastern Cape provincial bargaining council for the public service on January 28 1999 after a dispute relating to the failure of the provincial government to implement the salary decision agreed upon in the public service central bargaining chamber in 1996.

(2630) (2630)
"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 1999," Majola said.

Majola 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.

(2638)

Eastern Cape govt workers plan march over salaries

Reneé Grawitzky

THOUSANDS of Eastern Cape public servants plan to march on provincial administration offices today to force the government to implement salary increases based on seniority and performance, that were provided for in the 1996 wage agreement.

After signing the 1996 agreement at national level, the provincial government failed to put affected personnel onto a new salary system which would have ensured various promotions. The provincial government now faces implementing the full agreement which will cost millions.

A government source said financing the wage agreements would require cuts in other activities. National Education Health and Allied Workers Union's (Nehawu's) Eastern Cape deputy chairman Monwabisi Jaxa said the provincial government's failure to implement the 1996 agreement affected about 60% of the 133 000 provincial public service in the province. Government sources said only 30 000 personnel were affected.

The process had begun and 7 000 people had received their promotions costing the provincial government R128m.

The failure to meet the April 30 deadline was a result of a lack of capacity and the fact that some departments had no proper records.

An award handed down by the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) in January provided that the province to implement the agreement by April 30.

Questions have been raised as to whether provincial government had received funds from national government to implement the agreement. Some sources believed the money had been redirected while others said national government had never given provincial government the money.

Nehawu said marches would be held in all the major centres including Bisho and Umtata. The main march would be held at the Bisho stadium where a memorandum would be handed to government representatives.

Eastern Cape's electoral boss hopes for 70% turnout

David Greybe

(263B)

BD 3/6/99

EAST LONDON — Based on reports of a high voter turnout in many parts of the Eastern Cape by mid-afternoon yesterday, a figure of 70%-75% was possible, the provincial electoral officer said last night.

Chief electoral officer Bongani Finca expressed satisfaction at the absence of any "serious problems" at the province's more than 2 300 voting stations.

However, Finca cautioned early last night that the voting process still had to enter the "sensitive stage of counting" when polling booths closed officially at 9pm.

Amid reports that some stations in rural parts of the Transkei had not opened by 3pm,

the Independent Electoral Commission said voters still queuing at 9pm would, under the Electoral Act, be allowed to vote.

If necessary, candles and gas lamps would be used at polling stations where voting continued late into the night. Many of the stations in the rural parts of the Eastern Cape do not have electricity.

Finca said he was "not aware of any voting stations in the province that failed to open." He was critical though of the fact that many voting stations in the Eastern Cape did not open on time.

A snap survey of voting stations outside the East London area found that most opened an hour or two late due to "logistical problems", presiding officers said.

Finca said this saddened him. While it had been acceptable during SA's first democratic election in 1994, it was not acceptable now.

Besides the later arrival of voting material, including ballots, Finca said some stations ran out of certain material. In some cases extra material had to be sent in by helicopter. Seven air force and police helicopters were on standby in the province yesterday.

Finca had a special word of praise for the various political parties in the province who, he said, had displayed "a very high degree of political tolerance" yesterday.

There had been fears that violence could erupt, particularly between supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) and the United Democratic Movement (UDM), but this had

not happened.

Johan Malherbe, UDM provincial spokesman and CEO, said most of the "incidents" encountered at polling stations in the province were of "a local nature".

These included:

□ Presiding officers who "influenced" voters into voting for a specific party,

□ Minor incidents of "intimidation" by party activists, especially at taxi ranks near voting stations, and,

□ The failure of presiding officers to record the names of voters who were registered at a station, but whose names did not appear on the voters roll. While the voters were allowed to vote, the absence of any record of their names meant the counting would not be reconciled.

Cosatu to fight UDM's growth

bb 12/2/99
Reneé Grawitzky

(263B)

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 Mbhazima Shilowa — who together with second vice-president Peter Malepe will co-ordinate 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.