

DISCUSSIONS

MK Party explores talks with 'friendly' ANC members in KZN

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THE MK Party (MKP) says it is in behind-the-scenes discussions with what it terms as 'friendly' in the ANC in KwaZulu-Natal regarding the possibility of a coalition between the two parties.

This is despite the ANC's Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) saying this week that the door to any coalition discussions between the two parties had been closed after initial approaches had been made and were rejected after the May 29 national and general elections.

The result of the elections saw the ANC lose its majority hold on KZN to the MKP but a coalition with the DA, IFP and NFP led to the formation of the government of provincial unity (GPU). MKP national spokesperson Nhlamulo Ndhlela told *The Mercury* that the party was in ongoing discussions with "progressive friendlies in progressive leaning parties" at both national and provincial levels.

"We are always open to working with progressive parties and individuals in those parties who are not associated with neo-liberal parties because we want to drive a specific outcome that will liberate our people."

Ndhlela said the MKP had not shut the door on discussions with the ANC and that there are those in the party who are open to engagements. The party recently announced that former KZN Premier Willie Mchunu, who resigned from the ANC, is now the MKP convenor in KZN.

Ndhlela said that Mchunu would be involved in inter-party discussions at a national and provincial level.

He said that the discussions that were taking place did not involve the ANC's PEC.

"There is no PEC in the province, we know that their national body does not take them seriously."

"We will continue to engage with the ANC in discussions but we will only

do this with those we deem friendlies," said Ndhlela.

ANC KZN deputy chairperson Nomagugu Simelane at a media conference on Monday said that the party would "definitely not" leave the GPU or work with the MKP in the province.

"The MKP were the first ones who issued a statement through their founder's daughter (Duduzile Zuma-Sambudla) and she said they would never work with the ANC and has made it a point that they do not work with us."

"Of course when we were going into the government of national and provincial unity no one was closed out but the MKP made a firm stand to say that they will not work with the ANC."

Simelane said the ANC will work with those parties that want development for the people of KZN.

Political analyst Professor Ntsikelelo Breakfast said there appeared to be a growing call by some members of the ANC to gravitate towards working with the MKP as the ANC and the DA disagree over policy issues.

Breakfast said there is an increasing argument within the ANC that it will be better off in a political partnership with the MKP as opposed to a partnership with the DA.

"The suspicions about the DA and the conflict over policy positions will serve to justify those who have been wanting to shut down the PEC of KZN."

Another analyst Thabani Khumalo said that the ANC is divided, with a section that supports the GPU and another that does not support the government of national unity (GNU) for various reasons. He said some of those who are disgruntled may have lost out on their positions and may now be unemployed.

"They are angry because their positions have been given or have been taken by participants of this GNU and GPU and they are not happy."

"There is a grouping that is hoping the GNU and GPU collapses so that the ANC is forced to take an alternative route," Khumalo said.



SOLOIST South Korean violinist Soyung Yoon and Indonesian / Chinese conductor Rebecca Tong at the Quarters Hotel in Florida Road sampling some authentic Scottish shortbread (courtesy of Carol's Home Industry in Glenwood Village), while preparing for the second concert in the KZN Philharmonic Orchestra World Symphony Spring Season, tomorrow, November 7, in the Playhouse Opera at 7pm. Tickets at Quicket. | SHELLEY KJONSTAD Independent Newspapers

PATIENT TRANSPORT

Nehawu raises safety concerns after EMS bus fire, no reported injuries

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SAFETY concerns have been raised by the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) after the Planned Patient Transport (PPT) bus caught alight on Monday.

The incident comes after two recent road crashes involving the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) vehicles last week.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health said no patients were harmed in the fire.

It said the bus, which is from the uThukela Emergency Medical Rescue base, caught fire near Cedara while transporting 52 patients.

"All patients were safely evacuated and transferred to Greys Hospital in the uMgungundlovu District using three 22-seater buses," the

Department reported.

Additional transport was dispatched to ensure that each patient returned home safely. "By midnight, all patients had been safely dropped off by EMS personnel in Estcourt, Ladysmith, Dundee, and Vryheid," the Department stated, adding that an internal investigation is underway to determine the cause of the fire.

In separate incidents, two road crashes involving the Department's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) vehicles also occurred last week.

A bus from the Nakekela Hub in Manguzi overturned near Mbazwana in the uMkhanyakude District after colliding with a stray cow.

"One patient who was trapped in the wrecked bus sadly passed away, while the rest of the passengers and two crew members sustained minor injuries and were transported to eMseleni Hospital," the department

said at the time.

In a second accident, an EMS vehicle carrying two injured minors from Itshelejoba Hospital to Ngwelezane Hospital also hit a stray cow and overturned, but there were no injuries.

Nehawu raised concern over safety issues for both health workers and patients.

Ntokozo Nxumalo, a spokesperson for Nehawu, said the incidents underscored the risks faced by EMS staff.

"These incidents raise an issue of safety for both health workers and patients," Nxumalo stated. He added that Nehawu had previously advocated for a death grant to support families if a health worker dies on duty, but that proposal was rejected.

"We had raised the death grant to say that in an event a health worker dies while on duty, their family must receive a grant; however, this employer shut it down," he said.

OVERSIGHT

Questions mount as Government Printing Works keeps R100m press in box for years

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THE Government Printing Works (GPW) came under fire for keeping a new printing machine still in a box and not in use for years and for failing to provide timeframes to implement recommendations of a Ministerial Review Committee.

This emerged when the GPW appeared before the home affairs portfolio committee to provide a progress report on the implementation of the ministerial review panel report that was appointed after the GPW's server crashed in February 2021 and led to the loss of data.

The panel presented its report that covered ICT, human resources, finance, operations and production, as well as security services, to former minister Aaron Motaoleli in July 2022 and the entity received the report in

September 2022.

Briefing the committee, GPW CEO Alinah Fosi said they have completed 144 out of the 166 recommendations and that 22 recommendations are currently in progress.

Fosi said the benchmarking of GPW's contracts register was done with reference to the register used by the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Basic Education.

She also said a framework on consequence management was being developed and would be tabled at a management meeting for immediate implementation.

Fosi stated that the supply chain management unit was awaiting recommendations and findings made by the forensic auditor into irregular expenditure.

"A draft report was issued. The report is being considered by legal services."

In her report, Fosi said progress was affected by the cost containment measures regarding the appointing of a Chief Information Officer, a compliance officer and putting a contingency plan in place until the approved ICT posts were filled, among others.

There would be headhunting for an external ICT expert to assist the ICT panel and advise the CEO on ICT matters.

Fosi also told the MPs that GPW has three types of equipment – those in use, out of use and in the box.

She said the majority of the equipment has been moved from one building to the new headquarters.

However, some of the equipment was more than 20 years old, and the original equipment manufacturers have indicated that they were out of sale and warranty. GPW has started a process to dispose of some of the equipment.

Fosi also revealed that a printing press bought by the

then management around 2013 was still in the box.

"As you can imagine, it is out of sale, out of warranty and therefore we will have a problem if we put it on the floor because of the time it spent in the box."

She said the machine was big and they planned to put it in another facility where they could use it.

"We don't have a space to put that machine."

MK Party's Sihle Ngubane said the GPW has been eluding scrutiny of the committee for a long time.

"This is an institution where our oversight needs to be tightened," he said.

He said the report presented by Fosi lacked timelines for the implementation of tasks.

Ngubane also raised his concern that there was new equipment still in boxes not used.

"Was consequence management done on the person who decided to buy the machine for such long years? We have seen the scam. People go on a binge of buying things that are not needed."

"They don't buy for the needs of the organisation but for their appetite, pockets and brown envelopes."

ANC MP Faith Muthambi decried the lack of time frames in the implementation of the recommendations of the ministerial review panel report.

"We should hasten to implement the recommendations," she said, pointing out that the report was given to GPW in September 2022.

"There are challenges that are there. There are issues that must be time-bound," Muthambi said.

"I have difficulties with a report that does not have timelines. One needs to be told what is going to happen and when," she said.

Committee chairperson Mosa Chabane echoed the same sentiments.

"This report does not outline plans and a timeframe, which this committee may need to observe," Chabane said.



INVESTIGATION

Attorney could be disbarred in light of child rape case

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ACCUSED child rapist, attorney Carel Schoeman, could face suspension or being disbarred as the Legal Practice Council (LPC) is investigating the 26 criminal charges brought against him.

The LPC confirmed that added to this investigation, they are also probing three complaints against Schoeman unrelated to the criminal charges he faces.

Schoeman - owner of CBS Attorneys - is accused of "buying" a 13-year-old girl from her mother for R160 000, before raping her repeatedly.

The girl's mother, who cannot be named to protect the identity of the daughter, is Schoeman's co-accused and appeared in the Gauteng High Court sitting in Palm Ridge where both pleaded not guilty to the charges brought against them.

The mother was charged with 72 counts, including nine of sexual exploitation of children, nine of rape, human trafficking, kidnapping, child abuse and creating child pornography.

LPC spokesperson, Kabelo Letebele, said they learnt of the criminal charges faced by Schoeman recently and they are in contact with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) on the matter.

"We confirm that the LPC was already investigating three complaints against this legal practitioner submitted by the public."

"The matters which we are looking into pertain to failure to account, failure to attend to a matter diligently and bringing the profession into disrepute. Since the details around the criminal charges came to light, they are also being looked into by our investigations committee," said Letebele.

Letebele said the Legal Practice Act requires the LPC to apply to court, for a suspension and/or striking off of any legal practitioner found guilty of serious contravention of the Legal Practice Act and/or any laws of the country.

"The legal practitioners are officers of the court, who are admitted by the court, hence the LPC has to apply to court for a striking off."

"In line with the procedures we need to follow, as stipulated by the Legal Practice Act, the LPC rules and the LPC code of conduct, the matter is before the Investigations Committee who are considering the three complaints that were lodged with the LPC and the committee will also look into the details around the criminal matters he is facing and provide recommendations thereof."

"We note that after our disciplinary processes, if the recommendation by the relevant committee is to refer the matter to court for an application to suspend, only a court of law can order the suspension of the legal practitioner from the LPC," said Letebele.

Letebele said if Schoeman is found guilty of the three complaints of alleged misconduct that were formally lodged, the LPC will have to consider whether this legal practitioner is "fit and proper to remain on the roll of legal practitioners, in light of the court outcomes regarding these criminal charges."

Enquiries to the NPA were not answered by deadline. Attempts to reach Schoeman were unsuccessful.

Sonke Gender Justice said they were outraged to learn that Schoeman was reportedly still practising law.

Sonke Gender Justice co-executive director, Bafana Khumalo, said: "The levels of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls remain very high in South Africa. It is totally unacceptable when even officers of the courts are caught committing such brutality."

"There is no doubt that Schoeman's behaviour has brought the professional body's reputation into disrepute. At the very least, the LPC should place him on a precautionary suspension until his matters are resolved."

"Allowing him to continue practising potentially exposes innocent victims to his unprofessional conduct," said Khumalo.

Independent Development Trust

Invitation to Tender
Tender No: IDTKZN2024/OFFICELEASE/ADM01
Provision of Suitable Office Space for IDT KwaZulu-Natal Regional Office Based in Durban for an initial period of 36 months

The Independent Development Trust (IDT) is a Schedule 2 Public Entity governed by its Deed of Trust, The Public Finance Management Act (Act No 1 of 1999), as amended by Act No 29 of 1999 (PFMA) and other relevant legislative frameworks. The IDT is mandated to support government in development programme implementation across the three spheres of government. Its primary focus is on social infrastructure programme delivery management, i.e. schools, hospitals, courts, etc.

The IDT manages and delivers integrated social infrastructure programmes on behalf of Government. The IDT has a regional office in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province, and is seeking to procure leased office space for an initial period of 36 months with a possibility to extend the timeframe.

The bid will be evaluated on the following three phases:

Phase 1: Responsive criteria
All bids will be evaluated on the responsive criteria to determine compliance with the following mandatory documents:

- Certified copy of deed registration ownership/Power of Attorney/ Subletting agreement (refer to item 6 above)
- Company profile with a list of current or previous clients serviced by your firm Letter of Authority by the Legal Entity, authorizing a person dedicated to sign documents on behalf of the bidder, with the exception of sole proprietors
- All bidders must submit full CSD Registration Report
- Fully completed SBD1, SBD 4 and SBD 6.1
- Third Party liability insurance and SASRIA insurance for the building structure
- Recent updated Compliance with the occupational health and safety Act (OHSA) certificate.
- Latest Occupancy Certificate (applicable if the building is new)
- Zoning certificate obtainable from Municipality
- Drawings-Proposed Comprehensive Tenant Layout plans and Site Plans of the accommodation offered must be submitted with the bid.
- Disability access facility compliant
- Valid Certificate of compliance: Electrical and Mechanical

Phase 2: Functionality Criteria

Functionality Criteria	Points
Property Letting and Management Experience	40
Office Location	15
Facility Management Team	15
Project Methodology/Development/Implementation Plan	15
Safety & Security Plan	15

Further details of functionality points are indicated on the tender document.
Tenders not meeting a minimum of 70% of the total functionality points will be disqualified and will not be further evaluated on the 90/10 scorecard for Price and SPECIFIC GOALS.

PHASE 3: Price and Preference
Phase 3 will be evaluated on price and Specific Goals based on the 90/10 preference points system
The tender evaluation criteria, in line with the IDT Supply Chain Management Policy, will be as follows: 90/10 preference points system will be used where 90 points is for price and 10 points is for SPECIFIC GOALS.
The minimum points for this tender are allocated as follows:

	POINTS
PRICE	90
SPECIFIC GOALS	10
TARGETED GROUP	
Women 100% Ownership	3
Youth 100% Ownership	3
People with Disabilities 100% Ownership	2
Black people 100% Ownership	2
Total points for Price and SPECIFIC GOALS	100

The tender document will be available upon payment of a non-refundable fee of R500.00. Tender documents will be issued upon presentation of an original bank deposit slip OR proof of payment at the IDT KwaZulu-Natal Regional office, 22 Dorothy Nyembe Street, The Marine Building, 4th Floor, Durban, 4001.

Bidders must produce proof of payment when collecting bid documents.

The tender deposit amounts are non-refundable and must be deposited into IDT Tender Deposit Account, the banking details are as follows:
Bank: ABSA
Account Name: IDT Tender Deposit Account
Account Number: 40364940131
Branch Name: Corporate & Business Pretoria
Branch code: 632005
Reference: IDTKZN2024/OFFICELEASE/ADM01

IDT's office hours are 08h30 to 17h00 weekdays only. Lunch hours between 13h00 to 14h00
Collection and Paying of bid documents will commence on the 11th November 2024 at 10h00 am to 15h00 each day and will close on the 14th November 2024 at 15h00 pm.
Bid Validity Period: The bid will be valid for 90 calendar days from the closing date.
Briefing Session: Please note that the briefing meeting is not applicable / compulsory.
Tender proposals must be on the original documents and must include all information as requested in the tender document.
The bid closing date is 03 December 2024 by no later than 11h00 am and bids shall be submitted in the tender box at IDT's KZN Regional Office.

Proposals / Bid Documents must be deposited into the tender box situated at the IDT Durban Offices, in KwaZulu-Natal on the 22 Dorothy Nyembe Street, 4th Floor The Marine Building, Durban.

No late submission of tenders will be accepted.
The lowest tender may not necessarily be accepted. No correspondence will be entered into with unsuccessful tenders and the appointment will be at the IDT's sole discretion and will be final.
Enquiries can be directed to Ms Nondumiso Nwalande at NondumisoN@idt.org.za

A SPECIAL MEETING

FOR INTERESTED RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL RATEPAYERS OF
MOTTRAMDALE ROAD, GRACE AVENUE, MONARCH ROAD, LATINA PLACE & LINCOLN TERRACE

**WILL BE HELD AT
INTERSECTION OF GRACE AVENUE &
MOTTRAMDALE ROAD**

**ON SUNDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2024
FROM 14h30 to 15h30**

TO ESTABLISH A UIP IN THE AREA

Non-Profit Organization: Enterprise Number K2022 / 458400 / 01

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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