



# **Numsa Media Monitor**

**Thursday 14 July 2016**

**A daily compilation of local, national and international articles dealing with labour related issues**

## **Numsa**

### **Lethargic Numsa may have missed its political moment**

*Natasha Marrian, Business Day, 14 July 2016*

AUGUST's local government elections are aptly billed as the most difficult elections to read since 1994. This is, in many ways, a by-product of a decade of turbulence and considerable shifts in the body politic.

From the DA snatching a province from the ANC, the recall of Thabo Mbeki, the tsunami that swept Jacob Zuma into the presidency, the destruction of the ANC Youth League, to the disintegration of labour federation Cosatu, and the rise of the EFF, to the election of the first black DA leader — there has seldom been a dull moment in our democracy.

Amid this tumult was a decision by the National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa) — Cosatu's largest affiliate — to distance itself from the ANC-led alliance at the end of 2013, precipitating its expulsion from the labour federation.

The "Numsa moment", as it was billed, first exploded, then fizzled and popped surreptitiously off the scene in the wake of a jobs bloodbath in manufacturing. The union's decision not to campaign for the ANC in the 2014 national polls probably contributed to the party's drop in support in Gauteng from 64% to 53%.

Numsa's offspring, the United Front, is registered to contest elections in several provinces under different names.

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In Gauteng, the United Front of Civics will contest wards in the cities of Johannesburg, Tshwane and Ekurhuleni, and in one ward in Sedibeng.

In Plettenberg Bay and Bitou in the Western Cape, a United Front affiliate, Active United Front, will contest the areas' wards.

There are also United Front affiliates contesting wards in Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

But the United Front of the Eastern Cape — a Numsa stronghold — has the largest presence. Its spokesman, Mziyanda Twani, says it is contesting 43 of the 60 wards in the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality, as well as wards in Buffalo City, Sterkspruit and the Chris Hanu district municipalities. Shop stewards are dealing with worker issues by day and campaigning at night.

The United Front of the Eastern Cape is functioning on a tiny budget, and the contact number listed on the Electoral Commission of SA website is for Numsa's regional office.

The union's political ambitions have been stalled by job shedding in the steel and manufacturing sectors, and financial troubles, but mainly by internal differences over whether the party should be "mass-based" or a "vanguard" in the image of the South African Communist Party.

United Front activists campaigning for the election say that the polls themselves are not as important as the aftermath — it is providing an opportunity to do some groundwork and to create infrastructure that will eventually be absorbed into the "political organ" Numsa is intent on creating.

It may be too late, however, with the EFF now occupying the political space to the left of the ANC. But the United Front is dismissive of this threat — citing credibility issues faced by EFF leader Julius Malema.

However, Malema has clearly been working hard to counter perceptions about him — his corruption charges and run-ins with the taxman are in the past. He got married and is rapidly shedding weight as well as the perception that he is a thriving tenderpreneur. He obtained a degree and says he intends to register for an honours in philosophy. The commander-in-chief is doing some serious brand repair and cuts a stark figure from the one associated with the chaotic, bum-exposing youth league conference in which he was elected president in 2008.

But Numsa leaders are pushing on, and will next week once again hold a policy workshop during which the union will discuss the shape and form of its political party.

A final decision will be made soon afterwards at the union's central committee meeting.

There have been constant attempts by Numsa members who remain loyal to the ANC to thwart the union's political ambitions. A further complication is Numsa's

national congress in December, when it will elect new leadership. Since Numsa took its self-proclaimed "ground-breaking" decision in late 2013, the union has been in an oddly contradictory state — hesitant in the face of its determination to make a final break with the politics of the congress movement. It may have missed its moment.

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/opinion/columnists/2016/07/14/lethargic-numsa-may-have-missed-its-political-moment>

## **South African workers**

### **Cosatu threatens strike over Cape Town transport woes**

*Bekezela Phakathi, Business Day, 12 July 2016*

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) has extended an unlikely hand of friendship to the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry ahead of its plans to sue Metrorail for loss of production caused by frequent train delays and cancellations in Cape Town.

This follows the Cape Chamber's recent conclusion that the city's failing commuter rail transport system and increased traffic congestion had left the metro on the verge of a crisis.

The chamber cited the results of a survey conducted among its members showing that about 85% of respondents felt the situation was demotivating staff and leading to reduced productivity.

Cosatu members in the Western Cape on Tuesday took to the streets to demand improved rail and bus services in Cape Town.

This is just the latest action by Cosatu, which has long campaigned against inefficiencies in Cape Town's commuter service, on which the major of the city's workers and students rely.

In 2015, the union lodged a Section 77 application with the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) against Metrorail and its holding company the Passenger Rail Agency of SA (Prasa), the City of Cape Town, the Western Cape government and the Cape Chamber of Commerce.

The union said negotiations among the parties had not yielded the desired results and train and bus services remained poor.

Metrorail has come under pressure because its commuter rail services are in a state of decline after decades of underinvestment, deferred maintenance, outdated technology and the loss of critical staff and skills.

Rail is the backbone of public transport in Cape Town.

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In its memorandum submitted to Metrorail, city and provincial officials, and the Cape Chamber on Tuesday, Cosatu said Metrorail should refund workers the money they are losing as a result of train delays, which occur often.

"The Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry must advise its member companies to stop disciplining workers who arrive late due to the failure of Metrorail trains to run on time.

We want to work with the Cape Chamber to sue Metrorail for the lost production that is threatening many of the companies with closure," said Cosatu Western Cape regional secretary Tony Ehrenreich.

He also said overcrowded trains posed a danger to workers and the lack of security was a major concern.

"We want safety and security to be improved on the trains, with a guard in each carriage that is used," said Ehrenreich.

The union also demanded that the city "realise that the greatest need for public transport exists on the Cape Flats and it is there (that) the MyCiTi busses must first be rolled out".

"The wealthy people of Camps Bay and Milnerton have their private cars to get them to work in the short term, whilst they wait for the MyCiTi buses to be rolled out to them. The provincial government must put in place a public transport system between the towns in the rural areas."

Cosatu said it will embark on a full scale strike should it not get a response to its demands by August 17.

Metrorail regional manager Richard Walker said overhauling the entire ageing rail system is expected to take 20 years. Several projects had already been completed and several more are in progress to address the train crisis, both in the short and long term.

Cape Town mayoral committee member for transport, Brett Herron on Tuesday described Cosatu's protest as an "electioneering stunt for the ANC".

"We agree that Metrorail is in a state of crisis. Even though Metrorail is being managed by Prasa, a state-owned enterprise, the city is assisting our partners from Metrorail as often as we can and within our limited resources.

"This latest stunt from Cosatu to target the city through their protest action is ironic, if not dishonest and schizophrenic," said Herron.

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/business/transport/2016/07/12/cosatu-threatens-strike-over-cape-town-transport-woes>

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## **Thoko Didiza turns on charm when meeting members of Cosatu unions**

*Bongani Nkosi Business Day, 12 July 2016*

ANC mayoral candidate in Tshwane Thoko Didiza has taken her charm offensive to city blue-collar workers.

She has met more than 400 shop-stewards from unions affiliated to Cosatu. The workers welcomed her warmly, singing and dancing.

Didiza told the shop-stewards she was heartbroken when she encountered public toilet cleaners in Mabopane last week who worked without gloves.

"It cannot be in our time that we can't protect the workers. We can't fight for better working conditions in the air but we don't implement it where we govern. It must start with us," she said to loud applause.

Cosatu in Tshwane has been one of the vocal critics of outgoing mayor Kgosietso Ramokgopa. The federation and its unions have repeatedly accused him undermining them.

At the meeting with Didiza, one leader said the City of Tshwane had failed to respond to more than 20 memoranda of demands Cosatu unions had served it over the last five years.

Didiza said she understood the criticism levelled by Cosatu. "We hear you when you cry ... you're not saying it because you're just angry. You're angry because you want to build a home in Tshwane.

"You're not attacking us because you don't care. You're not attacking us like you used to attack Boers."

She urged the workers to vote ANC on August 3. Didiza has also promised Cosatu another meeting after the elections if she is elected.

"We must have discussions to see how do we move this vehicle forward. For now I should thank you for welcoming me."

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/2016/07/12/thoko-didiza-turns-on-charm-when-meeting-members-of-cosatu-unions>

## **Pension fund to help with housing finance**

*Siseko Njobeni, Business Report, 14 July 2016*

Johannesburg - The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) has invested R10.5 billion into mortgage finance provider SA Home Loans (SAHL) to facilitate housing financing for qualifying government employees and members of the public.

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GEPF said yesterday that it had made the investment through its asset management company, the Public Investment Corporation (PIC).

The GEPF is the largest pension fund in Africa with more than 1.2 million active members, approximately 406 395 pensioners and beneficiaries and assets worth R1.6 trillion.

The SAHL lists PIC as its 25 percent shareholder. Other shareholders include Standard Bank (50 percent) and the Bolatja Hlogo Consortium (25 percent).

The PIC said the investment in SAHL was meant to provide government employees and qualifying members of the public with end-user home finance and development finance for approved affordable housing projects.

It said the cash injection to SAHL was part of the developmental investment mandate that the PIC was carrying out on behalf of the GEPF.

Of the investment, R5bn was for public service employees and R2bn had been set aside for affordable housing end-user financing. Another R2bn would enable SAHL to extend home loans to qualifying home loan applicants, while the remaining R1.5bn would fund affordable housing developers, the PIC said yesterday.

“The PIC is intentionally implementing a developmental investment mandate, which primarily seeks to achieve two types of returns, namely, financial and social returns,” PIC board member Claudia Manning said.

“Financial return means the PIC must generate profit for clients and social return means our investments should positively affect the social conditions of the stakeholders.”

#### Social return

Manning said: “Our view is that members of the GEPF should benefit during their active working years and during retirement – and this is a social return. Investing in affordable housing finance schemes such as this provides these members with a real benefit.”

GEPF principal executive officer Abel Sithole said there were many GEPF members who often did not qualify for bank-issued housing loans and housing subsidies offered by the government.

“We are, therefore, excited about this investment as it will enable many government employees to own their own houses at a much more affordable rate. Most importantly, we believe home ownership can restore people’s dignity.”

Mashwahle Diphofa, the director-general of the Department of Public Service and Administration, said: “The GEHS (Government Employees Housing Scheme)...

finance access service seeks to secure and deliver affordable and enabling housing finance for government employees.

“It is even more pleasing to see the PIC stepping forward as the first investor and participant in the GEHS finance service to bring this much needed value-added service to government employees.”

PIC said interface systems between GEHS and SAHL had already been developed and were operational.

<http://www.iol.co.za/business/news/pension-fund-to-help-with-housing-finance-2045129>

## **SABC**

### **Anti-SABC protest goes to ANC's doorstep**

*Luyolo Mkentane, The Star, 14 July 2016*

Johannesburg - The sustained clamour to have the “delinquent” SABC board removed will be brought to the ANC’s doorstep as civil-society organisations are expected to protest outside the party’s Luthuli House headquarters in central Joburg on Friday.

This decision was taken on Wednesday during a public planning meeting by the Right2Know Campaign (R2K) and SOS Coalition, among others.

The protest will start at noon, and the Joburg metro police department had given it the go-ahead, according to Palesa Kunene, the R2K pro-vincial administrator.

SOS Coalition’s Sekoetlane Phamodi said: “The big thing for us is the ANC can say all it likes about the situation at the SABC. Now they have to act. We have a delinquent parliamentary caucus of the ANC that is not doing enough to address the matter. They have to put their money where their mouth is. They need to act very strongly.”

The latest action against the SABC comes after chief operating officer (COO) Hlaudi Motsoeneng openly defied Monday’s ruling by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa) that the SABC withdraw the ban on broadcasting violent protests.

Icasa ordered the SABC to confirm in writing within seven days that the ruling had been complied with.

Motsoeneng said they would not change their unprocedural editorial codes and that the ruling would be challenged in the highest court in the land if need be.

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Kunene said they expected a huge turnout at the protest and had chosen Luthuli House because: "We feel the ANC is responsible for Hlaudi Motsoeneng continuing as COO. He is not supposed to be there because of the court judgment against him."

Civil-society organisations had been constant in their criticisms of Motsoeneng's leadership of the SABC, where seasoned journalists were suspended for opposing its censorship policy.

Motsoeneng has been facing criticisms from all fronts, including from the ANC, which has distanced itself from the controversial and divisive figure, said to have President Jacob Zuma's backing.

Pressure had been mounting on Parliament to urgently reconvene its communications portfolio committee to deal with the crises at the broadcaster before municipal elections get under way in three weeks.

Bishop Abel Gabaiza, chairman of the justice and peace commission of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference, said people would not trust the outcome of the elections if the dispute regarding fair coverage and censorship by the SABC was not resolved.

He urged the portfolio committee to exercise its oversight leadership over the SABC.

Committee chairman Humphrey Maxegwana said they could reconvene only after the elections.

The ANC has also called in its lawmakers in the National Assembly to give the broadcaster "the requisite attention", and criticised Motsoeneng's defiant attitude.

Earlier this month, House chairman Cedric Frolick denied a request by the DA to summon the SABC board, Motsoeneng and Communications Minister Faith Muthambi to account for the mess.

DA chief whip John Steenhuisen weighed in on the issue on Wednesday, saying that if the ANC were serious about addressing the SABC matter, it would urgently reconvene the portfolio committee.

The ANC said it wanted the SABC's high turnover of its chief executives addressed, as reports emerged that suspended chief executive Frans Matlala had reached an R18 million settlement with the broadcaster. The DA wanted the matter investigated.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/anti-sabc-protest-goes-to-ancs-doorstep-2045209>

## **Ruling Bids to Overturn 'Outrageous Censorship' At Public Broadcaster**

*International Federation of Journalists (Brussels)/allAfrica.com, 12 July 2016*

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South Africa's Independent Communications Authority has recommended on 11 July that the country's public broadcaster ditch a controversial editorial policy which banned journalists from covering violent protests.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) welcomed the ruling and called on the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) to reinstate suspended journalists and lift the threat of disciplinary action against those who were alleged to be in breach of the policy, which the IFJ believes amounts to «outrageous censorship.

The IFJ also called on the SABC to reopen talks with IFJ affiliate, the Media Workers Association of South Africa (MWASA), who have consistently been excluded from negotiations at the corporation and denied the right to represent their members.

As part of its new editorial policy, introduced in May, the SABC had prohibited the "airing of reports about violent protest" and media workers in South Africa had complained of widespread censorship.

Three senior journalists who had raised their voices against this negative shift in editorial policy had been suspended by the SABC management, while three other journalists faced disciplinary action for voicing their concerns over deteriorating editorial independence. Whilst the current disciplinary action was suspended yesterday after the ruling the SABC management is threatening to pursue the cases at a later date. Suspended CEO Frans Matlala will appear before a disciplinary tribunal on 12 July.

"The SABC as a public broadcaster must be able to uphold its position of independence and neutrality and to broadcast in the public interest without fear or favour. Journalists must be allowed to execute their duties without any form of intimidation and to be able to report on events based on truth, fairness and objectivity. The union must be allowed to represent its members and have a voice in the future direction of the SABC. The suspension of the three senior journalists and the disciplinary action meted out to three other journalists for speaking their minds is outrageous, arbitrary and totally unacceptable".

Tuwani Gumani, the Secretary General of MWASA, said "the banning of dissenting voices, the suppression of independent and professional thought inside the SABC has manifested itself in the wanton censoring of radio and television programmes as well as purging of journalists and their colleagues".

The IFJ calls on the SABC management and the South African Government to respect the ruling and guarantee the people's right to seek, receive and impart information in line with internationally recognized standards as enshrined by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The IFJ also calls on the management of the SABC to lift all suspensions and disciplinary actions against the journalists immediately and unconditionally and to end the exclusion of MWASA.

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<http://allafrica.com/stories/201607120809.html>

## **SACP welcomes Mantashe's demand that Minister Muthambi be dealt with**

*Stephen Grootes & Gaye Davis, EWN, 13 July 2016*

The minister failed to attend a meeting with the ANC's communications commission over the SABC crisis.

JOHANNESBURG/CAPE TOWN - The South African Communist Party (SACP) has welcomed African National Congress (ANC) Secretary General Gwede Mantashe's demand that the ANC caucus in Parliament now deal with Communications Minister Faith Muthambi, after she failed to attend a meeting with the ANC's communications commission over the crisis at the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).

Meanwhile, political analysts said that the way different parts of the ANC have spoken on this issue showed how divided the party was.

The SACP's Alex Mashilo said that he hoped that everyone in the ANC would obey Mantashe and stop talking about this issue.

"We hope that all members of the ANC and individual leaders will heed the call by the secretary general because that call is in the best interest of the African National Congress."

The ANC's communications commission had ordered Muthambi to rein in Hlaudi Motsoeneng, while North West Premier Supra Muhamapelo and the MK Military Veterans Association had backed him.

Political analyst Ralph Matheka said: "It shows how the ANC is divided and how the decisions we have seen from within the ANC are spilling over into state institutions."

He said this made it difficult for these institutions to go forward.

### **CRISIS AT THE SABC AHEAD OF ELECTIONS**

With crucial municipal elections just three weeks away, pressure is mounting on Parliament to intervene in the crisis at the SABC.

The Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution (Casac) said it has asked National Assembly Speaker Baleka Mbete to urgently convene the communications oversight committee.

Earlier this month, a similar request by the Democratic Alliance was turned down.

House chairperson in charge of committees, ANC MP Cedric Frolick, told the DA that matters would be dealt with only when Parliament reconvenes after the elections.

Casac's Lawson Naidoo said that while Parliament was in recess ahead of the municipal polls, this did not absolve it of its duty.

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"Casac has written to the Speaker requesting that the portfolio committee be reconvened now as a matter of urgency."

Naidoo said that the Broadcasting Act gave Parliament the authority to call Muthambi and the SABC board to account, with the power to dissolve the board if necessary.

"We are in a crisis situation and Parliament needs to step up to the plate, to defend the interests of ordinary South Africans that need a public broadcaster that provides fair and objective coverage of news events as they happen."

Naidoo said that the SABC was failing to live up to its constitutional mandate as a public broadcaster and that this had implications for the freeness and fairness of the local government elections.

He said that while the ANC was free to discuss the problem, it was only Parliament that had the power and authority to ensure that citizens' confidence in the SABC was restored.

<http://ewn.co.za/2016/07/13/SACP-welcomes-Mantashes-demand-that-Muthambi-be-dealt-with>

## **South Africa**

### **Tshwane residents have lost faith in the ANC and complain bitterly about crime**

*Lloyd Gedye, Mail & Guardian, 14 Jul 2016*

Nelson Moroawana is a street vendor who sells sweets, chips and fruit a few blocks from the Gautrain station in Pretoria. He lives in Atteridgeville and originally comes from Limpopo.

He has been making a living in this way since 1998 and has living in the Tshwane metro for 14 years. He has registered to vote and plans to use his X in the local government elections come August 3.

"We vote for service delivery to come to us," he says. But this often means people lose focus on what they can do for themselves.

He is critical of South Africans who destroy public and private property when protesting against the ANC. He says he lives among many foreigners and he sees them hustling to make a living and he feels South Africans need to embody the same spirit.

His biggest issue is crime in Atteridgeville, where he says the nyaope addicts are the biggest perpetrators.

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A total of 1 231 crimes committed in Atteridgeville in 2015 were flagged as drug related, almost double that of other areas in the metro, such as Mamelodi, Soshanguve, Pretoria West and Sunnyside.

In Pretoria, criminals target his business. "Crime really affects me negatively," he says. "The police need to protect small businesses from criminals."

There were just short of 13 000 crimes committed in the city centre in 2015, and almost 20% of those were robbery or burglary at a nonresidential place.

For about four years, the street vendors had a major problem with the metropolitan police and felt they were being harassed.

"The police were saying that the people selling on the street were responsible for crimes and were selling drugs," Moroawana says. "It was all negative."

But the street vendors organised themselves and formed the Tshwane Barekishi Forum, and then approached the mayor. They subsequently met the metro police and sorted out the misconceptions.

"The relationship has been a lot better since then," he says.

Tshwane is the largest municipality in South Africa, covering 6 368km<sup>2</sup>. It houses a population of 2.9-million, in 911 536 households, according to the 2011 census. That is an average of 464 people per square kilometre and three per household.

Of the population, 72% are of working age, but 24% are unemployed, with youth unemployment sitting at 33%. Only 34% of young people over the age of 20 have matric and only 23% go on to tertiary education.

Thirty-six percent of Tshwane residents live without piped water to their homes, 23% don't have a flushing toilet, 19% are without weekly refuse collection and 11% don't have electricity.

Crime and policing seem to be the hottest issues on most Tshwane residents' lips – from the resident of the wealthy suburb of Montana at the foothills of the Magaliesberg ("there are people in the street that are not meant to be there") to the government employee having lunch at McDonalds, who lives in Pretoria West and had his car broken into while it was in his yard. "The police took two weeks to come take fingerprints," he says.

One resident was anxious about an ATM bombing that had taken place near his home in Elardus Park at 3am. A group of men with automatic weapons shot a security guard during the heist.

Shoni Rabambi, a Pretoria West resident is a lawyer with the state attorney.

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He singles out the way that the metro police and South African Police Service officers harass Tshwane residents, particularly foreigners. "They are a law unto themselves," he says.

Housing is a burning issue. With all the informal settlements in Tshwane, it's one of the needs that must be addressed, he says. He also has gripes about electricity billing problems.

Another person with safety and security on her mind is Malebo Tlhagale, who works at the Wimpy in Sunnypark Mall and lives in Mamelodi Extension Six.

She is registered and is going to vote. Housing is also a big issue for her.

Like Moraowana, she attributes most of the crime in her neighbourhood to the nyaope addicts.

Her right hand is heavily bandaged. She broke it a few weeks ago while trying to escape from a protest, during which buses were burnt. "I was trying to get away from the fire in the street and I fell."

In the middle of June, Tshwane was rocked by protests after the ANC announced Thoko Didiza as the mayoral candidate for the municipality. Buses were burnt, shops were looted and at least four people were killed.

The protests have left scars on many residents. They detest the violent nature of the protests and the looting.

"How do you loot people's shops because you are angry with the ANC?" an Atteridgeville man asked.

His friend adds: "You come into my place to steal from me, we are going to have a problem."

In the 2011 local government elections, the ANC took 55.3% of the vote and the Democratic Alliance 38.7%. The ANC took 68 wards and the DA 37.

There are 210 council seats in Tshwane, 105 for ward councillors and 105 for proportional representative councillors. That left the ANC with a 11-seat majority in the council, the DA with 82 seats, and the Freedom Front Plus and Congress of the People (Cope) getting four seats and two seats respectively.

Last week's Ispos election poll had the DA getting 39% of the vote, marginally above its performance five years ago. But it showed the ANC losing more than 50% of its electorate support – falling to 26%.

Some of that support will go to the Economic Freedom Fighters, which is predicted to get 12% of the vote. The EFF is the only major party that didn't contest the 2011 elections.

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Of the Ipsos sample, 16% of voters were still undecided, which could make it a much tighter race.

Conwell Mokhabela, a businessperson who lives in Pretoria West, says the race for the municipality is going to be “highly contested”.

“If the ANC were to lose Tshwane, it will be a huge wake-up call for them. They think they will rule until Jesus comes back; we know that is not going to happen.”

Yet Mokhabela says he will be putting his cross next to the ANC for ideological reasons.

“They represent what I stand for. It will be a cold day in hell before I vote for EFF. I am a capitalist and they want socialism. I am not convinced by the DA. I still feel like it’s a white man’s party,” he says.

Outside the Tshwane South College Atteridgeville campus at about 10am, three young men agree to talk local government politics anonymously.

“I’m registered to vote and I’m voting DA,” says the tallest.

He is a qualified artisan but can’t find work. “I am voting for the DA because I want to see job creation and opportunities for young people.”

He says the government has been in Atteridgeville fixing robots for the past two months but he says he is not fooled by it – it’s just because of the elections.

His two friends are students, studying auditing and civil engineering and both live in Centurion. They have not registered to vote.

Not far from there, President Jacob Zuma’s face beams down from a giant billboard, with the pay-off line: “Together advancing people’s power to every community”.

The industrial heartland of Rosslyn is on lunch break and the streets around the shops are busy.

“This country is corrupt,” says a young timber worker, who lives in Soshanguve. “I want our government to listen to the people and stop corruption.”

He says he feels South Africans do not want Zuma as president and that the ANC are forcing him on the electorate.

Turning the spotlight to his neighbourhood, Extension Four, he says the biggest problem he faces is crime. “I was robbed at gunpoint last month. I could tell from their accents that they were not South African.

“People are crying when they get mugged and the cops are just in the station drinking tea,” he says.

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A few hundred metres from him, a nurse who lives in Soshanguve, says her garden furniture was stolen the day before.

Many people in Rosslyn are not planning to vote, even if they are registered.

“What’s the point?”, “I don’t have time to stand in a queue”, “I don’t care about these elections” and “What will it change?” were some of their responses.

Perhaps their mood was best expressed by a cook from Soshanguve named Wonderman. “I will not be voting. I am hustling to be a breadwinner. I am trying to provide for my parents,” he says.

He has had his job for a month.

All the ANC posters in Atteridgeville that can be reached have been vandalised – Zuma’s head has been torn from them. But the ANC logo and campaign message are still intact.

In the shopping centre, a nattily dressed, navy-suited Mamelodi businessperson, who is meeting some friends, agrees to talk politics as long as he remains anonymous.

“I am considering change, whether that is Cope, the ACDP [African Christian Democratic Party] or the DA,” he says. “It’s time to give another a chance.

“It’s like cars. If you don’t drive them all, how do you know which one is best? You might be driving around, going ‘I have the best car’, and you find out it’s the worst.”

[http://mg.co.za/article/2016-07-14-00-tshwane-residents-have-lost-faith-in-the-anc-and-complain-bitterly-about-crime?utm\\_source=Mail+%26+Guardian&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Daily+newsletter&utm\\_term=http%3A%2F%2Fmg.co.za%2Farticle%2F2016-07-14-00-tshwane-residents-have-lost-faith-in-the-anc-and-complain-bitterly-about-crime](http://mg.co.za/article/2016-07-14-00-tshwane-residents-have-lost-faith-in-the-anc-and-complain-bitterly-about-crime?utm_source=Mail+%26+Guardian&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily+newsletter&utm_term=http%3A%2F%2Fmg.co.za%2Farticle%2F2016-07-14-00-tshwane-residents-have-lost-faith-in-the-anc-and-complain-bitterly-about-crime)

## **International**

### **Reps move to criminalise non-payment of workers’ salaries**

*Johnbosco Agbakwuru, Vanguard [Nigeria], 14 July 2016*

ABUJA—THE House of Representatives yesterday moved to prescribe punishment for employers in the country who either fail to pay salaries to their workers or pay workers salaries, wages and pensions late.

The bill, sponsored by the Majority Leader of the House, Femi Gbajabamila was, however, stepped down by the sponsor, following observations made by some members that the bill was not justifiable and could only come up through an Act.

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The speaker, Yakubu Dogara, who presided over the plenary, also in a diplomatic manner, advised the House Leader to have a second look at the bill and make all the necessary amendments on it, so it could be represented on the floor for consideration.

The bill, entitled "A bill for an act to prohibit late payment, non-payment and under payment of workers' wages, pension and other related emolument in Nigeria and prescribes penalties for violations and for other matters connected thereto" was slated for second reading yesterday before withdrawal.

The House, after listening to the sponsor, resolved that since there was an existing minimum wage Act, the sponsor should convert it to an amendment to the minimum wage Act instead of coming as a fresh law.

But in his lead debate, Gbajabiamila explained that the intention behind the bill was for "every employer of labour in Nigeria, whether private or public; and whether it is employing any worker on permanent or contract basis must ensure that all payment of wages, salaries, pensions and all benefits to workers are paid promptly without any delay weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly as may be agreed by parties in the contract of employment of the individual employee."

According to him, non-payment or delay in the payment of workers' salaries and emoluments is an infringement on their rights as enshrined in the 1999 constitution. He lamented that evidence of workers being owed salaries in different organisations abound in the country.

"If we must fight corruption, workers' salaries must be paid promptly because a worker deserves his wages," Gbajabiamila said.

He further explained provisions in the bill: "An employer shall not hold on to the salary, wage, pension and any other benefit and emolument of any workman for a period of 7 (seven) days and above from the day the payment of such salary, wage, pension and any other benefit and emolument falls due save in the event of any force majeure.

"An employer is prohibited from entering into any contract with any workman for any deduction from the sum contracted to be paid by the employer to the workman, or for any payment to the employer by the workman for or in respect of bad or negligent work or injury to the material or other property of the employer or in respect of any fine unless:

"The terms of the contract contained in a notice kept constantly affixed at such place or places open to the workman and in such a position that it should be seen easily read and copied by any person whom it affects; or the contract is in writing signed by the workman.

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“The deduction or payment to be made under the contract does not exceed the actual or estimated damage or loss occasioned to the employer by the proven Act or omission of the workman, or of some other person over whom he has control or for whom he has by the contract agreed to be responsible.”

The proposed bill also prescribed penalties that defaulters should pay, which include the payment of 10 percent wage to those that default for a period of one to seven days, and 20 percent of one month wage for those who delay to pay between eight and 30 days.

It further proposes payment of 30 percent of two months wage for employers that fail to pay between 30 to 60 days, while defaulters for 60 days and above; would pay 30 percent of the wage for the duration and one month imprisonment of the employer.

Commenting on the bill, Linus Okorie (PDP, Ebonyi) wondered whether the National Assembly had powers to legislate on punishment for non-payment or late payment of salaries.

For the Chairman, House Committee on Rules and Business, Orker Jev, since there exists a minimum wage Act, the bill could only come in form of an amendment.

The newly promoted Senior Advocate of Nigeria, SAN, and the first member of the Green Chamber to be bestowed with such an award, Edward Pwajok, SAN (PDP, Plateau) and Aminu Shehu Shagari (APC, Sokoto) lent their support to that of the Chairman, Rules and Business.

After all the necessary observations and comments, the sponsor of the bill, Gbajabiamila, withdrew it.

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/07/reps-move-criminalise-non-payment-workers-salaries/>

### **Zimbabwean protests ‘sponsored’, says ANC**

*Getrude Makhafola, Independent Media/Reuters, 12 July 2016*

Johannesburg - The African National Congress (ANC), on Tuesday said it was concerned by civilian protests in Zimbabwe against President Robert Mugabe’s government which it labelled as “sponsored elements seeking regime change”.

“The struggling Zimbabwean economy, which has been going on for a long time, should not give a licence to regime change elements to revive restlessness in Zimbabwe. Every citizen of Zimbabwe should appreciate the difficulties and contribute positively in the regulation of the Zimbabwean economy,” said ANC secretary Gwede Mantashe.

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He said South Africa would assist Zimbabwe as a fellow member of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), but that it was up to Zimbabweans to effect the initiative to build their country's economy.

A social media campaign dubbed "ThisFlag" and "ZimShutDown2016" saw Zimbabwean citizens stay home last week, in protest against Mugabe and the ruling Zanu-PF.

The activists decried the ailing economy, lack of jobs and late payment of civil servants' salaries.

The mass stay-away was a defiance against alleged government corruption and to force Mugabe to step down after being at the helm for over three decades.

Video clips and images of anti-riot police beating up citizens in an effort to suppress the protests went viral on social media.

The organisers have since indicated that a second stay-away was scheduled Wednesday and Thursday this week.

On Tuesday Zimbabwean pastor Evan Mawarire, who leads the "ThisFlag" movement, was arrested and charged with inciting public violence but urged activists in a pre-recorded video to go ahead with demonstrations planned for Wednesday.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/zimbabwean-protests-sponsored-says-anc-2044533>

### **Cosatu breaks ranks with ANC over Zim protests**

*Carien du Plessis, News24, 13 July 2016*

Johannesburg - Labour federation Cosatu on Wednesday broke ranks with the African National Congress on the protests in Zimbabwe, by expressing its support for the protesters.

"Cosatu urges the people of Zimbabwe to continue with the struggle and not to watch idly while the government tramples upon the rights of workers and ordinary citizens," Cosatu international relations secretary Bongani Masuku said.

Zimbabweans had tolerated their government's violation of their rights for too long, he said.

"Such co-ordinated mass action is the only language that unresponsive regimes understand," Masuku said.

The labour federation met its Zimbabwean counterpart, the Zimbabwean Congress of Trade Unions, in Johannesburg on Wednesday.

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Cosatu asked that those detained during the protests be released. They included pastor Evan Mwarire, one of the main drivers of the #ThisFlag movement. Mwarire appeared in court on Wednesday and was charged with inciting public violence.

ANC secretary general Gwede Mantashe said on Tuesday that "sponsored elements" were trying to effect regime change at work in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu-PF party, which the ANC considered a fraternal liberation movement, had attributed the #ThisFlag and #ZimShutDown2016 protests to foreign interference.

The protests are aimed at getting the government to act on the dire economic situation in the country, which have resulted in some civil servants not getting paid.

Masuku said Cosatu was still considering its options about any actions of solidarity.

'Serious socio-economic atrocities'

Zimbabwe's government had committed "serious socio-economic atrocities" against its people for years, with the latest being the cutting off of people's livelihoods. This was due to the ban on imports of basic commodities, and attempts to bring valueless bond notes into circulation.

Masuku said the current "heavy-handedness of the Zanu-PF regime in dealing with perceived enemies" was similar to that of Operation Restore Order/Murambatsvina in 2005.

"Houses were demolished, people were displaced and thousands were rendered jobless as a result of company closures instigated by poor investment policies and a generalised crisis of poor economic management."

Cosatu urged trade unions, civil society and pressure groups in Zimbabwe to stand up against public injustice and corruption.

The Zanu-PF government should attend to the issues raised, instead of resorting to populist rhetoric. The masses had the power and right to determine how they should be ruled.

Cosatu said, due to the unemployment in Zimbabwe, its citizens were "scattered around the region", a clear sign of its government's failure to serve its people.

Zimbabwe's government had to create employment and meet the basic needs of its citizens to stop civil strife.

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/cosatu-breaks-ranks-with-anc-over-zim-protests-20160713>

**Comment and analysis**

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## **Why Hlaudi and the league of ‘untouchables’ remain bullet proof**

*Ranjeni Munusamy, Daily Maverick, 13 July 2016*

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What gives Hlaudi Motsoeneng his wings? It is a question that must be asked in light of his astonishing bravado and ability to fend off public pressure, court rulings and political heat. Motsoeneng and the SABC board vowed to defy the ruling of broadcasting regulator Icasa and also thumbed their noses at the ANC. Other than to caution the SABC not to act like “a bull in a Chinese shop”, it seems the ANC is unable to rein in the swashbuckling Motsoeneng and his support cast. That is because Motsoeneng is part of an elite gang of “untouchables” who survive through their curious relationships with Number One.

President Jacob Zuma said a few years ago that he sometimes felt like fleeing South Africa. Speaking to a group of journalism students in September 2013, Zuma said this was because the South African media reported so negatively about the country. “When I go out, people envy South Africans, they wish they were South Africans because they say we are doing so well, we are succeeding ... they love it. But when I am in South Africa, every morning you feel like you must leave this country because the reporting concentrates on the opposite of the positive,” Zuma said.

The president has raised the matter a number of times, saying journalists need to be more positive and “patriotic” in their reporting. He said he discovered the idea of “patriotic reporting” when he visited Mexico. He was apparently told that in order to help Mexico succeed, the media did not wash the country’s “dirty linen” in public. He was seemingly not told about the intimidation journalists in Mexico face from criminal syndicates and that they refrain from reporting on crime because of the sheer desire to remain alive, not out of patriotic duty.

Zuma told the journalism students that the South African media claimed to act as the society’s watchdog, but “they were never elected”. “If we say we are reconstructing South Africa, what kind of image do we want to create, and who determines it and for what reasons?” he asked. The media is the main agent to change the thinking and shape the approach, Zuma said, but he was not sure what contribution the media was making to create this image of South Africa as a wonderful country. He said while reporting should help society be informed, it should also be in a “decent” fashion.

When you read this, the thread of Hlaudi Motsoeneng’s thinking becomes apparent.

The flamboyant SABC chief operating officer might be on his own power trip but the ideas about the role the media should be playing in society are not his own. Well, perhaps some of his more outrageous declarations, such as floating the notion that journalists should be licenced and wanting to make SABC reporters wear uniforms, were his own bizarre thoughts. But his imposition of a 70% quota of positive news on

SABC bulletins and using the public broadcaster as a tool to shape public opinion did not develop out of his own thought process.

When Zuma spoke to the journalism students he was also critical of the use of headlines and graphic pictures to sell newspapers. "You must have attractive headlines, not for the interest of the reader, but to attract the reader to buy," he said.

The SABC's decision to not show visuals of acts of violence during protests appeared to be a rather strange call for a public broadcaster. In a statement released at the end of May, the SABC said the destruction of property in protests were regrettable and "continuing to promote them might encourage other communities to do the same". The SABC did not say whether the decision was informed by any research showing evidence that media reporting of violent protests resulted in copycat behaviour elsewhere.

However the statement did quote Motsoeneng saying the following: "It is regrettable that these actions are disrupting many lives and as a responsible public institution we will not assist these individuals to push their agenda that seeks media attention. As a public service broadcaster we have a mandate to educate the citizens, and therefore we have taken this bold decision to show that violent protests are not necessary."

This is in line with Zuma's views about the media being able to changing thinking and shaping public opinion to favour the government agenda. The SABC's new editorial policy might not have been an instruction from the president but Motsoeneng's decision certainly does seem to be an interpretation of Zuma's views.

This is perhaps why he remains so convinced that he is doing the right thing and could explain his defiance in the face of mass opposition to this decision.

The SABC said on Monday that they would challenge the ruling by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Icasa) against their policy to ban footage of violence.

"I don't know why people want to dictate for the SABC but we as SABC we are clear on what we are doing and we still believe that we are within the Broadcasting Act. We are within the regulations," Motsoeneng said, adding: "We are not going to change anything."

The SABC chairperson Professor Mbulaheni Maguvhe said they believed their policy was correct and therefore they would not comply with the Icasa ruling.

This wilful defiance of a Chapter Nine institution caught many people, including the ANC, by surprise. Speaking at a media briefing on Tuesday, ANC secretary general Gwede Mantashe warned the SABC management that such defiance would have serious consequences. "If you defy the decision of [a Chapter 9] institution, you will learn hard," Mantashe said. He did not mention the last person who learnt the hard

way not to defy a Chapter Nine institution but a Constitutional Court judgment declaring that the President of South Africa violated the Constitution is now written into history.

“Our view is that we are hoping the people in the SABC will realise that to defy everybody in society doesn’t make them a better public broadcaster,” Mantashe said, adding that they should not behave “like a bull in a Chinese [sic] shop”.

But Motsoeneng is bullet proof, able to deflect whatever criticism is fired at him.

He shrugged off last week’s bombardment from Jackson Mthembu, the ANC chief whip and communications subcommittee chairperson, who condemned the lack of qualified managers and expertise at the SABC. “You need to ensure that we have people who know how to run an institution as big as the SABC. You can’t bring any Tom, Dick or Harry to run the SABC,” Mthembu said.

This was not the first time Mthembu launched a scathing attack on Motsoeneng. After last year’s ANC national general council (NGC), Mthembu said the SABC could not be led by people who are “nincompoops”. Mthembu said in October that the ANC needed to find out what was the source of instability at the SABC. “We need to get that from the shareholder (government). Who are the people who are there? We also need to ask ourselves who the hell did we put in there?”

It would seem that the ANC is still struggling to get those answers.

In Communications Minister Faith Muthambi, Motsoeneng has a veritable human shield. She has ensured that Motsoeneng was permanently appointed as COO, disregarding the court judgments and criticism from her own party. On Monday she did not bother to show up at the ANC national working committee meeting despite it being made clear that they wished to discuss the SABC matter with her.

Although Mantashe refused to see her absence as defiance, this is not the first time Muthambi has snubbed the ANC on matters relating to the SABC. She was even bold enough to question the NGC resolutions on her portfolio and has continued to pursue an agenda in conflict with the ANC decisions. Muthambi, like Motsoeneng, enjoys special protection, appearing confident that her defiant behaviour will not have negative consequences for her career.

But who can offer such special protection? An elite group of people seem to enjoy special immunity and all of them appear to have direct lines to the president. They include former Crime Intelligence head Richard Mdluli, who still lives off the state through his protracted suspension, South African Airways board chairperson Dudu Myeni, who continues to cause turmoil at the national airline, and South African Revenue Service commissioner Tom Moyane, who remains in his job despite his immediate boss Pravin Gordhan wanting him gone months ago.

When it comes to invincibility however, the Gupta family is in a league of their own. The ANC recently tried and failed to tackle their grip on the state and they continue to use their relationship with the president to control the levers of power.

Motsoeneng is now attempting to scale new heights on invincibility by snubbing the Public Protector, the courts, Icasa and the ANC. The ANC has deferred the SABC matter to Parliament, but given how the ANC caucus has previously pandered to the president, it is unlikely that they will succeed in holding his chief propagandist to account.

Perhaps a horridly crass painting by controversial artist Ayanda Mabulu might be the only way to depict this curious relationship between the president and his elite league of untouchables. His hand is never directly visible in what they do, but their invincibility is testament to the special political protection they enjoy.

Hlaudi Motsoeneng will therefore remain indomitable and his grip on the public broadcaster will be impossible to break until his usefulness to Number One expires.

<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2016-07-13-why-hlaudi-and-the-league-of-untouchables-remain-bullet-proof/#.V4dE5k3lrIU>