



# **Numsa Media Monitor**

**Thursday 7 July 2016**

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

## **South African workers**

### **Union's top leaders join talks to avert strike**

*Khulekani Magubane, Business Day, 5 July 2016*

THE national leadership of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) has begun talks with parliamentary officials to halt a strike at the legislature.

Nehawu's national leaders stepped in on Tuesday to break a stalemate between its members and the secretary to Parliament, Gengezi Mgidlana, over performance bonuses and deductions from staff salaries in the aftermath of an unprotected strike in late 2015.

Nehawu's national leaders and regional heads met with parliamentary presiding officers Baleka Mbete and Thandi Modise, as well as Mgidlana, on Tuesday. The parties are scheduled for another sit-down on Wednesday in an effort to avert another strike, which might disrupt the business of the institution when it resumes.

Nehawu Western Cape secretary Eric Kweleta said the union's leaders would push Parliament to implement an agreement struck in 2015 that ended the unprotected strike, part of which stipulated that staff would not be suspended. "Those engagements are still ongoing.... This meeting is addressing the matters. We propose (we go back) to what we initially agreed on, which was supposed to be implemented in February," Kweleta said.

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The union expressed concern that Parliament was using nonprocedural means to deal with staff.

Parliamentary spokesman Luzuko Jacobs said he could not comment on Tuesday's meeting as he was "not in attendance". He also said that a strike would be seen as "unauthorised, unprotected and illegal".

In June, Nehawu disrupted a staff meeting at which Mgidlana was speaking, while its members staged a walkout from another meeting. In the aftermath, Nehawu members, including union regional chairman in Parliament S'thembiso Tembe, were suspended. This prompted Nehawu to give Parliament until Tuesday to meet its longstanding demands and reverse the suspensions, failing which it would embark on a strike.

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/labour/2016/07/05/unions-top-leaders-join-talks-to-avert-strike>

### **Amcu believes mine companies should be sued for every worker's death**

*JacarandaFM/ANA, 6 July 2016*

Mine companies should be sued for every mineworker who dies underground, the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (Amcu) said on Tuesday.

"Our country has some of the highly rated mining companies in the world, but their focus on profit at the expense of investing in the safety of the workers, who are critical in the generation of revenue leaves much to be desired," the union said in a statement.

"Mining companies deserve to be sued after every fatality that occurs in the mines so they can prioritise the health and safety of their workers."

Rock drill operator Siphilo Makhende died following a fall of ground accident at Lonmin mine's operations in Marikana near Rustenburg, North West, over the weekend.

An investigation into the accident had begun in conjunction with the Department of Mineral Resources and unions, the company said.

Amcu said Makhende's death was the third at the mine so far this year.

"This is the third fatality this year at the same shaft. The life of a miner remains futile to the employer and our comrades continue to lose their lives under dangerous working conditions, with very little done to change the environment or provide meaningful compensation to the families they leave behind."

Makhende, who hailed from the Eastern Cape, is survived by his wife two children.

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<https://www.jacarandafm.com/news-sport/news/amcu-believes-mine-companies-should-be-sued-every-workers-death/>

## **NUM rejects Eskom's revised 7% wage offer**

*TimesLive/Reuters, 5 July 2016*

National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has rejected an increased wage offer by power utility Eskom, a union official said on Tuesday.

"Our members have put it categorically clear that they will not accept a 7 percent increase," Paris Mashego, energy coordinator at the NUM told Reuters, citing Eskom profitability and executive bonus payouts.

Eskom confirmed that it had offered to pay 7 percent more to all blue-collar workers, upping its offer from 5.75 percent, during negotiations with workers represented by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) on this week.

Eskom's spokesman Khulu Phasiwe said the energy regulator had recommended in 2012 that it links wage raises to inflation.

The present offer by the utility was above inflation, which stands at 6.1 percent.

Eskom plans to reduce costs by 61 billion rand over the next three years, Phasiwe said, adding that the company has already cut back on travel and some of its executives were no longer flying first class. He said the firm would look for new areas to cut costs but did not elaborate.

Eskom faced a crippling cash crunch last year that prompted an 80 billion rand injection by the government.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2016/07/05/NUM-rejects-Eskoms-revised-7-wage-offer>

## **Organisations offer suggestions to fight unemployment**

*SABC, 5 July 2016*

Various organisations have suggested solutions for the country's employment challenges, after figures released on Monday showed that more than 15 000 jobs were lost in the first quarter of 2016.

Statistics South Africa said employment had declined in virtually all sectors of the economy.

Labour federations Cosatu and Fedusa and business chamber Nafcoc are among those that have expressed concern and offered solutions.

Cosatu says the future is in promoting investment in rural areas and the townships.

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Nafcoc believes development of SME's and the Co-operatives movement provide the most effective ways to create employment and stem joblessness.

Fedusa says while it supports government's nine-point plan to spur economic growth and create jobs, a more pro-active stance is needed to stimulate job creation and improve the growth rate of the economy.

According to Stats SA a massive 36 000 people were laid off in the manufacturing sector between January and March this year.

This as the economic growth shrunk by 1.2% during the first quarter.

Only construction and government employed more people. 3 000 people found jobs in construction while government employed 4 000 more workers.

Stats SA's Dr Pali Lehohla announced that 15 000 jobs were lost in the first quarter of 2016.

Gross earnings also declined by 4% during the quarter from over R545 million to just over R523 million.

Dr Lehohla emphasized: "Policymakers have to be concerned about this and see how to invest, how they deal with unemployment because 8 million people are unemployed in the country."

<http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/9aa907004d60f7c1aabee4b5facb1b5/Organisations-offer-suggestions-to-fight-unemployment-20160507>

## **SABC**

### **SACP welcomes ANC stance on SABC, calls Hlaudi 'unqualified'**

*Lizeka Tandwa, News24, 7 July 2016*

Johannesburg - The African National Congress has reasserted its values by speaking out against the SABC's revised policy, the SA Communist Party's second deputy general secretary, Solly Mapaila, said on Wednesday.

During a picket outside the broadcaster's Johannesburg offices, Mapaila said the ANC's decision to stand against censorship and the reviewed editorial policy at the public broadcaster was welcomed.

On Tuesday, Jackson Mthembu, chairperson of the ANC's National Executive Committee's sub-committee on communications, told journalists that the ruling party distanced itself from recent SABC policy which banned coverage of violent protests.

Mthembu said the ANC had summoned Communications Minister Faith Muthambi to Luthuli House to explain why it was not consulted on the decision.

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"It is very important that the ANC came in that form," Mapaila said. "It had reasserted its own values... That is the movement we are used to. It cannot allow the ill-treatment of workers. We want to work with them going forward to ensure that there is deeper transformation in this institution," he said.

Mapaila then took a jab at SABC chief operating officer Hlaudi Motsoeneng and the SABC board, calling it complacent.

"Our view is very clear. We don't think he [Motsoeneng] is qualified to lead at the level of COO. I think that has been verified even by the court process to the extent that he rules by fear. It's quite clear that he isn't really qualified to do that..."

"The main important thing is the capacity of the board to hold management to account on its decision, even on driving the transformation agenda. The board itself is very much complacent," he said.

'Stop apartheid style censorship'

Over 50 SACP supporters dressed in party regalia carried placards which read, "Stop victimising workers", "Stop apartheid style censorship" and "We the people demand truthful news".

Mapaila said the SACP stood in solidarity with the workers who were unfairly suspended at SABC. He added that the party wanted to stop the SABC from moving from a public broadcaster to a state broadcaster.

"We want it to remain in the hands of parliament," he said.

The SABC and Motsoeneng have recently come under fire for choosing not to televise violent protests.

On Friday morning, journalists from several media outlets picketed outside the SABC's offices in Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town in support of three journalists who were served with suspension letters last week, as well as against Motsoeneng's censorship of the news.

The three journalists had disagreed with an instruction during a diary conference not to cover a Right2Know protest against censorship at the public broadcaster earlier that week.

This followed the charging of three other SABC employees last Thursday for "liaising with the media" without authorisation from their bosses.

SABC journalist Lukhanyo Calata was also charged on Monday after he joined the Cape Town protest.

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/sacp-welcomes-anc-stance-on-sabc-calls-hlaudi-unqualified-20160706>

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## **ANC can't control Minister Muthambi - Vavi**

*Lizeka Tandwa, News24, 6 July 2016*

Johannesburg – ANC secretary general Gwede Mantashe and national spokesperson Zizi Kodwa have tried and failed to control Communications Minister Faith Muthambi, former Cosatu general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi claimed.

Vavi told journalists that Kodwa was not being truthful with South Africans.

"He (Kodwa) knows that I know he and Mantashe tried very hard to get Muthambi to live by the spirit and the letter of the law as prescribed by various ANC policies. He can't control Muthambi because she gets instruction from the office above them," he said on Monday, suggesting that Muthambi was controlled by President Jacob Zuma.

Vavi said Kodwa was diverting attention from real issues at the SABC by accusing him of hijacking the fight against SABC censorship.

"Which ANC is Kodwa speaking on behalf of? The one of censorship or the one that promotes media freedom? His conscience tells him he is on the wrong side of history. He wants to divert attention away from the real issues.

"The shameful support of the ANC of censorship is supposed to be now about Vavi. That is nonsense. Where is the ANC and why is it not defending the Constitution of the Republic? What type of an ANC do we have today?"

Vavi was responding to Kodwa's comment to News24 that the fight for a SABC free of censorship had been hijacked by right wingers such as Solidarity and Vavi.

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'He can't now speak for the ANC'

The three had disagreed with an instruction during a diary conference not to cover the Right2Know Campaign's protest against censorship at the public broadcaster earlier that week.

This followed the suspension of three other employees.

COO Hlaudi Motsoeneng has been criticised for his decision last month that the SABC would no longer broadcast footage of the destruction of property during protests.

Vavi was at the SABC's Johannesburg stations to meet with Motsoeneng. Upon his arrival, Motsoeneng told Vavi and other stakeholders that he had cancelled the meeting.

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ANC secretary general Gwede Mantashe told News24 that Vavi could not speak as an unofficial ANC spokesperson after he had distanced himself from the organisation.

"He is neither appointed by me or by the ANC. He must speak for himself. If he turns his back on the ANC, he can't now speak for the ANC," he said.

Kodwa could not be reached for comment

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/anc-cant-control-minister-muthambi-vavi-20160706>

### **SABC crisis: Defending Hlaudi Motsoeneng, Chairman Maguvhe paints alternate reality**

*Stephen Grootes, Daily Maverick, 7 Jul 2016*

We spend so much time down the rabbit hole nowadays it can be quite hard to remember what "normal politics" used to be like. But, amazingly, on Wednesday the story around the SABC, the battle for control of it, and the tussle over Hlaudi Motsoeneng got even weirder. The SABC's chair, Professor Mbulaheni Maguvhe, broke with the tradition of rolling over and playing dead when the ANC tells you to. Instead, he basically told the party to go jump, made probably defamatory statements about some of its members, and claimed his board was "leaving a legacy of stability". All on the same day that musicians clashed with the SACP outside Auckland Park while Vuyo Mvoko explained how Motsoeneng was no different from Snuki Zikalala, who was no different from Jimi Matthews.

This writer has been covering the SABC for over a decade. In that time, boards have come and gone, Zikalala went from being a commissar to having to deal with ANC Youth League members storming his tent at Polokwane because they wanted to see his face when Thabo Mbeki lost, Dali Mpofu arrived and left (pocketing the kind of money that only Mxolisi Nxasana has since matched), and various editors of various political stripes have disappeared. But in the last five years, Motsoeneng has dominated. When the current suspended CEO, Frans Matlala, was appointed, Motsoeneng was the person in charge of the press conference. Despite the fact that members of the board were present. The fact that it was obvious that he outranked them tells you everything you need to know about the SABC.

But on Tuesday afternoon, it seemed his time was over. The Chair of the ANC's Communications Commission, Jackson Mthembu, had had enough. His criticism of the corporation, and of Motsoeneng, was enough to make even Richard Poplak, that hardened observer of the squishier aspects of our politics, squeamish.

But the insanity was just beginning. On Wednesday the Midday Report broadcast an interview with Maguvhe, someone who is very much in Motsoeneng's corner. Context is important here. It is almost impossible to think of someone who has

survived in their post once the ANC has publicly said they want them out. Even if there has been a court case and the ANC has lost, that person has been paid out. But that person never, ever, fights back, or gets someone to do it for them.

There is a line. If you see Maguvhe, it's the one just behind him.

His main claim, incredibly, is that the ANC is only speaking out against him because "some members of political parties, including the SABC, have business interests... they want the SABC to collapse to purchase the stations and channels".

You may want to stop for a moment. Shake your head. Roll your eyes around. Breathe in. Breathe out. And think about what he has said. That the ANC literally only said what it said, because some of its members want to buy the assets of the SABC, "they want the corporation to collapse".

This is a person literally taking on the might of the ANC, Luthuli House itself, and making defamatory comments while doing it.

It's hard to improve on that. But, amazingly, the rabbit hole continues to deepen. When pushed, and pushed hard, about who was consulted on the decision to ban the broadcast of images of violent and destructive protests, Maguvhe is adamant:

"We did consult, we spoke to stakeholders."

But who are they?

"We did have various meetings with stakeholders in different provinces about this matter, and people are not happy with this footage."

Which stakeholders?

"I'll give you an example, the king of the baVenda is unhappy about such footages, the king of amaZulu, and other stakeholders are unhappy, we did contact stakeholders about this matter."

When pushed further, he said:

"Investors are backing this decision, investors are also part and parcel of stakeholders, I've only mentioned a few."

Notice: no names are mentioned, these "investors" will remain a mystery, and of course, no organisations, no groups, no institutions, no research, no political parties, no government entities, no churches, and no one else is mentioned.

It is hard not to believe that this was a decision made on the hoof, with no real research. And Maguvhe may claim that they believe in research, but we know that Motsoeneng doesn't "believe in science".

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Perhaps more worrying are the authorities that Maguvhe went to first – two traditional leaders. Senior leaders of course, with large constituencies. But in no way can they be claimed to be authoritative for the whole country. And why are they special, why not, say, any Xhosa leaders? No doubt the abaThembu king would have plenty to say on this issue.... But more important, what about the urban majority? Clearly Maguvhe doesn't think that they matter.

Tellingly, Maguvhe doesn't believe that any of the political parties are worth consulting. The ANC and the DA and the EFF between them make up over 90% of the vote at the last election. They have all condemned this decision. Maguvhe says that doesn't matter, he can't and shouldn't listen to political parties.

Eventually the interviewer, by now growing a little frustrated (hey wait, that was you, wasn't it – Ed) asked how he could continue to believe this decision about the footage of protests was correct when almost all of formal society, political parties, NGOs, people in the urban street, disagreed with it.

“But what do you think when the Youth League of the ANC says our decision is right, what do you say when MK says our decisions are right, what do you say when artists say our decision is right?”

It's a robust response. But it's amazingly revealing. Once again we have the bought aspects of the movement; the same people who support President Jacob Zuma no matter what, the same people who support the Guptas no matter what, the same people who support the Premier League no matter what, are lined up behind Hlaudi Motsoeneng, and his version of the SABC, no matter what. (The only one he missed was the ANC Women's League.)

But when the issue is put to Maguvhe in a different way, that almost everyone disagrees with him, he says:

“When people don't like you, you must know you are doing the right thing; when they love you, then you are dancing to their tune.”

What an amazing line of argument. It basically justifies Hendrik Verwoerd.

Well, the question now is what next? Those who know Jackson Mthembu, who remember him from his time as ANC spokesman, will know he will not take this sitting down. And he isn't. He has already told EWN that Maguvhe is talking nonsense with his claim about business interests, and he says they will not allow the board to “show the nation the finger”. And, perhaps more important, he suggests that maybe “it's time for divorce” for the board.

But if we dig deeper, there could be another dynamic. We know that Communications Minister Faith Muthambi will back Motsoeneng no matter what. We know Zuma backs her. Therefore, presumably, Zuma backs Motsoeneng. So, is this another of those situations that shows clear blue water between Zuma and his party?

Perhaps. If it is, this could open up another front between the two, along with the rift over Pravin Gordhan.

We will probably find out after the elections. After all, once Alice emerged from the rabbit hole of Wonderland, it was time for her to go Through the Looking Glass.

<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2016-07-07-sabc-crisis-defending-hlaudi-motsoeneng-chairman-maguvhe-paints-alternate-reality/#.V34SS03IrlU>

## **South Africa**

### **Council boss wants his wages cut**

*Bianca Capazorio, TimesLive, 7 July 2016*

The acting municipal manager of Emfuleni, Yunus Chamda, has applied to the council to have the salary for his post cut.

This week in parliament Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Des van Rooyen released details of the salaries earned by South Africa's municipal managers.

It emerged that Chamda earned the most of all municipal managers, at R2.4-million a year.

Chamda said yesterday he had been seconded to the post in May from Sedibeng, where he had been earning R1.4-million a year.

The Emfuleni municipality, which serves large parts of the Vaal Triangle, has found itself in financial trouble in recent years, recording a massive budget deficit.

Chamda voluntarily approached the remuneration commission last month in a bid to have his salary reduced.

"The limit to how low I could go was set by the next manager, who reports to me, and that is the COO, who earns R1.8-million," he said.

"The council will consider a recommendation for R1.9-million to be my salary while I am there," Chamda said.

He said he still believed this amount to be too high, but asked: "Have you ever heard of someone asking for a reduction in salary?"

"I know Mandela did. I take my cues from leaders such as him, having worked with him."

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/thetimes/2016/07/07/Council-boss-wants-his-wages-cut>

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## International

### **Zimbabwe paralysed by general strike as Mugabe runs out of money**

*Peta Thornycroft & David Blair, The Telegraph [UK], 6 July 2016*

A general strike paralysed Zimbabwe on Wednesday as shops and businesses shut down, public transport came to a halt and children were turned away from school.

Across the country, people protested against President Robert Mugabe's 36-year rule, some by staying away from work, others by blocking roads and burning tyres. Police responded by firing tear gas at any gatherings.

A spiralling economic crisis means that Zimbabwe has run out of money. The regime can no longer pay civil servants or teachers and strict limits have been imposed on the amount that ordinary people can withdraw from bank accounts.

In the past, Mr Mugabe, 92, would simply order the Reserve Bank to print money whenever his coffers were empty. But the worst hyperinflation in history forced Zimbabwe to abandon its national currency in 2009. The country now uses the US dollar – which Mr Mugabe cannot print. As a result, there is no apparent escape route from this crisis.

"We have had enough of this uncaring government and we stand in solidarity with all citizens in uniting for this cause," said Themba Mliswa, a former MP from the ruling Zanu-PF party, who now wants Mr Mugabe to resign. "We demand all civil servants be paid immediately."

Derek Matyszak, a lawyer and political commentator, said the strike was a "landmark", adding that the economic crisis had created an "unprecedented level of anger".

"People are also furious as they are not getting paid, struggling to get enough to live and they see politicians partying as if there was no tomorrow," said Mr Matyszak.

When Mr Mugabe turned 92 in February, he celebrated with a lavish party costing the state about \$1 million (£770,000).

Near the South African border, a petrol station manager said: "There is no traffic today. I have never seen anything like this before. Even the foreign trucks are staying away."

The regime has responded to the strike with warnings of the consequences of dissent. An announcement on state television said that anyone caught sending text messages that "may be deemed to cause despondency, incite violence, threaten citizens and cause unrest" would be arrested.

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<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/07/06/zimbabwe-paralysed-by-general-strike-as-mugabe-runs-out-of-money/>

### **Mugabe warned: ‘Act on our demands or we strike again’**

*TimesLive, 07 July 2016*

Zimbabwe’s government is facing an ultimatum from activists: act decisively against corruption, injustice and poverty or citizens will embark on a second, longer, national stay-away.

Pastor Evan Mawarire, the man behind the #ThisFlag movement that mobilised civil society to protest against President Robert Mugabe’s economic policies, presented government with a set of demands after a national stay-away saw shops, schools and businesses close their doors in parts of the country, including the capital, on Wednesday.

The protest action was fuelled by the failure of government to pay salaries to civil servants such as teachers and medical staff, economic hardships, government corruption and restrictions on the importation of certain goods, including food which, for some items, is often cheaper in South Africa.

The protest saw sporadic clashes with police, roads barricaded with burning tyres, rocks and rubble and dozens of people arrested as riot police patrolled cities and the suburbs and the military was out in force.

While some hailed the stay-away as a major victory, Zimbabwe’s Minister of Higher Education, Professor Jonathan Moyo, took to Twitter to declare it a failure: “So the success of the stay away, shutdown or whatever, was 20% at most & only in towns like Harare while it was 0% in most of the country!”

So the success of the stay away, shutdown or whatever, was 20% at most & only in towns like Harare while it was 0% in most of the country!

— Prof Jonathan Moyo (@ProfJNMoyo) July 6, 2016

Mawarire congratulated citizens on Wednesday evening, in a video uploaded to YouTube, for staying home and telling government “enough is enough”.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2016/07/07/Mugabe-warned-‘Act-on-our-demands-or-we-strike-again’>

### **Protests, probe after new video emerges of black man shot to death by US cops**

*TimesLive/Reuters, 7 July 2016*

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The US Justice Department said on Wednesday it would investigate the killing of a black man pinned to the ground and shot in the chest by two white police officers outside a convenience store in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Graphic video images of Tuesday's shooting of Alton Sterling, 37, unleashed protests and social media outcry over the latest alleged police brutality against African-Americans in cities from Ferguson, Missouri, to Baltimore and New York.

One officer shot Sterling five times at close range, and the other took something from his pants pocket as he was dying, according to images recorded by Abdullah Muflahi, owner of the Triple S Food Mart where Sterling was killed in the parking lot.

"I'm heartbroken. It's outrageous. It's crazy," said Muflahi, who considered Sterling a friend and allowed him to sell CDs outside his store. He provided a copy of the video to Reuters and said police took a gun from Sterling's pocket.

Several hundred people gathered for a prayer vigil near the spot where Sterling was killed, with speakers urging peaceful protests, justice and unity in the face of "excessive force" used by police against black residents.

"If we stand divided, we are already defeated," Bishop Gregory Cooper of Baton Rouge told the crowd, including families with children, that filled the parking lot and nearby streets. Police stayed on the fringes of the gathering.

Many people stayed hours after the service and a brass band joined a large, peaceful nighttime march circling the store. A local artist had painted a mural of Sterling on the wall just feet from where he was shot.

Officials scrambled to defuse tension, saying there would be an independent investigation, after media showed a separate graphic video of the shooting recorded by a bystander.

"I have very serious concerns. The video is disturbing, to say the least," Governor John Bel Edwards told reporters.

Baton Rouge Mayor-President Kip Holden and police said they welcomed the probe launched by the Justice Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and federal prosecutors.

Such incidents undermine trust between police and the communities they serve, said presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

"Something is profoundly wrong when so many Americans have reason to believe that our country doesn't consider them as precious as others because of the color of their skin," she said in a statement.

There was no immediate statement from presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump.

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## "HE'S GOT A GUN"

Video recorded on the bystander's cell phone shows an officer confronting Sterling and ordering him to the ground. The two officers then tackle him to the pavement, with one pulling a gun from his holster and pointing it at his chest.

Muflahi's video shows the officers on top of Sterling. One of them yells, "He's got a gun." The video jerks away from the scene after the first two shots are fired.

Three more shots are heard, before the camera shows one officer lean over Sterling and take something from his pocket.

Police did not say how many shots were fired and declined to say whether a stun gun was used on Sterling. Muflahi said police Tasered Sterling before he was tackled.

The two police officers involved, Blane Salamoni, a four-year veteran, and Howie Lake, a three-year veteran, were both put on administrative leave, Baton Rouge Police Chief Carl Dabadie told a news conference.

The officers were responding to a call about a black man reported to have made threats with a gun, Dabadie said.

"When officers arrived, Sterling was armed and the altercation ensued that resulted in the loss of his life," Dabadie said.

The body cameras of both officers became dislodged during the altercation, but continued recording audio and video, police said. Those and other recordings will be turned over to federal investigators, police spokesman Lieutenant Jonny Dunnam said.

## RAP SHEET

Court records show Sterling had several criminal convictions since the mid-1990s, for battery, resisting arrest, burglary and other crimes. He was a registered sex offender after spending close to four years in prison for felony carnal knowledge of a juvenile.

Relatives and acquaintances described Sterling as jovial and friendly, a neighborhood fixture who had peddled copied CDs, DVDs and games in front of the Triple S Food Mart for years.

Cameron Sterling, Alton's 15-year-old son, broke down crying at a news conference as his mother spoke. "He was killed unjustly and without regard for the lives he helped raise," said the mother, who did not give her name.

Several people were arrested for blocking traffic in downtown Philadelphia during a protest over the killing, broadcaster NBC Philadelphia reported.

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<http://www.timeslive.co.za/world/2016/07/07/Protests-probe-after-new-video-emerges-of-black-man-shot-to-death-by-US-cops>

### **Comment and analysis**

#### **There is more to the SABC crisis than meets the eye**

*Natasha Marrian, Business Day, 7 July 2016*

THE flip-flopping by the ANC that went from defending SABC chief operating officer Hlaudi Motsoeneng last week, to giving him a tongue lashing on Tuesday, forms part of a simmering war between the party and Communications Minister Faith Muthambi, who — like Motsoeneng — enjoys President Jacob Zuma's protection.

This battle, which has been going on for more than a year, is further evidence that the ANC is no longer the political driving force behind the government. Power is firmly vested in the president and his acolytes, who are in strategic positions in government and state institutions.

Muthambi's defiance of ANC policy on the set-top box issue, as well as ignoring instructions to get the SABC's house in order, is an indication of this. The party also wrangled with the minister over her illegal suspension of an SABC board member last year, and governance issues at the broadcaster. And it went head-to-head with Muthambi at the national general council in October last year, when she was reprimanded for defying party policy on digital migration and broadcasting, and for presiding over the instability at the SABC.

ANC communications subcommittee head Jackson Mthembu took issue with Muthambi's defiance at the time after she failed to consult the party on policy matters.

She was also blamed for the governance crisis at the SABC that was already raging back then. She responded by calling Mthembu a "liar", for which she was again chastised. Meetings were subsequently held with Muthambi at Luthuli House. They came to nought as she continued to defy the party.

She even once failed to pitch after being summoned by the party.

The battle has left many a victim in its wake including the former chairwoman of Parliament's portfolio committee on communication, Joyce Moloi-Moropa, who is also the treasurer of the SACP. The Communist Party has been vocal in its opposition to Muthambi's defiance of party policy over set-top boxes, a deal with MultiChoice for DStv to house the SABC's 24-hour news channel in return for sole rights to its archives and her failure to rein in Motsoeneng.

Cosatu was initially in agreement with the SACP on these issues, but its president, Sdumo Dlamini, reportedly distanced the federation from the crisis at the broadcaster at the weekend, saying it would not "swim in muddy waters".

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In fact, the Cosatu-aligned Communication Workers Union mirrored comments by SABC board chairman Prof Mbulaheni Maguvhe in an interview with Radio 702 this week, when he claimed big business was seeking to destabilise the SABC so that it could lay its hands on the public broadcaster's radio and television stations.

To confuse matters further, the ANC Youth League and ANC Women's League have appointed themselves mouthpieces for the dominant faction in the governing party. So, the official ANC position announced by Mthembu this week may not hold sway, as it is clear that the party is divided over the SABC issue, and that Muthambi continues to enjoy political protection from the top. While Mthembu stuck to the ANC policy script on Tuesday, leaving little room for his detractors in the party to criticise the position, Muthambi has defied policy in the past and got away with it.

This would explain the SABC's strongly worded statement in response to Mthembu late on Tuesday night, describing his comments as "misleading". In the 702 interview, Maguvhe also said the ANC "attack" sought to distract the broadcaster from its mandate. The battle is taking on a new dimension linked to the broader political battle at play for control of the ANC when Zuma steps down at the end of next year — I won't open the can of worms that contains the question "if" he will step down as party president just yet.

The battle between Mthembu, who enjoys the support of ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe, and Zuma's ally Muthambi, is set to continue as the ancillary factional fight for control of the SABC ahead of the ANC's 2017 conference intensifies. The SACP is increasingly anti-Zuma, while Dlamini is entrenched in the Zuma faction.

Once again, the SABC as a public broadcaster has become a victim of political, and factional capture, leaving the South African media all the poorer for it.

• *Marran is political editor*

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/opinion/columnists/2016/07/07/there-is-more-to-the-sabc-crisis-than-meets-the-eye>

### **The toxicity of the Zuma presidency**

*Judith February, EWN, 7 July 2016*

Judith February says under Jacob Zuma's rule, mediocrity reigns and a failure to account is the new normal.

Increasingly, journalists within the SABC are finding their voice and speaking out against what can only be described as managerial authoritarianism.

It's thus time for us to rid ourselves of the two Ms - Minister of Communications Faith Muthambi and SABC COO Hlaudi Motsoeneng.

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After agreeing to participate in Al Jazeera's The Stream on the issue of media freedom this week, Muthambi withdrew an hour before. In these parts we are used to ministers doing just that, or keeping journalists waiting for hours. Internationally, though, it doesn't play so well. Her spokesperson said something vague about being 'in the cinema'. Was Muthambi herself watching a movie and thus unavailable?

It's hard to tell with ministers in President Zuma's Cabinet these days. After the Al Jazeera 'hole in the head' interview by our International Relations minister, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, anything is possible. Like their boss, their levels of accountability are at best perfunctory, and at worst entirely absent.

In the manner of her boss, Muthambi has also found herself embroiled in a lengthy battle regarding the production of digital set-top boxes. She has brought an application for leave to appeal the recent Supreme Court of Appeal judgment in the matter. Yet another waste of public money.

But it was the image of former Cosatu secretary-general Zwelinzima Vavi trying to enter the SABC building this week which will most likely be fixed in time. Vavi, together with media activists, civil society groups and others, was due to meet Motsoeneng after the suspension of several SABC journalists and possibly unconstitutional decisions regarding editorial policy. The meeting was cancelled and the door of the SABC locked, with 'protection services' staff hovering at the entrance. Running an organisation by diktat takes a certain degree of cunning, but also cowardice. Motsoeneng has both. And so our public broadcaster has become a place not of openness as the Constitution demands, but rather a closed space where fear stalks the corridors.

This culture of fear of speaking out is part of many of South Africa's parastatals, public institutions and research organisations. It is not the sole preserve of the SABC. It starts with staff who are afraid to question why decisions are made, usually also when there are all-powerful CEOs who brook no criticism and micro-manage employees and outputs. It arises when research findings are massaged and the truth besmirched. Those who are either unwilling or unable to resign for whatever reason generally outnumber those who speak out. And so the cycle perpetuates itself.

The SABC post-1994 has for a very long time been an unhappy place for those wanting to practice their craft. Ask anyone who has been there long enough, or those who have left. Now the censorship is simply at its brazen best. Motsoeneng has the political cover from the president himself and so, for now, has nothing to fear. No wonder then he was able to deliver an incoherent rant claiming not to know what 'censorship' is. Speaking with what can only be described as a mad glint in his eye, Motsoeneng seemed quite proud of his ignorance, or perhaps feigned ignorance.

But then many public figures wear ignorance or a lack of education as a badge nowadays. President Zuma himself mocked 'clever blacks' and is a key part of the anti-intellectualism and culture of mediocrity that permeates national life. Zuma has

also used every legal means possible to avoid facing fraud and corruption charges. Motsoeneng is using the same playbook.

In November last year, Judge Davis, ruling on an application by the Democratic Alliance, held that Motsoeneng's permanent appointment to the position of COO by Muthambi in defiance of negative findings against him by the Public Protector was irrational and should be set aside. In May, Davis rejected an application by the SABC and Muthambi for leave to appeal that ruling. That did not stop Motsoeneng from lodging an appeal with the SCA. And so more public money is wasted on someone whom the Public Protector has already deemed unfit for the position.

Thus the rule of law is consistently undermined. That is the milieu we are in. It is one in which the toxicity of the Zuma presidency seeps into every public institution and also a world where mediocrity reigns and a failure to account is the new normal. But every compromised individual has the praise singers. Motsoeneng's unilateral announcement of 80% local content has, of course, struck a chord with some who will benefit from such a policy. Many are also speculating that this deal saves the SABC from paying for content in foreign currency. This week some of those sycophants gathered too to sing praises to Motsoeneng and shout abuse at Jimmi Matthews. We have come to this.

Late Tuesday the ANC awoke and Jackson Mthembu called a press conference making a few rather pointed statements against Motsoeneng. He questioned the change in SABC editorial policy and also how it was that there was this lack of leadership at the SABC. He asked what the minister and the SABC board were going to do about it. It felt as if Mthembu had woken from a slumber. After all, the report of the Public Protector into Motsoeneng's qualifications is by now 'old hat'. One also wonders what Mthembu was doing to raise the matter in Parliament itself? But our Parliament has long since ceased to be proactive.

Will Muthambi and Motsoeneng heed Mthembu's call about editorial policy and appointments within the SABC, or will they simply continue stubbornly on their path, knowing that they are protected by one part of the ANC with Zuma at its helm? In this environment it is unsurprising that the SABC responded with characteristic recalcitrance.

Frankly, much of this government has become an embarrassing mess. Anything goes and there seems to be little thought at all among some ministers (there are still those bravely trying to hold the line by not insulting our intelligence, it must be said).

Take the recent comments by Nkoana-Mashabane on Brexit. The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Dirco) had complained that the minister had been misquoted and subsequently released a verbatim transcript of her comments at a press conference. It can only be described as an incoherent and amateurish rambling.

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So this is the reply that the minister and Dirco thought was good enough for us to engage with? Here it is (partly) in response to a question on her upcoming state visit to France in the context of Brexit: “We are members of the African Union so this can't be true. So Brexit, we don't know about it. We saw it on television. We hear that it would impact, when it started, negatively on our trade and investment relations with countries from that part but we haven't seen real evidence. Maybe it is still coming but one thing first we are not members there and we can only say viva democracy.”

The ramble goes on when Nkoana-Mashabane addresses African Union issues. Again, it is a simplistic stream of consciousness. Predictably, the journalist in question has been pilloried. In fact, reading the entire Q&A, one cannot help but think the minister came off pretty lightly in the news reports.

One wonders about the thrust of this government and whether some of its ministers understand that when they speak, they do so on behalf of all of us? It's a pretty worrying thought that Zuma and Nkoana-Mashabane have spaces at the global top table.

In these dispiriting times we have to remind ourselves that South Africa is far more than embarrassing ministers and a failed matriculant heading up a powerful institution. We are also far more than a president facing fraud and corruption charges. But how do we stop the rot within the ANC, which mostly keeps the sycophants in, and the capable out?

*Judith February is based at the Institute for Security Studies. Follow her on Twitter: @judith\_february*

<http://ewn.co.za/2016/07/07/OPINION-Judith-February-The-toxicity-of-the-Zuma-presidency>

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