



Numsa Media Monitor

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

SA Unions

Union wants members to share in managers' windfall

Ann Crotty, Business Day, 19 April 2016

THE Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) is hoping to secure the same sort of treatment for its members as the 1,700 SABMiller managers with share options are set to enjoy when the merger with Anheuser Busch InBev (AB InBev) is finalised.

The top brass at SABMiller are set to score a \$2.1bn windfall from the accelerated exercise of their outstanding share options once the deal is clinched.

The union's general secretary, Katishi Masemola, wants Fawu members, who are participants in SABMiller's broad-based black economic empowerment scheme SAB Zenzele, to enjoy the same accelerated treatment as management.

Mr Masemola will be meeting AB InBev executives this evening to try to persuade them to bring forward the maturity date and to launch a second broad-based black economic empowerment scheme.

AB InBev will be keen to avoid any delay before the Competition Tribunal, but will also want to avoid overpaying for regulatory clearance in SA.

At previous meetings, AB InBev offered to pay the five remaining years of dividends upfront, but Fawu rejected this as nothing more than a loan.

Mr Masemola said that despite the historic agreement reached between AB InBev and Economic Development Minister Ebrahim Patel over public interest issues, there were two major issues relating to his members that he was keen to resolve before the tribunal. While he welcomed the commitment on job security, Mr Masemola said

he wanted assurances there would be no deterioration in the conditions attached to those jobs.

The second issue relates to the accelerated maturity of the Zenzele scheme, which was launched in 2010, and is due to expire in 2020.

Zenzele holds 8.45% of SAB, which is SABMiller's South African operation.

In his agreement with AB InBev, Mr Patel refers to the maintenance of the Zenzele scheme, "which provides opportunities for black South Africans (including employees) to participate as shareholders until the scheme expires in 2020".

The Zenzele scheme is considerably less generous than SABMiller's executive share scheme, and it involves SAB shares, not SABMiller shares, which would make it difficult for Mr Masemola to argue Fawu members should be paid out on the grounds that all shareholders must be treated equally.

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/labour/2016/04/19/union-wants-members-to-share-in-managers-windfall>

Court sanctions Samwu for encouraging Pikitup strike

Karl Gernetzky, Business Day, 19 April 2016

THE Labour Court found the South African Municipal Workers' Union (Samwu) and its general-secretary Simon Mathe guilty of contempt of court on Tuesday, for encouraging members to pursue a municipal wage strike at Pikitup despite an interdict.

Judge Rob La Grange found Samwu failed to comply with an interdict brought against strike action by Pikitup in November 2015, although, as the strike has ended, jail time for Samwu officials has been avoided.

Samwu and Mr Mathe have been ordered to pay R80,000 and R10,000 respectively, with costs. The fines were suspended for 24 months on condition the union is not found guilty of contempt of court during that period.

A five week long standoff between Pikitup and 4,000 striking employees — over a salary increase and a demand that its MD Amanda Nair resign — officially ended on Friday.

Despite threats of dismissal of the employees, Samwu agreed to return to work earlier in April and agreement was subsequently struck after three days of facilitated negotiations. Parties have been tight-lipped about the agreement, while Ms Nair is on special leave.

Judge La Grange concluded that Samwu had not established reasonable doubt that numerous statements made by various officials were not willful defiance of the order, nor did Mr Mathe take reasonable steps to correct comments by various officials.

The time for compliance with the court order had now passed, with the court "primarily concerned with imposing a salutary penalty as a mark of disapproval of the respondents disregard of the authority of the interim order."

"If the court still had to deal with non-compliance of the order, a period of incarceration of Mathe failing immediate compliance would have been appropriate to consider," the judgment read. The Labour Court further noted no evidence had been presented that Samwu had made efforts to use existing statutory dispute mechanisms to resolve the dispute.

Mr Mathe said on Tuesday the union would consider the judgement.

"I am a law-abiding citizen, our attorneys will study the judgment for determination of any possibility of appeal, but in the interim we will respect the court," he said.

* An earlier version of this article attributed Mr Mathe's comments to Samwu national spokesman Papikie Mohale.

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/labour/2016/04/19/court-sanctions-samwu-for-encouraging-pikitup-strike>

Angie 'stalling on release of jobs-for-cash report'

Batlile Phaladi, The Citizen, 18 April 2016

Last year, when briefing the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education about the progress of the investigation, the department asked for more time.

DA leader Mmusi Maimane has accused Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga of intentionally delaying the release of a report about the "jobs-for-cash" probe.

He said the minister had succumbed to pressure from the South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) to "whitewash" the report to conceal the extent of the problem.

"This 'jobs-for-cash' report may well be the key to breaking the destructive and debilitating grip Sadtu has over our education system," said Maimane.

"As with Nkandla, South Africans need an unbiased assessment of the facts." Motshekga's department was to release the report on Friday, but postponed – the fifth time since the investigation was launched in May 2014 – to next month.

But departmental spokesperson Elijah Mhlanga rubbished Maimane's claims. He said the DA "should stop making preposterous statements to mislead the media".

"The facts in the report will not change, the department is just following proper processes to allow those implicated to formally respond," said Mhlanga.

The minister launched the probe following reports that certain posts for teachers and principals had been given to individuals who had paid cash to secure the jobs.

Last year, when briefing the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education about the progress of the investigation, the department asked for more time. It cited as a reason that more people were coming forward with information.

Maimane said selling teachers' posts was robbing children of a proper education, and described the corruption as "the most abhorrent in the country".

He said delays in releasing the report suggested it would be tampered with "while we wait". Maimane claimed the latest delay was to give the minister time to consult with Sadtu, raising questions of whether it would be sanitised as a result.

<http://www.citizen.co.za/1078947/angie-stalling-on-release-of-jobs-for-cash-report/>

Suspects accused of killing Marikana NUM secretary freed

Sello Tatai, SABC, 18 April 2016

The North West High Court has withdrawn a murder charge against three accused Lonmin Platinum mine workers at the company's Marikana operations.

The three-- Zenzile Nxenge, Siyakhale Kwazile and one other accused--were accused of killing a branch secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) Daluvuyo Bongo in October 2012.

Bongo was killed a few days before he could testify before the Marikana Commission of Inquiry into the circumstances and events leading to the deaths of 44 people during the illegal strike.

At the time of his death, Bongo helped the Marikana Commission of Inquiry during the in loco inspection. He made damning allegations against striking workers in the days leading up to the killing of 34 workers by police on the 16th August 2012. The lawyer for the workers says the state was on a witch-hunt against his clients.

Meanwhile, the case of 17 mine workers, charged with the murder of two police officers and two security guards during the wage dispute, has been postponed to the 29th August for pre-trial.

<http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/99c4ad004c730b36bb8dfb3b0fa74342/Suspects-accused-of-killing-Marikana-NUM-secretary-freed--20160418>

Show some love for local labels

News24, 19 April 2016

Wear South African, an initiative of the Southern African Clothing and Textile Workers Union (SACTWU), continues to gather momentum.

They are in their third year and are sending out a strong call to encourage all South Africans to get behind the movement and become a Local Label lover.

The Wear South African campaign was designed to promote the local design and manufacturing sector.

The campaign encourages South Africans to check the labels of the fashion items they purchase in order to rekindle an awareness and appreciation for all things created in South Africa by South Africans. This includes bags, shoes, jewellery and millinery as well as inner and outer wear.

Spreading the word about wearing South African brands, they have been to the Blue Route Mall in Tokai and the V&A Waterfront.

On Saturday they will be at Tyger Valley Shopping Centre.

The project co-ordinator for the Cape Town Fashion Festival (CTFF) and Wear SA, Wayne van der Rhee, says there's a wealth of beautifully made options already available in stores and online.

"With this campaign we just want to encourage more people to look at the labels they buy and then share their love for local with as many people as they can.

"In this way, we are looking to spread the message and ignite a passion for local, which in turn can continue the renewed and sustained growth of our own clothing design and manufacturing sector."

To make this a reality, Wear South African suggests everyone does a wardrobe audit, checking just how many of their clothes are actually made in South Africa.

People are encouraged to post pictures of their favourite, funkiest, weirdest, most memorable local label pieces via social media – Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Join the movement by following @WearSAOfficial and #LLL #LocalLabelLover

For more information visit www.wearsaofficial.co.za

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/Local/Peoples-Post/show-some-love-for-local-labels-20160418>

Decline of Biggest South African Union Rattles Mine Industry

Paul Burkhardt and Michael Cohen, Bloomberg, 19 April 2016

The decline of South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers is eroding one of the pillars of the post-apartheid economy and deepening woes plaguing the country's biggest export industry.

Confronted with surging power costs and government pressure to increase their black shareholding, the contest among labor groups for members and support marks an unwelcome development for the companies that extract gold and platinum because it may make unions more militant and escalate wage demands.

“There’s no question that inter-union competition ups the ante,” Andrew Levy, the managing partner of Andrew Levy Employment who has advised companies on labor relations for more than 30 years, said by phone. “It’s a turf war.”

Even without labor upheaval, the growth prospects in Africa’s most industrialized economy are looking dire. The National Treasury expects the economy to expand less than 1 percent this year, undermining efforts to cut a 25 percent unemployment rate, while the nation’s credit rating is on the brink of being downgraded to junk. The risk of political turmoil is also rising as calls mount for President Jacob Zuma to resign or be fired after he was found by South Africa’s top court to have violated the constitution.

Biggest Strike

As recently as four years ago, Num was South Africa’s largest union, with a legacy of standing up to white minority rule in the 12 years between its founding and Nelson Mandela’s election in 1994. Its leaders have included Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, former President Kgalema Motlanthe and Gwede Mantashe, the secretary-general of the ruling African National Congress. In 1987, it led a strike that was joined by more than 300,000 workers, one of the biggest in the nation’s history.

Now it’s losing ground to the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union; membership has plummeted to about 195,000, from 310,000 in 2012. Besides miners, Amcu has signed up steelworkers, security guards and factory workers, taking its membership to about 180,000, according to its president Joseph Mathunjwa, who founded the group in 2001, two years after his expulsion from Num.

Num has also been weakened by the firing of tens of thousands of its members in response to the commodity price slump. The mining industry employed 462,000 people in the final quarter of last year, 5.9 percent less than in the same period the year before, and down from a peak of more than 800,000 in the 1980s, according to the national statistics agency. Mining production fell for a sixth straight month in February, contracting an annual 8.7 percent, the agency’s data shows.

Amcu has grown through the downturn by capitalizing on worker discontent with Num, according to Bennie Linde, a professor at the North West University’s School of Human Resource Sciences in Potchefstroom, west of Johannesburg.

“Num members thought that their leaders became too close to management and the government,” he said by e-mail. Amcu “focused on developing a reputation as a trade union not led ideologically, but rather to keep its members’ mandate.”

As a member of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the country’s biggest labor group and a key ANC ally, Num’s decline adds to the party’s struggle to contain President Zuma’s troubles. The ANC is at risk of losing control of several cities including Johannesburg and Pretoria in Aug. 3 municipal elections after the Constitutional Court last month ruled that Zuma breached the law by refusing to repay taxpayer funds spent on upgrading his private home.

Xolani Bokoloshe, a 40-year-old safety auditor at Sibanye Gold Ltd. who was a Num member for 12 years, is among those who switched to Amcu.

“People lost trust in Num,” Bokoloshe, who’s Amcu’s regional chairman in the central Free State province, said in an interview. “That union is dead. We’re waiting for the day of the funeral.”

Num’s influence and reputation took a major blow in 2012, when rock drillers at Lonmin Plc’s Marikana mining complex chose to represent themselves in wage talks and went on strike to demand a minimum monthly wage of 12,500 rand (\$853). The police shot 34 of them dead after they refused to disperse -- the most deadly action by security forces since apartheid ended. Mathunjwa played a leading role in trying to avert the violence, and Num subsequently lost its majority to Amcu on most platinum mines.

“Labor relations in significant parts of the mining industry have become more complex, as events since 2012 have shown,” Elize Strydom, chief negotiator for the Chamber of Mines, whose members include Anglo American Plc, Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd. and Lonmin Plc. “On balance, after a rough couple of years, we believe that on the whole both the industry and the unions have made progress towards more stable outcomes.”

Platinum Miners

While Amcu’s support is concentrated on the platinum mines, it is also making headway among gold miners. It has recruited about 44 percent of the workforce at Sibanye Gold, the largest producer of bullion from South African mines, roughly the same as Num.

On April 11, Amcu negotiated a three-year wage deal with the company under the threat of a strike that was a modest improvement on one struck by Num last year. Its members voted to accept the offer by a show of hands at Sibanye’s Driefontein operations near Carletonville, west of Johannesburg, and burnt a coffin draped in Num t-shirts.

Unlike Num, Amcu cares about its members and has a president who maintains contact with the workers, said Bokoloshe, who attended the vote wearing a suit with a pin bearing Mathunjwa’s image on the lapel and a black Amcu cap. “The way Amcu is moving, I feel that I’m in the right union, I’ve made the right decision,” he said.

William Mabapa, Num’s deputy general secretary, acknowledged that a lackluster economy, job losses and competition from other unions have been taking their toll.

A study commissioned by Num found that “it is true that we are losing touch with the workforce,” he said in an interview. “That is the reality. We are working on that issue.”

Num’s plans include a recruitment drive and a campaign to fight job losses.

“Num has to go back and do what it should have been doing all the while and that is servicing its members,” said Roger Southall, a sociology professor at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. “Amcu have managed to grow so fast because of the NUM’s failures.”

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-04-18/union-rivalry-deepens-gloom-in-south-african-mining-industry>

South Africa

Cops expect big turnout at Zandspruit protest

Pericles Anetos, TimesLive, 20 April 2016

Zandspruit residents on Wednesday gathered to protest over service delivery - and the arrests of community members during a previous demonstration – in the informal settlement.

Police spokesperson Major Mack Mngomezulu said the residents were planning to hand over a memorandum at the Honeydew police station regarding those arrested and charged when residents took to the streets last month and blocked roads over electricity being cut by city officials.

According to media reports, the protesters have also given Mayor Parks Tau seven days to provide them with electricity.

Mngomezulu said they were anticipating a large number of protesters to be out on the streets - “We are expecting 3000-4000.”

He said that the march was expected to take place from 9am to 1pm, and law enforcement officials had been deployed in the area.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2016/04/20/Cops-expect-big-turnout-at-Zandspruit-protest>

Council candidates strangers to community

Mayibongwe Maqhina, Daily News, 19 April 2016

Durban - With the ANC manifesto launched in Port Elizabeth at the weekend, the ruling party is now focusing on finalising the selection of its candidate councillors.

But a senior ANC leader in KwaZulu-Natal has revealed that some branches have yet to take their preferred candidate councillors to community meetings.

This happens as the ruling is scheduled to start with regional list conferences – where branches meet according to regions to discuss candidate lists and also vote on proportional representation councillors, where necessary.

It has also prompted the SACP to warn its alliance partner about not considering imposing councillors in communities that had not been consulted.

Speaking at the Cosatu shop stewards council meeting on Sunday, provincial executive committee member Siphso Gcabashe confirmed the nomination of councillors was saddled with challenges just as the list conferences were scheduled to start on Tuesday.

“There are branches that have not gone to public meetings to consult communities. How are we to continue with the list conferences in such conditions? Those are challenges we are facing,” Gcabashe said.

SACP provincial secretary, Themba Mthembu, said there was a big problem in the nomination of councillors.

“Comrades do these deliberately,” Mthembu said.

He also said the challenges in the nomination of councillors had their origins in the elective provincial conference that had been characterised by factions aligned to incumbent chairman Sihle Zikalala and Premier Senzo Mchunu.

Mthembu said the party would not accept any councillors that did not enjoy the support of any communities.

“We are not to support imposed councillors. We will reject them,” he said, adding that the SACP would visit communities to establish if councillors had their backing.

“We, as SACP, will go to the communities and ask: who did you prefer?” Mthembu said.

On Monday, ANC provincial spokesman Mdumiseni Ntuli said the holding of public meetings to consult communities on preferred councillors was compulsory.

“The condition for community meeting is a requirement, not a by-the-way thing,” Ntuli said. He also said where community meetings were not held, “that might have an impact on the organisation of the list conferences”.

Ntuli said the provincial conference would be convened immediately regions finalised their conferences. He did not have fresh dates for the planned list conferences.

Apart from branches failing to take candidates to community meetings, Gcabashe said the ANC had a problem of “parallel structures”, where groups of members would claim to be legitimate leaders of branches.

“It is a sickness and divides the organisation,” he said.

Gcabashe, who also is chairman of the candidate councillor list committee, said another serious concern was the infighting and fierce contestation that went with ward councillor nominations.

<http://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/news/council-candidates-strangers-to-community-2011374>

Judgment day for Vavi

Lizeka Tandwa, News24, 20 April 2016

Johannesburg – Judgment in the case against former Cosatu general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi will start on Wednesday at the Edenvale Magistrate's Court.

Vavi was arrested on October 4, 2015 for speeding on the R24 in Edenvale, Ekurhuleni.

Evidence from one of the traffic officers who apprehended Vavi was that his silver-grey Audi Q7 was first travelling at 178km/h in the 120km/h zone.

The officer said as Vavi changed lanes, his speed increased to 182km/h.

Vavi has pleaded not guilty to the charges of reckless or negligent driving, and speeding.

During the court hearings Vavi's lawyer Paul Jorgensen tore into the State's case. Jorgensen said the court could not accept as evidence the camera which was used to capture his client.

"Whatever is contained in there has been potentially compromised," said Jorgensen, referring to the device which was placed in front of the court room.

The equipment was never sealed and it had since gone for calibration, meaning that a third party had handled it.

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/judgment-day-for-vavi-20160420>

Comment

'The decision to fire Nhlanhla Nene changed the course of history' But will it ultimately lead to Jacob Zuma's ousting?

Patrick Cairns, Moneyweb, 19 April 2016

CAPE TOWN – For political commentator Aubrey Matshiqi, the last five months in South Africa have made him feel like "a child in Willy Wonka's chocolate factory".

The scale of the disorder in local politics may be worrying, but it is as exciting as it gets for someone in his line of work.

Speaking at the Glacier Investment Roadshow in Cape Town on Monday, Matshiqi said that Jacob Zuma's decision to dismiss Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene and replace him with the unknown Des van Rooyen changed the local landscape completely.

"On December 9 2015 South Africa became a new country," Matshiqi said. "On December 8 2015 President Zuma had much more power than he has today, and on December 8 2015 Pravin Gordhan was locked in a corner somewhere as local government minister."

Since returning to the Treasury, however, Gordhan has assumed more political clout than he ever had before. At the same time, Zuma has seen his power further eroded by allegations around the Guptas and the Constitutional Court judgement on the Nkandla matter.

"What this shows is that you can paint as many scenarios as you want, but I always tell people to add one more," Matshiqi said. "That is a scenario that will change everything, that will render incorrect all the other scenarios you have painted."

"The decision to fire Nhlanhla Nene as finance minister changed the course of history for Jacob Zuma and probably for South Africa," he added. "Just as in June 2005 the decision to fire Jacob Zuma as deputy president changed the course of history for Thabo Mbeki and set in train a set of events that led to his political demise."

What is telling for Matshiqi is that there is currently something unprecedented happening in the ANC, where stalwarts such as Ben Turok, Trevor Manuel and Cheryl Carolus have made public calls for the president to step down. Even the South African Communist Party (SACP), which was one of Zuma's biggest supporters, has said that Zuma should resign.

"For me the 2005 chickens are coming home to roost for the ANC, Cosatu and the SACP," said Matshiqi. "The SACP and Cosatu in particular had a choice in 2005. They could either take the strategic position of rising above the factional battles in the ANC, or, as they chose to do, to become part of a faction."

Their support played a big role in Zuma's ascendancy to the presidency.

"We are partly here today, in a situation where the president and his party have become increasingly ambivalent to democratic values, due to the strategic error that was made by Cosatu and the SACP," Matshiqi argued. "The lesson there, and its not just a lesson for the alliance but for the country, is that we must be careful not to make short term decisions because the medium and long term consequences, as BJ Vorster put it, may be too ghastly to contemplate."

And while it might seem that the ANC is now in a similar position as it was before the recall of Mbeki, Matshiqi believes that the dynamics are different.

“The difference between Zuma and Mbeki is this: most of those who wanted Mbeki out did so out of hatred for him,” he said. “I suspect that most of those we want Zuma out today are doing so out of feelings of shame and embarrassment. The reason why ANC leaders are coming out today to say that he must go is because they are embarrassed by him and they are ashamed of what the ANC has become.”

He adds out that when Mbeki was recalled he was also not the sitting president of the ANC. Zuma is, and to recall him would require a special conference to make that decision.

What then might lead to a situation where the ANC decides to act?

“The decision to recall Zuma or not as head of state will depend on the same thing that put him there – self interest,” Matshiqi said. “The moment that leaders of the ANC begin to think that Zuma is not only a liability but has become a direct threat to their self interest, they will recall him.”

Initially Matshiqi was of the view that this meant that only internal ANC dynamics would matter. However, he now believes that both public sentiment and what happens inside the ANC might conspire to force him out of office.

“On August 3 we are going to an election and there is a good possibility that voter turnout will be higher than it was in 2011,” he said. “And there is a good reason why that might be.”

South Africans are coming to the realisation that what takes place at the polls may bring about a change of mind amongst those inside the ANC.

“If the ANC bleeds badly at the local government elections and the result is deemed bad enough by internal ANC constituencies, what they will worry about is what will happen in 2019 if Zuma is still the president,” Matshiqi argued. “Can the ANC take the chance of taking Zuma to the next national elections?”

In Gauteng, where there is a real possibility that the ANC will fail to earn a majority in 2019, the party is already trying to distance itself from Zuma. And this sentiment may spread if the polls show that the party’s support is under threat.

“It is for this reason that I don’t agree with those who say the ANC has been protecting Zuma,” said Matshiqi. “ANC leaders are not soft on Zuma, they are soft on their own personal interests. They are not defending him, they are defending themselves. The moment the results show that taking Zuma to 2019 is a risk, they will do the right thing, or the wrong thing, and recall him.”

<http://www.moneyweb.co.za/news/south-africa/decision-fire-nhlanhla-nene-changed-course-history/>

Baleka Mbete: Madam Speaker, Madam President?

Ranjeni Munusamy, Daily Maverick, 20 April 2016

No, this is not satire. The Speaker of Parliament and ANC chairwoman Baleka Mbete said last week that she had been approached by “many people” to run for the position of ANC president. And she appears to be seriously considering doing so. Earlier this month a traditional ceremony was held in her village in the Eastern Cape to secure the blessing of her elders for her campaign. So how did Mbete suddenly become a contender in the ANC succession battle? It would appear that Madam Speaker is now the favoured choice of the “premier league” faction to succeed President Jacob Zuma.

And you thought things could not get worse.

In years to come, South Africans might look back with nostalgia and long for the days when Jacob Zuma was president. The only thing worse than having a president who acts in violation of the Constitution during his term of office is a person whose candidacy is based on her violation of the Constitution and her inclination to cause chaos.

But let’s first get the good news out of the way. It is now out of the question that Zuma’s term as ANC president would be extended. Last year, the ANC in North West adopted a resolution at a provincial general council to align the ANC and government terms. According to North West premier and ANC provincial chairman Supra Mahumapelo the year-and-a-half break from when the new ANC leadership is elected in December 2017 to the next general election in mid 2019 would create two centres of power. The ANC in North West therefore proposed that the ANC’s national elective conference be moved closer to the national elections and that Zuma be requested to stay on as ANC leader until then.

The resolution did not exactly win rousing support in other ANC structures, and did not even come up at the national general council in October, so the matter was left hanging. But the “premier league” faction, led by Mahumapelo and his counterparts in the Free State and Mpumalanga, Ace Magashule and David Mabuza respectively, still have their eye on the big prize: who will succeed Zuma at the ANC’s 54th national conference. Together with the ANC Women’s League (ANCWL), ANC Youth League (ANCYL) and the Umkhonto we Sizwe Military Veterans Association, they have provided anchor support for Zuma as he traversed the Gupta controversy and fallout of the Constitutional Court judgment on Nkandla.

With so many calls for Zuma to step down from civil society and from within the ANC fold – veterans, former Umkhonto we Sizwe commanders and some branches – the premier league knows now that there is no way they can argue for an extension of

Zuma's term. Such a campaign would go down like a lead balloon in ANC structures as there is broad awareness that Zuma is a liability even if there is a reluctance to admit it openly.

The premier league group, which is also connected to the Gupta family, appeared to be supporting Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma to succeed Zuma as the next ANC leader and next state president. The African Union Commission chairwoman seemed to be a sure bet to run against Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa when she declined to serve a second term in Addis Ababa and made it clear she would be coming home when her term expires in July.

So how did Baleka Mbete suddenly become a contender for ANC president?

It turns out that the premier league have reconsidered their backing for Dlamini-Zuma because she has been unwilling to give any undertakings that she will pander to their agenda. There are apparently also concerns, including from the president, that Dlamini-Zuma still maintains a close relationship with former president Thabo Mbeki. It is still a sticky point that at the ANC's Polokwane conference in 2007, Dlamini-Zuma featured on both the Zuma and Mbeki slates but she declined the Zuma camp's nomination and stood on Mbeki's ticket.

But Dlamini-Zuma, although ambitious, also appears to have reservations about having her own reputation and legacy tainted by being the premier league's candidate. If her candidature is backed by this grouping, it will not only be the continuation of the Zuma name in the next presidency but also his legacy and scandals.

The ANCWL had already declared that it would be backing a woman to be the next ANC president. So they had to find another woman candidate when they backed out of supporting Dlamini-Zuma.

There was only one person who met all the criteria the premier league needed to confidently back her. Mbete has already displayed her fierce loyalty to Zuma and her ability to throw herself and the Parliament of South Africa under the bus to protect him. She embraces controversy and scandal as her loving companions and, like Zuma, is immune from feeling any sense of shame for bringing dishonour and dysfunctionality to the institution over which she presides.

On paper, Mbete has all the right credentials and experience to stand as ANC leader. She went into exile in 1976 and served the ANC in several southern African states. She was elected as ANCWL secretary-general when she returned from exile and then became an ANC Member of Parliament (MP) in 1994. She was appointed as the chairwoman of the ANC parliamentary caucus in 1995 and a year later Mbete became Deputy Speaker in the National Assembly – a position she held from 1996 to 2004. Her first stint as National Assembly Speaker began after the 2004 elections. In 2007 she was elected as ANC national chairwoman.

When Mbeki was recalled in September 2008, Mbete was a heartbeat away from the top job. She was briefly considered for the position of president but the ANC opted for Kgalema Motlanthe. Mbete was apparently resentful that she was chosen as deputy president instead. Her only experience in government was the eight months she served as Motlanthe's deputy. She was apparently hopeful that Zuma would keep her as deputy president in 2009 and when he did not, she refused to be sent back to Parliament.

Between in 2009 and 2014, Mbete remained as ANC national chairwoman but was able to enjoy the benefits of being a former deputy president of the country. She also received R25-million in Gold Fields shares and dividends, which was later found to be a bribe. After the 2014 elections, Mbete returned to Parliament as Speaker of the National Assembly.

Mbete seems to be restless in her position, particularly because nobody thinks she is doing a good job. Even Zuma has been critical of the way Parliament has run, although his reasons are different from those of most other people. Zuma has said several times that opposition parties, especially the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), are given too much leeway to cause upheaval. Mbete has faced a barrage of criticism from other quarters for being partial in the way she presides over the House and that her rulings are biased towards the ANC.

In September 2014, opposition parties tried and failed to pass a vote of no confidence in Mbete for turning Parliament into a farce. The situation has deteriorated somewhat from then on with Mbete failing to control parliamentary sittings and presiding over two chaotic State of the Nation addresses. Her answer to controlling opposition parties is to have an army of muscle men on standby, which she calls in to physically remove (and sometimes assault) MPs. The 2015 State of the Nation Address was a further fiasco because the Department of State Security was allowed to jam the cellphone signal in the House, which Mbete denied knowledge of.

Mbete's images are a meme sensation on social media, either giving marching orders to opposition MPs or her infamous phrases such as: "I actually don't want to recognise any of you." She has also had epic bouts with the EFF leader Julius Malema and his Chief Whip Floyd Shivambu.

The source of Mbete's greatest ignominy is the way the National Assembly handled Public Protector Thuli Madonsela's report on the upgrades at Zuma's Nkandla home. The Constitutional Court ruled in March that the National Assembly "effectively flouted its (constitutional) obligations" and its conduct was "unlawful".

In a media briefing to respond to the judgment, Mbete said she found no need to apologise for her conduct. She said the judgment provided clarity and guidance, thereby treating the Constitutional Court like an advisory committee rather than seeing the judgment as a serious rebuke from the highest court in the land.

Mbete certainly does not view the judgment as a blight on her political career. Just over a week from when the judgment was delivered, Mbete was at a traditional ceremony in her honour at Mqanduli, south of Mthatha. According to The Herald, she wanted to get the blessings of her amaHlubi tribe before launching her presidential campaign.

Mbete was also quoted as saying that several ANC leaders had approached her to stand as Zuma's successor. "Let us wait until that time has come to answer your question. There are many people [who have approached me]. But I will respond when the time for that comes," Mbete reportedly said.

While Ramaphosa and Dlamini-Zuma are still coy about their intentions, Mbete now has the blessings of her ancestors, her tribe elders and possibly the Gupta family, via the premier league, to contend for the top job. Mbete has earned her stripes to be endorsed by the Zuma camp by being a willing participant in the violation of the Constitution to protect the president. She also wears her infamy like a badge of honour.

With Parliament turned into a veritable circus on her watch, one can only imagine what stands in store for the ANC and the country should she become Number One.

But that she is in the running does not mean she will win. There is still a while to go before the next ANC leader is elected and the race is still an open game.

<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2016-04-20-baleka-mbete-madam-speaker-madam-president/#.VxdCtk3IrlU>

The enemy wants to remove the ANC govt from power – Sidumo Dlamini

Sidumo Dlamini, Politicsweb, 18 April 2016

COSATU President says what this enemy is doing in SA, it is also doing in Brazil and Venezuela and in all other BRICS countries

COSATU Message of Support to the ANC 2016 Local Government Election Manifesto rally, 16 April 2016, delivered by COSATU President Sidumo Dlamini

The President of the ANC, comrade Jacob Zuma,

The entire leadership of the ANC present from all levels

The entire leadership of the Alliance present here today

Our people who have come from across the length and breadth of our country.

As COSATU, we have come to instruct the ANC leadership to unite the ANC!

Workers said we must tell you that, as a leadership collective you must remain united and that you must work to unite the ANC!

As COSATU, we have come to communicate a message that as the Alliance we must be more united today than we were at any other time in the history of our struggle.

The enemy wants to remove the ANC government from power.

What the enemy is doing here in South Africa, it is also doing in Brazil and Venezuela and in all other BRICS countries.

The fact of the matter is that BRICS countries have broken the coherent international chain of USA led imperialism.

The current political challenges in our movement can only be confronted through conscious action and decisive action against our real and common enemy; monopoly capital

Our real enemy owns wealth and is not prepared to have it shared amongst the people.

Our enemy benefited from colonial and apartheid order and is prepared to protect the ill begotten benefits and privileges.

Our enemy has power and influence and control over the media and is using the same media as an instrument to deepen the crisis in our ranks.

We must all develop the capacity to focus our energies more on fighting monopoly capital and the parasitic bourgeoisie, who seek to steal our movement away from being at the service of the people, to being at the service of capital.

We must develop capacity to identify our enemies even if they hid underneath our own colours, our slogans and even if they come carrying bags of money to blind us of their real agenda which is to steal and reverse our revolutionary gains.

We must be clear that at the centre of our challenges is the institutionalization of the culture of accumulation by all means and at all cost by many in our ranks, and this has opened us up to abuse by capital as seen in the new tendency to display opulence in the pool of poverty in our country.

All this gives evidence to the hegemony of capital in our structures and in influencing the content and direction of our revolution.

This must never be allowed to happen if the ANC is to remain a disciplined force of the left that is biased to the working class.

Many of our comrades have gotten use to disrespecting our people and our communities in the name of our movement and our government.

This has opened us up to attacks by the opposition and all sorts of political demagogues and economic opportunists.

We must reclaim our revolutionary morality, not just in words but through our actions!

Whatever our differences, whatever the challenges but we must never allow the enemy to use our challenges to reverse our revolutionary gains.

Our enemies are celebrating when we go out to the media and play out our differences.

Let us resolve our differences inside the organisation and not in the streets and in the media.

When we are divided and when we speak and act as individuals and not as a united force, the enemy will elevate some amongst us as heroes when in reality they are deepening divisions in our ranks.

It is only when the ANC and the Alliance are united that the enemy can be dislodged.

And enemy knows this un-disputed truth!

As COSATU, we talk from experience and as workers; we know the value of Unity!

The enemy is desperately looking for anything which can take the glory away from the ANC-led liberation movement.

They exploit our mistakes; they confuse our people with half truths, including using lies.

Our task is to go to the masses and humble ourselves, including accepting to make corrections where we have committed mistakes.

Let us repeat that our people want to see all of us united and they continue to believe in the strength of the Alliance. Our people know that the Alliance is their liberator.

We must take forward the Mangaung commitments that the state should increase its own capacity to deliver on its core obligations, including the provision of social infrastructure, where appropriate.

This will require eliminating an over-reliance on tenders. In this context, outsourcing must come to a stop and all workers employed in municipalities must be employed on a permanent basis.

We must make sure that effective labour relations mechanism are put in place in municipalities to ensure that all labour disputes are addressed timeously and resolved amicably in order to avoid prolonged strike action caused by intransigent

management as we have recently seen in the five-month long #Pikitup labour protest action.

Workers, mainly from the most vulnerable sectors such as domestic workers, farm workers, continues to be denied their constitutional right to vote during election times.

COSATU demands that August 3 must be declared a non-trading, public holiday to afforded all workers and their families to exercise their right to choose their public representatives from the political parties of their choice.

COSATU demands that all municipalities must make a commitment to create decent jobs.

Comrades after this Manifesto launch, we will be going to our May Day celebrations on May 1 and we call on the ANC to mobilize all its Branches to participate in all May Day rallies.

The presence of the alliance and the movement as a whole must be felt in every space around the country.

Without the unity of the Alliance and the presence of our organisations on the ground, the enemy will grow in confidence.

Without our ability to transfer wealth and ownership of the economy back in the hands of the majority of our people, the enemy will be emboldened.

As COSATU, we will be mobilising for the victory of the ANC and we have every reason to do so.

We have seen our families getting free RDP houses. We have seen more tap water connections in our houses; we have seen even more electricity connection in our houses.

We have seen the building of road infrastructure; we have seen the construction of dams; we have seen new schools being built.

We have seen free nutrition programmes in schools; we have seen no-fee schools. We have seen free school transport for our children in rural areas.

We know that we have the potential to do more as a movement.

All we need are committed Cadres!

COSATU knows that as a movement, we have the capacity to deepen our fight heighten our fight against crime and corruption.

The most effective deterrent to crime and corruption is consistent and decisive action.

Where we must arrest, let's do so!

Where we must dismiss, let's do so decisively!

There is a direct relation between poverty and wages.

And our local government must ensure that poverty eradication programmes are linked to a living wage.

In this regard, we are pleased that the government has responded to our demand for a comprehensive social security discussion paper and recently the matter is on the agenda at NEDLAC. And we look forward to engage.

Local economies cannot develop without infrastructural investment aimed at responding directly to the need for an affordable, reliable, efficient, safe, accessible and an integrated public transport.

We know that the ANC government listens and we therefore know that ultimately E - tolls will be scrapped.

As workers, we know that the ANC can listen because when we said no the Taxation Laws Amendment Act, the ANC government listened and postponed its implementation.

We are now working towards addressing all the issues which led us to demand the total scrapping of the law.

As workers, we know that for many years we have been on the streets demanding the National Minimum Wage, today the discussion is no longer about whether it will be implemented but how it should be realised.

We want to warn business not to stand on our way towards this dream of the Freedom Charter, to realise the legislated National minimum Wage.

For many years we have demanded the National Health Insurance [NHI] and today there are processes in place towards its implementation and it has been piloted in some provinces.

We want to warn that those who must make it to the list must be those who have been democratically elected by their own communities. Those who must be mayors and councillors must be the most trusted by their communities.

We are going out of this rally to talk to our communities and humble ourselves before them.

We will win these local government elections but it will require that we all work harder and we should do so as a united force!

Amandla!

International

Front-runners Trump and Clinton win NY primary

News24, 20 April 2016

New York - Front-runners Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton swept to victory with ease in Tuesday's New York primary, with Trump bouncing back from a difficult stretch in the Republican contest and Clinton pushing closer to locking up the Democratic nomination.

Trump's victory was a psychological boost for his campaign. He captured more than 50% of the vote in New York and was headed toward a big delegate haul in his home state, a commanding showing that keeps him on a path to the Republican nomination if he continues to win. He claimed at least half of the 95 delegates at stake, and was likely to add to his tally in individual congressional districts.

"We don't have much of a race anymore," he said during a victory rally in the lobby of the Manhattan tower bearing his name. He peppered his confident remarks with more references to the economy and other policy proposals than normal, reflecting the influence of a new team of advisers seeking to professionalize his campaign.

Clinton's triumph padded her delegate lead over rival Bernie Sanders, depriving him of a crucial opportunity to narrow the margin. Sanders vowed to compete through all of the voting contests, though his odds of overtaking Clinton at this stage in the race are low.

"The race for the nomination is in the home stretch, and victory is in sight," Clinton declared to cheering supporters.

With 247 delegates at stake, Clinton picked up at least 104 while Sanders gained at least 85. Many remained to be allocated, pending final vote tallies.

"We've got a shot to victory," Sanders said in an interview with The Associated Press. "We have come a very long way in the last 11 months, and we are going to fight this out until the end of the process."

Overall, Trump leads the Republican race with 804 delegates, ahead of Senator Ted Cruz with 559 and Ohio Governor John Kasich with 144. Securing the Republican nomination requires 1 237.

Among Democrats, Clinton has 1 862 delegates to Senator Bernie Sanders' 1 161. Those totals include both pledged delegates from primaries and caucuses and

superdelegates, the party insiders who can back the candidate of their choice regardless of how their state votes. It takes 2 383 to win the Democratic nomination.

Sanders spent Tuesday in Pennsylvania, as did Trump's main rival Cruz. The Texas senator panned Trump's win as little more than "a politician winning his home state," then implored Republicans to unite around his candidacy.

"We must unite the Republican Party because doing so is the first step in uniting all Americans," Cruz said in remarks read off a teleprompter.

The fight for New York's delegate haul consumed the presidential contenders for two weeks, an eternity in the fast-moving White House race. Candidates blanketed every corner of New York, bidding for votes from Manhattan and the surrounding boroughs to the working class cities and rural enclaves that dot the rest of the state.

Trump needed a strong showing to keep alive his chances of clinching the Republican nomination before the party's July convention — and to quiet critics who say the long primary season has exposed big deficiencies in his campaign effort.

Having spent months relying on a slim staff, Trump has started hiring more seasoned campaign veterans. He acknowledges that bringing new people into his orbit may cause some strife, but says the moves were necessary at this stage of the race.

Cruz is trying to stay close enough in the delegate count to push the Republican race to a contested convention. Cruz's campaign feels confident that it's mastered the complicated process of lining up individual delegates who could shift their support to the Texas senator after a first round of convention balloting.

Kasich, the only other Republican left in the race, was seeking to add to his scant delegate total and keep up his bid to play a long-shot spoiler at the convention. Kasich has refused to end his campaign despite winning only his home state.

Trump's political strength, though he boasts of drawing new members to the party, has left some Republicans concerned that his nomination could splinter the Republicans. Among Republican voters in New York, nearly 6 in 10 said the nominating contest is dividing the party, according to exit polls.

AP writers Lisa Lerer, Julie Bykowicz, Emily Swanson and Steve Peoples contributed to this report.

<http://www.news24.com/World/News/front-runners-trump-and-clinton-win-ny-primary-20160420>
