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Please don't forget to send your letters before 10am on Wednesdays

Remember



ACTIVIST: Ahmed Timol

FRIDAY marked the 35th anniversary of the death of former teacher and activist Ahmed Timol.

Timol was arrested at a police roadblock on October 22 1971. Five days later police claimed that Timol had jumped to his death from the 10th floor of the John Vorster Square Police Station (now known as the Johannesburg Central Police Station) during interrogation.

An inquest found that Timol had committed suicide and that no one was responsible for his death.

Timol's ailing mother, Hawa, gave emotional testimony at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hearings in Johannesburg on April 30 1996.

She appealed to the commission to find her son's killers and asked that a school be named after him.

Former president Nelson Mandela paid a fitting tribute to Timol when he renamed the Azaadville Secondary (on the West Rand) as the Ahmed Timol Secondary School on March 29 1999.

None of the policemen responsible for arresting Timol or interrogating him applied to the TRC for amnesty nor were they called to testify.

Hawa Timol died in May 1997 without witnessing the renaming of the school and finding out who was responsible for her son's death.

The Timol family eagerly awaits closure and appeals to the National Prosecuting Authority to assist in this matter.

Imtiaz Cateer
Pretoria

NPA failings the public

HOW does the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) understand the rule of law? Why has it fallen into the media trap of sensationalising the Schabir Shaik appeal outcome?

Of course, the media has always sung the old song that Shaik's appeal had a bearing on whether Jacob Zuma would be charged or not. And NPA spokesperson Makhosini Nkosi has fallen into this trap, asserting we must remember it is one of the reasons why the case against Zuma was struck off the roll.

Is that true Nkosi? Why lead the public on a sensationalist path when you know the dismissal was because of your unfair treatment of Zuma, denying him the right to a speedy trial six years after the NPA accused him of corruption? By choosing to prosecute Shaik separately was it not your wisdom that Zuma's case is a stand-alone?

Or is the NPA finally realising its blunder in not trying Zuma and Shaik concurrently for the verdict delivered by Judge Hillary Squares to hold?

The result is the continued violation of Zuma's rights by the NPA, with Nkosi having the audacity to speak about Zuma time and again, and casting suspicion on his name, as though he were without rights!

If the NPA wants to reinstate the case against Zuma, why does it need media conferences? Is it to sway public sentiment against him and make him a loser even if the NPA fails in its case against him?

While Zuma's political opponents might be selectively happy about this violation of justice perpetrated by the NPA, most justice-loving

citizens are appalled.

Nkosi lied to the nation last year and said the NPA was ready to prosecute Zuma. Yet when the time came it simply chickened out with a host of lame excuses.

Please, Nkosi, advise your boss that we are tired of this injustice. If you have a case against Zuma charge him.

Or are you afraid that your spectacular raids have already made it an unwinnable case?

Phillip Musekwa
Germiston



Let's get innocent Kabelo out of jail

WHAT is this country coming into? Something is horrendously wrong with our justice system.

It is totally unacceptable that Kabelo Thibedi was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

Are we a nation of Popeyes? The other day I was listening to the news and a guy who had sexually molested girls over a period of nine years was given a suspended sentence, while Kabelo was sentenced to five years for a lesser crime.

What a sickening joke! There is no justice. They could



UNFAIR: Kabelo Thibedi

have given him an alternative sentence as this is destroying him. The rapists and murderers are roaming our streets and this poor

guy is in jail. Let us all stand together and get him out of prison. Please, fellow South Africans,

It is no secret that one can't do anything without an ID. What about the incompetency of the home affairs staff?

Let them be imprisoned too. Kabelo should have received a strong warning, nothing more.

Let us oppose this injustice in this justice system. What an irony! This country is sick!

Thandeka Khoza
Johannesburg

Gays are still not equal

SLIPPING in through the back door with the changes introduced by the Sexual Offences Act, and nearly unnoticed owing to the attention given to the Civil Union Bill, the age of consent for gay people has at last been lowered to 16.

This, as in the case of heterosexuals, removes the last discriminatory legislation barring fully equal marriage.

Had this not been done, the untenable situation would have arisen that a gay person would be allowed to marry if he or she was



CELEBRATING: Gays and lesbians do a victory march

already 18 but not yet 19, but could then be prosecuted with his or her spouse under the Sexual Offences Act.

As far as marriage is concerned, same affairs has now acknowledged that the Civil Union Bill is an interim measure and the matter will be revisited next year.

But the fact remains that as long as the Marriage Act remains the exclusive domain of heterosexual couples, discrimination still exists.

Coentje Kalkkuk
Editor, Gayspeak

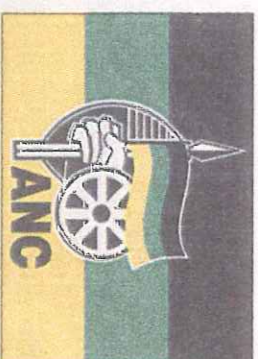
Money just no object

UNLIKE the ANC we keep up with what is going on through proper oversight and by asking pointed questions.

So, I thought taxpayers might like to know just how much certain national departments spent on overseas hotels during the past year.

One minister took only his spouse (not his whole entourage) on a trip to Portugal. They stayed for four days and paid R160 000 for hotel accommodation alone.

Now I know hotels in Europe charge in euros and that the exchange rate is absurd, but after a



few minutes research on the internet it is possible to see that even the minister could not have spent this much in four days.

Brian Goodall
DA MP, Gauteng

Big chance

STATS recently released by the Tratatgar Property Group make for fascinating reading and prove one thing - Joburg needs more jobs.

About 93% of those living in Joburg are under the age of 40. About 46% of inner city residents have attended high school and 36% have been to technikon.

But here's the kicker: most of them earn less than R5 000 a month, trapping them in the city.

Most say they stay here because of access to public transport and if they could earn more they would leave. They also say that their stay is temporary. Most see themselves gone within five years.

Here is a golden opportunity for Joburg. We have a captive and resourced workforce that can be tapped to clean up the crime and grime of the inner city.

I am sure many would welcome the opportunity to not have to go very far to earn a decent wage and improve their lives along with their homes.

Ann Barnes
DA representative for the Joburg Inner City