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**SHIKOTA OR COPE**

## Introduction

When the ANC swept into power in 1994, one had a sinking feeling that this collaborationist body controlled by Stalinists would remain a monolith<sup>1</sup> for decades to come like the Indian National Congress of India. Apart from the split in 1958 when the PAC was formed, other splits had no significant effect on the ANC. It soon acquired a reputation of relative invincibility and or immortality. It was this sense of smugness about the stability and relative indivisibility of the ANC which made Jacob Zuma boast that the ANC will rule until Christ returns to earth.

But change like death, (which is a form of change), spares nobody and nothing. The split in the ANC was in the making for decades. It raged on Robben Island in the 1970s and continued thereafter. It expressed itself crudely when Thabo Mbeki on the occasion of becoming president of the ANC in 1997 told Mandela in the full glare of world publicity:

*“Madiba...members of the press have been asking me how it feels to step into your shoes. I have been saying I would never be seen dead in such shoes. You wear such ugly shoes.”<sup>2</sup>*

The changes initially were small and relatively insignificant, but grew in number and intensity and reached what can be called a qualitative change at the Polokwane Conference when Mbeki and his band of rulers were thrown out.

That conference was a pyrrhic victory. In victory, defeat stared at the Zuma faction in the face.

Triumphalism<sup>3</sup> ruled. From it emerged arrogance and a brazen disregard for the rule of law. Violence and lawlessness threatened to become the order of the day. “Blood will flow in court if Zuma is charged”. That was the first salvo. “I will kill for Zuma” followed in rapid succession. “Zuma’s charges of corruption, fraud and money laundering must be resolved politically and not by due legal process.”

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<sup>1</sup> **By Monolith is meant colossal, immovable, monumental, undivided**

<sup>2</sup> **From Mark Gevisser’s Biography of Thabo Mbeki and quoted by Columnist Sharon Dell in an article “The World from Mbeki’s Shoulder” which appeared in The Witness of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008**

<sup>3</sup> **Triumphalism is an ugly character trait in a person. This when a person who is victorious displays boastful pride and excessive exultation thereby showing no concern for the feelings of the defeated.**

A wave of revulsion gripped the country. When judges were called counter revolutionaries (and therefore liable to be assassinated), an important line was crossed.

The Mbeki wing was patiently waiting for the right moment. Lekota and his lieutenants came out with guns blazing. They made all the right accusations against a venal, corrupt and fascistic ruling class. It caught the imagination of a section of the new elite, of the modern young people with nimble fingers for SMSs. Many decent patriotic citizens who were appalled by the conduct of the Zuma faction exemplified by Julius Malema, Vavi and Mantashe, saw in the faction led by Lekota and Shilowa a hope of reverting to democracy proper without machine guns songs and daily threats of lawlessness and violence. Last but not least, it attracted all those ANC members who had no hope of making it on to the ANC election lists or a lucrative deal usually involving corruption.

From that point of view the Conference held at Sandton was a roaring success. Not even the massive rally held by Zuma to counter the Shikota Convention dimmed its success.

For the first time in its history, there was this large section of its membership, actual or potential, which joined a rival organisation. The ***Stalinists in the Alliance hit the red panic button.*** For the first time in its history, the ANC faced the possibility of losing power in provincial governments. A vat of vile and ugly names has been spat out. All these names had one purpose and that was to dehumanize the members of COPE/Shikota as a first step to physical elimination as had happened in Rwanda.

## **Old Dirt in a New Garbage Bin**

We must be careful not to be taken in by the rhetoric of the leadership of COPE. This leadership consists of members of the Mbeki faction plus careerists who lost out in the race for lucrative positions in the Zuma controlled state organs or organisations.

In Apdusa Views No.87 dated January 2008, we made the categorical statement that both factions, the Mbeki and the Zuma, were rotten to the core. Hence our attitude of: ***“A plague on both your Houses!”*** The Mbeki faction has had at least eight full years to govern with wisdom and care and to make a real difference in the lives of the poor, both rural and urban. Not only did they fail to do so, life actually became worse for the poor. They committed a long list of crimes-crimes of every sort, ranging from genocide to corruption of all sizes

and shapes – from the multibillion rand arms deal to shamelessly cheating parliament as exemplified in the travelgate scam.

Therefore, Lekota, Shilowa, Mluleki George, Madisha and most of the current leadership of COPE are guilty, directly or indirectly (through silence, agreement or connivance) of those crimes. We will especially remember “**Comrade George**” as that hired hitman whose mandate was to destroy SACOS – “**SACOS must be Destroyed.**”

Let those who rushed to pop the champagne bottle pause and reflect.

Let’s not mince words. The leadership of COPE or Shikota is nothing more than that ***old dirt in a new garbage bin!***

## **New Dynamics**

Having said that about the great majority of the leadership of COPE or Shikota, let us not lose sight of the forces unleashed by the breakaway group. The monolithism of the ANC has been shattered.

- There is a real threat that the ANC, being split and weakened, could lose positions as local councillors, as members of the provincial legislature, and as members of parliament. They could lose local councils and provincial councils. The threat has had a marked change in attitude and behaviour. The ANC in power has become noticeably more sensitive to public criticism and have taken steps, *quite out of character*, to win favour with the public. We have shown elsewhere in this issue how the leader of the Natal ANC, Dr Mkhize, the MEC for Transport and the MEC for Welfare whose VIP guard shot the tyre of a travelling vehicle went out of their way to publicly show concern for the victims. There are other examples.
- Gone is the arrogance of the pre-Shikota days when complaints would be dishonestly dismissed as racist.
- Greatly diminished are the days of reckless and inflammatory rhetoric when the Malemas and Vavis blurted out the first thing that came to mind.
- COPE or Shikota has also provided a home for the intellectual and entrepreneur with a modern outlook who seeks to exist and function in stable and well regulated society governed by a set of rules commonly agreed upon. Thus when people have a grievance and wish to give public

demonstration of it, they will march through an agreed route within agreed hours. They will then hand over their memorandum to the relevant authorities and peacefully disperse. The marchers will be expected to keep to the rules and not improvise en route by damaging motor vehicles, beating up innocent bystanders, upturning refuse bins and trash the relatively clean streets.

## Conclusion

Thus it will be seen that while the intention of the bulk of the COPE leadership is dishonourable, there are side effects which may turn out to be beneficial. A degree of fluidity has been introduced in South Africa's politics; the log jam has been broken.

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# BARACK OBAMA

## Introduction

When the final outcome of the presidential race between Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain was announced, the overwhelming majority of humanity cheered and celebrated. The United States of America, notorious for its racism and its savage and brutal treatment of its dark-skinned inhabitants, the African Americans, had by a majority of six million votes, voted for a President who was not white.

The importance of that event lay in the **symbolism it expressed**. It expressed an important victory in the ongoing struggle against racism and discrimination of human beings on totally unimportant criteria such as sex, sexual orientation religion, culture, physical appearance, skin colour, language etc.

To expect anything more from the mere presence of Obama in the White House is tantamount to wishful thinking and dreaming.

## Why Obama?

It will give one a strong **feel good** feeling if it can be validly concluded that Obama was voted in because:

- The American people were sick and tired of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
- The American people were sick and tired of the outright lies and deception perpetrated on them by George Bush and his gang of neo fascists.

Actually by all accounts, it was the gigantic chaos caused by super bungling of the economy which brought about the most serious economic crisis since the late 1920s. So it was economics, rather the near catastrophic management of the economy which drove the voters to vote as faraway as they could from the ruling class led by Bush.

While the symbolism lay in the victory against racism, there is **a double-edged blade**. The other edge is called **CO-OPTION**.

The co-option of a dark skinned person as president of the US is a great public relations show. Its real purpose is to make a dark skinned president do all the dirty work of US imperialism in the hope that the dirty work will evoke less opposition and resistance.

## Obama is not the first

Obama will be the first dark skinned US president but not the first dark skinned person to occupy a very high position in the hierarchy of US imperialism. The reader will readily recall that despicable “black” Afro American, General Colin Powell who lied to the whole world without twitching a fibre of his facial muscle about the serious military threat Iraq posed to the United States. He was so discredited by subsequent events that he rarely has the nerve to show his face in public since. A dark skinned expendable!

We all know about Ms Condoleeza Rice, another dark skinned US citizen, the US Foreign Minister, who has had to do all the trouble- shooting and mess cleaning for US imperialism.

So the US voting public, especially the conservative section, have already been acclimatized to persons who are not “pure white” performing very important government functions.

## Role of the Individual

The individual chosen to be the president of the US is chosen to serve the interests of US imperialism. If the victor's intention was to serve any other interest he/she would not have been elected president. This very simple proposition is incontrovertible.

## What are the interests of imperialism?

PROFITS!! That is priority number one and priority infinity. The alpha and omega. All other considerations are subjected to PROFITS. In pursuit of profit imperialism will do everything possible - exploitation, wars, dirty deals, murders, genocides, the total destruction of entire nations and people. Indeed even to the extent of destroying life on earth and itself in the process! It is a mighty juggernaut crushing and destroying all that comes into its path.

For those who may have forgotten or those who have not come across it before, let us repeat that very famous description of imperialism in: “The Torch”, the Unity Movement newspaper:

*"Imperialism-Herrenvolkism has no "conscience" or "soul" or "sense of decency". It is not moved to pity or reform by the misery and suffering of the oppressed and exploited people. It causes and lives off this oppression and exploitation, of which poverty, tyranny and suffering are inevitable and inseparable parts. It has no respect for those who seek to end its regime of oppression and exploitation. In fact, it passes laws against, builds jails for, and generally hounds and persecutes those who seek to liberate the impoverished, rightless and voiceless mass which is the foundation of Imperialism-Herrenvolkism. It never repents, because repentance would mean suicide. It never parts with anything voluntarily. It gives up only what is forced from it. It never departs from the scene of its own accord. It fights with every*

*means at its disposal. It disguises itself where and when it can. It uses any agency or person it can, and in the end, it has to be beaten to its grave by the active, unified, organised, principled and militant struggles of the oppressed and exploited."*<sup>4</sup>  
(*"The Torch"* – 19th August 1952).

This is the beast that Obama had chosen to serve. There are very specific and detailed codes of conduct any president of the US has to obey and live up to. Any departure of a real nature from these codes could mean his instant elimination or at best permanent confinement in an impregnable mental institution.

The image of Obama built up by a multimillion dollar public relations and image building campaign is designed to conceal the true nature of imperialism. Obama is the human mask of the beast.

## **Human Mask of the Beast**

It did not take long for the deception to commence working. There was great jubilation in South Africa among a certain section of the population. There was talk of more aid and a kinder foreign policy towards Africa.

Kenya, the birthplace of Obama's father declared a public holiday in honour of its descendant who became president of the United States. This notwithstanding :

- a) The fact that Kenya is a poor country and cannot afford the luxury of an extra holiday to honour success of one of its descendants many thousands miles away
- b) The fact that in his victory speech, Obama did not even have the decency to mention his ancestral home which is Kenya.

In South Africa, the so-called leader of the so-called National Democratic Revolution, the African National Congress, packed in its top leadership with fraudsters and Stalinists, was first in the queue to praise Obama's victory and confuse its already confused members.

If you do not believe us, please study the quotation which comes from "ANC Today"

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**<sup>4</sup> There should be no apologies for repeating a crisp and well formulated definition which effectively encapsulates hundreds of pages of description**



“For us in South Africa this is a development which *promises better working relations between our country and the United States on many fronts.* (Our italics and emphasis) It also marks an end to jackboot politics, and unilateralism in international affairs.

In his "I Have A Dream" speech, Martin Luther King Jnr spoke of his desire for a future where blacks and whites would live as equals, where his four little children will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. *The dream is now a reality.*” (Our emphasis and italics)

(ANC today Volume 8 No 44 7-13 November 2008)

The foreign policy of US imperialism is worked out to further the interests of US imperialism. It is not formulated solely to benefit any other country. Democratic Party presidents have come and gone over the decades. There was never a marked difference between their foreign policies and those of the Republicans.

Fidel Castro, leader of the Cuban Revolution and for many years its president, lived in the shadow of a military invasion by its giant neighbour, the US, for 50 years. Cuba that small but incredibly brave country managed to survive an economic blockade of almost 50 years by the same neighbour. So if anybody knows US imperialism, it will be Fidel Castro. According to him:

“It would be highly naïve to believe that the good intentions of one intelligent person could change what centuries of interests and selfishness have created. Human history shows another thing.”<sup>5</sup>

## **The ANC is unable to distinguish a dream from reality.**

It is going to be a reality that two dark skinned children will have daily access to the White House and they will have a puppy. The millions of children will remain imprisoned in their slums and ghettos as off-spring of African Americans, of the rapidly increasing population of the Latinos and Orientals.

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<sup>5</sup> Mail & Guardian online 15/11/08

*Their dream is an aeon away from reality.*

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# **THE BLUE LIGHTS KILLER SQUADS – ANC's OWN TON TON MACOUTTES**

## **Introduction**

When you are travelling in a motor car with blue lights burning on a busy national highway and when you fire bullets into the tyre of a moving car which does not get out of the way, quickly enough, of the blue lighted car, then it is logical to conclude that objectively your intention is to kill or seriously injure the occupants of that car. You are therefore a killer. The fact that the occupants of that car were not killed, is not due to any kindness on your part. You are part of a killer squad.

Haiti an island in the Caribbean is known to the world for two things. One is that it was the first country in the world to have successfully waged a war for the liberation of its slaves. Under the leadership of Toussaint Louverture, a military genius, the slave army defeated France, the most powerful nation in the world. All freedom loving people in the world celebrate that event. But there are no special prizes for being the first country to defeat slavery.

The other is that history, in what appears to be an act of extreme malevolence, has subjected this country to almost perpetual strife, oppression of the worst kind and unbelievable poverty. As part of its ill-fortune, it was inflicted with the worst kind of dictatorship, none more notorious than the one under Papa Doc Duvalier. Under his dictatorship was formed the Ton Ton Macouttes.

This was the most feared squad of policemen, commonly referred to as “Duvalier’s Goons”. The source of fear of the Ton Ton Macoutes lay in the immunity granted to them *in advance* by Dictator Duvalier. This meant that whatever wrong they did or whatever law they broke, they were given immunity from legal action. Thus they arrested, tortured, killed and disposed of the evidence. There was no justice to bring to book the perpetrators of those vile deeds.

## Culture of Immunity and Impunity

At some stage after 1994 it was decided to provide MECs with protection by the South African Police for VIPs. These Police members were permitted to use flashing Blue Lights on the roads but only when there was an emergency. The flashing blue lights were intended to convey to other motorists, like the flashing lights and sirens of ambulances, that they needed leeway and will the motorists please oblige? It is totally unimaginable that if a motorist did not give way to an ambulance with flashing lights and blowing siren that the ambulance driver would pull out a gun and threaten the motorist!

So the flashing blue lights amount to a request to give way. Insofar as the pointing or threatening with a firearm is concerned, that is only permissible if there is a real danger to the VIP of physical harm or death. The firearm is provided to ward off danger to the VIP NOT TO FORCE A PERSON OFF THE PATH OF TRAVEL OF THE VIP VEHICLE!!

The matter of the Blue Lights vehicles received publicity in the local press on the day of the funeral of the late Rattray, expert on the Anglo-Zulu Wars. An irate motorist confronted the Premier Sbu Ndebele and gave him a tongue lashing for the dangerous driving of his flashing blue lights vehicle. The Premier was in a hurry to get to Rattray’s funeral. That could hardly be construed as an emergency since the man was already dead. That report opened the floodgates of complaints against the blue lighted VIP cars on the public roads. These VIP employees had become a law unto themselves. They behaved as if the roads were their private property. Drivers were forced to change lanes even though it was not safe to do so. Where the move to a different lane was not fast enough, a firearm was produced and illegally pointed at the slow driver.

These public complaints were brushed aside as complaints from racists who would not give way to a car driven by a black person. The Beki Celes of this world could do this because they considered themselves immune from prosecution.

This situation prevailed until the incident in November 2008 when Constable Khumalo, of the VIP guards of MEC Meshack Radebe, almost caused the death of eight persons when he, Khumalo shot the tyre of a car which he believed was not moving out of the way fast enough. This time the outcry was nationwide. A visit the next morning to the supermarket revealed blazing headlines in all the national papers including “The Sowetan” and “The Citizen” denouncing the incident.

## “Just push aside and shoot”

Mr Meshack Radebe, aforesaid, sought to explain:

“I am not condoning the VIP drivers behaviour, but I have experienced rude behaviour from motorists. They seldom give way and for no reason show rude signs. Others when they see us coming speed up and brake unexpectedly. Our drivers are trained to protect us. We are heading to elections and they need to ensure our safety. If a driver behaves like that, how do we know we are not being ambushed? ***Their reaction is to just push aside and shoot.***”<sup>6</sup>(Our emphasis and italics).

Quite a damning statement!

Let us test the validity of the MEC’s statement:

Since 1994, what are the statistics concerning:

- a) The number of attempted ambushes of MECs , MPLs, MPs, Cabinet ministers:
  - i) For the past five years
  - ii) For just before each of the last two elections?
- b) The number of actual ambushes of MECs, MPLs, MPs and Cabinet Ministers:
  - i) For the past five years
  - j) For just before each of the last two elections.

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<sup>6</sup> Sunday Tribune 23/11/08

The writer's recollection is that there have been no cases of attempted or actual ambushes. If the recollection is wrong, then at most there would have been just one or two.

So if there is no real threat of ambushes on the public roads, then why the need for the VIP guards to threaten other motorists with death just so that they can drive past. The shooting of the tyre was a direct consequence of the protective shield thrown round the VIP guards from prosecution or disciplinary action. If from the very beginning, stern and swift action was taken against VIP drivers, Constable Nxumalo would not have had the nerve to do what he did.

Conclusion:

The abuse of the blue lights and the blatantly illegal pointing of firearms at motorists who posed no danger to the drivers is nothing more than plain abuse of power. Power like anything potent has to be handled by persons trained in the application of power. There is a real danger of getting drunk on power. That is what has happened with the case of the bluelighted killer squads - the ANC's own Ton Ton Macouttes.

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**HOW PROXIMITY OF ELECTIONS HAS A  
PROFOUND CHANGE ON JITTERY  
POLITICIANS**

**In May 2008**, Ms Madlala's father was a passenger in her car which was hit at the rear end by car with flashing blue lights and travelling at high speed. Ms Madlala's father suffered serious injury. One thing led to another and her father died in September 2008. According to Ms Madlala, the driver was in the employment of one Meshack Radebe who is an MEC for Welfare in the Province of Kwazulu Natal. Apart from the driver who came with an explanation which amounted to a defence against negligence *nobody from the Provincial Government bothered to see her.*

**On the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008**, a car travelling on the national highway between Durban and Pietermaritzburg had its tyre shot by a VIP guard from a blue lighted vehicle. The car veered and collided with an oncoming bakkie. The eight suffered varying degrees of injuries. Coincidentally this blue lighted vehicle was also in the service of the aforesaid Meshack Radebe.

The law is clear on the legal obligations of the driver of the vehicle involved in a collision or causing one.

- To stop
- To render assistance if persons are injured
- To report the accident to the nearest police station.

The driver of the blue lighted car did none of those things. Instead he sped off to Meshack Radebe's house in Hillcrest near Durban. The latter then accompanied the shooter to the Camperdown police station.

The question is why did a member of the South African police need to be accompanied to the Police station by an MEC? More importantly, why did Meshack Radebe choose to accompany the culprit? Why did he not say to him : *You know the law. You are a policeman of three years standing. You go and report the accident.*"

There is little doubt that the MEC thought that his *august presence* at the police station would guarantee preferential and soft treatment for the culprit. As it happened his august presence did not prevent the arrest and detention of the culprit.

Unlike the case of Ms Madlala, on this occasion Mr. Meshack Radebe went to see the victims, and that too, within a matter of days! More than that Dr Zweli Mkhize the leader of the ANC in Kwazulu Natal issued a public statement expressing his solidarity with the victims.

Why the difference of approach to the victims?

## Professor Meer's clumsy politicking

Professor Meer who was once a high profile politician, had friends in very high places – both Mandelas, Archbishop Hurly etc. – was totally cast aside by the post 1994 politics. She was a direct victim of the Cabal led by Praveen Gordhan and Co.

Professor Meer did not endear herself to the cabal because she would not blindly follow a line. She did not forget to let them know that she was the professor and no half baked politician who was just a pharmacist would tell her about politics. She did not like toeing the line. For example she would not hesitate to give credit to the Unity Movement from public platforms when she believed it to be necessary.<sup>7</sup>

The cabal went to great lengths to humiliate her. On one occasion though billed to be a speaker at a meeting of a Congress aligned body, she was told that she was not welcome and sent packing.

There came a time when she was without high friends and was outside all her old organisations. She exchanged her high profile public position for that of a defender of the poor in certain local areas of Durban on issues of rent, eviction and cutting off of water supply. She had teamed up with activist Dr Ashwin Desai in fighting against the City Council.

Isolation, age and illness drew a curtain of seclusion and retirement. But recently she hit the headlines for suggesting the revival of the Natal Indian Congress as a home for persons of Indian origin.

Then came the Shikota Party followed by a visit to her by Patrick Lekota, an old friend and former UDF leader. There were discussions and then a statement by Lekota that Professor Meer supported the formation of COPE.

We assume that telephone calls must have been fast and furious from various quarters to Professor Meer. There was a statement from Logie Naidoo, Deputy Mayor of Durban and stooge of racist Obed Mlaba, describing Professor Meer as senile.

The sudden attention Professor Meer received including a visit from Dr Zweli Mkhize, Leader of the ANC in KZ Natal appears to have been too much for her. She must have believed that she was back to those glorious days when she was part of the centre making decisions. Thus she stated:

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<sup>7</sup> **In her student days, Professor Meer was a Unity Movement member**

“I hope to deepen my discussion with the leadership, particularly with regard to the concerns of civil society.”<sup>8</sup>

We honestly believe that Professor Meer is living in a dream world. The present leadership of the ANC, especially in Natal is in no mood to “deepen any discussion” with the likes of Professor Meer. If they had any respect for her, why have they not had any discussions with her for the last ten years. Has it not occurred to her and her political friends that the attention focussed on her is totally opportunistic. It is born of the fear that the ANC will lose the “Indian” vote to the DA or to COPE.

It is the same opportunistic motive which makes the MECs so solicitous about the victims of the vehicles using blue lights. People are sick and tired of the high handed behaviour and blatantly illegal behaviour of the blue light brigade. There have been numerous reports of that illegal conduct. The ANC leadership does nothing. In effect they have been telling the public: YOU CAN GO TO HELL!

But suddenly there is an election round the corner. The new dimension is the split in the ANC. Its monolithism has been destroyed. Given a certain combination of events, there is a possibility of electoral defeat in certain parts of the country. This has been giving the ANC sleepless nights.

Hence the ANC is going all out to project itself as a caring organisation; caring for the minority groups like the Indian population and caring about their marginalised members who have been dumped in political mental homes for the aged and the senile.

As we finalise the publishing of this issue, we learn about the multi-billion rand bribe the ANC intends offering the population by way of ***promises*** of additional grants, housing, increasing the percentage of fee-free schools etc. If the ANC genuinely wanted to alleviate the plight of the poor, why wait for the time just before the elections to make the announcement? What stopped it from doing it over the past 14 years?

To date no information is furnished as to where the many billions of rands are going to come from.

It looks like a promissory note from a person with a rotten track record when it comes to matters of honesty.

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<sup>8</sup> **The Witness: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2008**



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