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## RACIST SOLIDARITY GOES TO COURT ON THE NHI ROLLOUT

Health Minister Joe Phaahla has received a major boost from an unlikely ally in his efforts to roll out the National Health Insurance (NHI).

Solidarity, a self-styled pressure group with an unmatched record of advancing the interests of the white tribe, especially the Afrikaner section, has come out to launch a court challenge to stop implementation of the NHI.



But how does this proposed court challenge to stop NHI amount to support of the Universal Healthcare Coverage plan? It was Pan Africanist revolutionary leader Kwame Touré who taught us “to oppose what the enemy supports, and to support what the enemy opposes”. So, when a group that has consistently fought against the advancement of the interest of Black people, especially the poor, it is safe to conclude when it opposes a plan, that plan should be in the interests of the poor.

In AZAPO, we have always insisted that we should always be on the watch-out of whites who profess to love us, hence we coined the slogan: Phansi na mabhunu as'thandayo!

In their own words, Solidarity told the media in a statement issued by Dirk Hermann: “The government has already failed with the public healthcare system, and it now wants to fail on an even bigger scale.

“It has a history of failure regarding State enterprises, and there is no reason to believe the proposed NHI would not be to the severe detriment of South Africans.”

“We cannot trust the government, and we cannot deliver our medical professionals to them and trust our health to their hand. This is going to be a major court battle.”

Solidarity has also claimed that the implementation of the NHI will lead to the exodus of health professionals from the healthcare system in the country. What he is not telling us is that it is his ilk who have been spreading the “swart gevaar” message to the white tribe that creates a fertile ground for professionals to leave the country.

The main reason Solidarity is opposed to the NHI is that they want the private healthcare system to continue to provide healthcare to the rich, the majority of whom are white. They want the private

healthcare system to continue to unfairly benefit from the huge investments that the State makes in training health professionals and also through support of the private health facilities by medical aid schemes that are paid for by the State.

Solidarity knows that they cannot openly say they do not want the poor or more directly, Black people, in white private healthcare facilities. The racial discrimination, which was lawful, has now been reinforced with class discrimination. Black people would be denied access to the white private healthcare facilities by cost. Solidarity prefers a separate system where the State does not interfere with the provision of healthcare in the white community. This separate but equal dogma is exactly what the NHI should destroy.

While Solidarity is preparing to launch a court challenge to oppose the NHI, those on the left should ready themselves to launch a court challenge not only to support the NHI but also to expose the possible limitations of the NHI. The government should not be intimidated into giving in to the concerns of the private healthcare providers to the extent that NHI becomes a vehicle to channel public funds into private hospitals and clinics. Radical policies should be crafted to close loop holes that can undermine the implementation of the NHI and reduce it to a potent tool to make private health facilities more prosperous at the expense of the public healthcare system.

But for now, Phaahla should welcome the opposition of his plan by Solidarity as a sign that he is on the right path.

## PARLIAMENT'S BEMUSING RESPONSE TO CHIEF JUSTICE ZONDO'S REMARKS ON THE STATE OF CAPTURE COMMISSION REPORT

Chief Justice Raymond Zondo has angered some in Parliament when he publicly stated that if some people were to do what the Guptas did in capturing the State, Parliament would not be able

to stop them.

In other words, Zondo was saying that despite releasing his report on the State of Capture more than a year ago, there is no mechanism that has been established to prevent State Capture. He was blunt.

His comments have angered Parliament that a statement had to be issued, accusing Zondo of undermining another arm of the State. There was a report that the Speaker of Parliament would lead a delegation of the House to meet Zondo over his remarks.



If Zondo is wrong and Parliament has indeed developed a mechanism to prevent State Capture, the easiest thing for Parliament would be to challenge the Chief Justice's utterances by providing the evidence of such a mechanism. The unmeasured response by Parliament which amounts to an attack on the Chief Justice, suggests that Zondo has a point.

But a statement released by Parliament was scathing. It said: "We believe that utilising the established channels to address any concerns he may have regarding Parliament's implementation of the Commission's recommendations would have been more appropriate. It is not the place of a Chief Justice to make such public remarks unless and until he is required to adjudicate on a matter with impartiality."

“The principle of separation of powers is fundamental to our democracy, and it requires each branch of government to respect the roles and responsibilities of the others. Chief Justice Zondo’s public attack on Parliament encroaches on this doctrine.”

But Parliament missed an opportunity to demonstrate to the public that it is as concerned about State Capture issues as Zondo is. The statement attacking Zondo exposed Parliament as an institution that cares little about corruption and the abuse of the State for self-enrichment by politicians and their allies in the private sector.

But perhaps the real issue is that any faith in Parliament is misplaced. After all, this is the same Parliament that enabled State Capture. It is the same Parliament dominated by the ruling party that defended the plundering of public funds. It is the same people who told South Africans that the swimming pool in Nkandla was actually a fire pool, which was a security feature.

Obviously, those who created the problem cannot be the same people who solve it. As 2024 is approaching, those who want real accountability and an end to blatant corruption, should use the only power they have to effect real change: the power of the vote.

## A BEFITTING BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION TO THABILE MANGENA

Last Saturday the Honorary President of AZAPO Cde Mosibudi Mangena and his children – Nqobile and Pheto – hosted a birthday party for his wife, Thabile, at their home in Polokwane.

The party was attended by close relatives and a few prominent members of AZAPO such as President Cde Nelvis Oekema, National Chairperson Simphiwe Hashe, former AZAPO President Cde Strike Thokoane and AZAPO stalwart Cde Don Nkadimeng.

Although the party was largely a private family affair, it offered serious insights into the role that Thabile played in the struggle for the liberation of Azania. As the Honorary President related the story of their love, it became obvious that Thabile is arguably the most unsung heroine of the Azanian struggle.

The young couple met before Mangena was arrested and sent to Robben Island in 1973 for his political activities. Mangena was the first Black Consciousness activist to be jailed on Robben Island.



The forced separation of the incarceration of Mangena did not extinguish the flame as Thabile’s undying love for Mangena continued. She visited him regularly in prison.

On his release in 1978, Mangena was banished to Mahwelereng, a township outside Mokopane. He said when he informed her that he had been banished to Mahwelereng, she did not even know where that was but within days, she came.

Because Mangena was not allowed to live with anyone in the two-roomed house, Thabile had to stay with neighbours when she visited him.

Mangena said Thabile, who was a teacher based in Soweto, would visit him every Friday without fail. Later, the couple tied the knot in a wedding

that had only two people, the priest and a witness, Mathatha Tsedu.

As if it was not enough to wait for five years for Mangena to be released from prison, in 1980 he told her that he had received instructions from the organisation to leave for exile to form the Black Consciousness Movement of Azania (BCMA).

When the Mangenas left the country, their first born, Nqobile, was an infant. They left for Botswana in Thabile's car and Mangena was carrying Nqobile, while seated in the backseat.

Life in exile was tough. They first settled in Dukwe, a refugee camp in Botswana. Later they were allocated a house which had nothing. No bed, no curtains. Nothing. Thabile who was pregnant with Pheto slept on the cement floor.

Speaking at the party, Mangena thanked Thabile for her undying love and unwavering support.

"She slept on the cement floor and never once did she complain. She has always supported me, and I would not have done what I have been able to do without her support," said Mangena.

Thabile later found a job as a teacher in Zimbabwe and the family moved to Harare. She was the one who was supporting the family throughout.

The Mangenas returned to South Africa after exiles were forced home following the negotiations between the regime and a section of the liberation movement that led to the 1994 elections.

While Mangena continued with his role of political activism in AZAPO, becoming its President at the merger congress of the BCMA and AZAPO in Shaft 17 Conference and Education Centre, Crown Mines, Thabile had to find employment to continue to support the family.

The unassuming yet strong Thabile was full of praise for her husband in her speech. She said when he finally got his first job as an MP after the 1999 election, he told her to stop working so that

he could support her.

She said they were still in love as they were when they met in the early 1970s.

Mangena even sang the lyrics from the couple's favourite song: You Get Me by Angela and Tom

Crazy people, we can make really good friends  
That's why we let each other in  
With you beside me, I never have to pretend  
To be stronger, I finally belong here

And I don't feel alone anymore  
You get me and I get you  
Together there's really nothing we can't do  
I've got your back and I've got yours too  
Yeah, you get me and I'm pretty sure that I get you

On the inside I dreamed I was part of a crowd  
But on the outside I wasn't allowed  
All I wanted is just to be where we are now  
Yeah, it's better  
And I know I'll never ever feel alone anymore

You get me (Get me) and I get you (Oh)  
Together there's really nothing we can't do  
I've got your back and I've got yours too  
Yeah, you get me and I'm pretty sure that I get you

I finally have someone to lean on (Someone to lean on)  
And you have someone to lean on too (To lean on too)  
To lean on too

Their story is a tale of total commitment to serve the country and its people. It is a true story of people who gave their lives for freedom and liberation without expecting anything in return. In celebrating Mama Thabile, we honour the best in ourselves. We wish her more years as she continues to inspire us to be better people and to want to serve the country.