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## LETTERS

March 10 - March 16 2006

### DA is getting stronger

In her analysis of the 2006 local election results (March 3), Vicki Robinson reached the premature conclusion that support for the Democratic Alliance had dropped and that the DA had once again failed to make inroads in the townships.

A proper post-election analysis shows that the opposite is true: in 2006, the DA improved significantly on its 2004 performance and managed to increase its black support.

The DA increased its national percentage by 4%, from 12,3% in 2004 to 16,3% in 2006. In contrast, the African National Congress's national support dropped 4% from 69,69% in 2004 to 65,67%.

The DA also enjoyed a far bigger increase in support than any other opposition party. The United Democratic Movement and the African Christian Democratic Party lost support, while the Inkatha Freedom Party, Independent Democrats and the Freedom Front Plus made only marginal gains: 0,59%, 0,48% and 0,06% respectively.

The ID managed only 2,2% of the vote nationally, with its share of the vote decreasing in all provinces bar three. In the Western Cape, where the media-bestowed moniker of "kingmaker" has exaggerated perceptions of the ID's strength, the ID only increased its percentage share of the vote by 2,7%. In contrast, the DA enjoyed a net percentage increase in the province of 12,17%.

The IFP remains significant only in KwaZulu-Natal, where it garnered 38,5% of the vote -- 1,7% less than its share of the vote there in 2004. The FF+ showed that it is hardly an opposition at all with only 0,95% of the vote nationally.

In addition, initial evidence suggests that the DA has made inroads into the townships. The Cape Town results, for example, show that the DA increased its support significantly among black voters, from 1% in 2004 to 3,3% in 2006. If one considers that the Western Cape is traditionally an area where the DA performs worst among black voters, then this is an encouraging sign indeed.

While much work remains to be done, the DA is confident that the ANC's dominance is not as assured as is often believed, and that talk of a racial ceiling capping the DA's support is an insult to the intelligence of South African voters. -- *Ryan Coetzee, MP, CEO of the DA*

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## Today



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reproduce the cycle of violence. -- *Steven Robins, Newlands*

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It is outrageous to suggest Israel is like apartheid South Africa; there are several differences.

Firstly, the average yearly temperature in Israel is 19,4°C, whereas in South Africa it is 15,7°C. Secondly, Israel is in the northern hemisphere, while South Africa is in the southern. In Israel the main working language is Hebrew, whereas in South Africa it is not. And, most importantly, in South Africa, oppression has come to an end; in Israel/Palestine it is still going on. -- *Michael Prytz*

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### **Makgoba must stop blaming others**

Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, the vice-chancellor of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, in crudely attempting to justify his actions or lack thereof, has distorted fact and presented his peculiar interpretation of the world as truth.

He has tried to scapegoate me and others when defending himself over the spate of needless controversies wracking the university. It would be imprudent to dignify his chauvinism and arcane reasoning with a rational response.

The "ban" on Ashwin Desai was properly lifted, he was duly appointed as a lecturer, and all records/documents during my one-year term at the University of Durban-Westville reside with the current university leadership.

Makgoba should focus on the job of creating a premier university of African scholarship and not be stuck in the past or blame others for his wilful conduct. -  
- *Saths Cooper*

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### **Where will it end?**

In response to David Cesarani's comment on David Irving (March 3), I quote from Michael Shermer's book, *Denying History: Who Says the Holocaust Never Happened and Why Do They Say It?*

"Austria's treatment of Irving as a political dissident should offend the same people who defend the rights of political cartoonists to express their opinion of Islamic terrorists ... Why aren't freedom lovers everywhere offended by Irving's conviction?"

Once the laws are in place to jail Holocaust dissidents, what's to stop them from spreading to those who dissent against religious or political histories, or to any scepticism that deviates from the accepted canon? -- *Susan Gillam, Johannesburg*

### **Letters previously published**

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#### **2005**