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Cyril's tough choices

Bathabile Dlamini and Mabuza may be casualties as new cabinet takes shape

By **QAANITAH HUNTER** and **SIBONGAKONKE SHOBA**

Deputy President David Mabuza could be a surprise omission and women's minister Bathabile Dlamini might be axed from President Cyril Ramaphosa's leaner, restructured cabinet. The president will announce his new cabinet either on Saturday after his inauguration or on Sunday.

Dlamini's exclusion would send shock waves through ANC circles as she holds the powerful position of ANC Women's League president. The league will meet today to discuss deployments and formalise its position that 50% of the executive must be women.

Water & sanitation minister Nomvula Mokonyane is also unlikely to return.

A source close to Ramaphosa said he was willing to risk retribution from the women's league and other structures that support Dlamini, but has made up his mind that she cannot be part of his new cabinet.

Ramaphosa will meet the women's league today, when he is expected to give it an assurance that women will be in the majority in his cabinet, but make no commitment about Dlamini's fate.

"He will say to the women's league, are you fighting for all women or are you fighting for an individual? He's going to show them that the majority of his cabinet will be women," said the source, who sits in the ANC national working committee and has intimate knowledge of discussions about the new cabinet.

Other influential insiders in the president's inner circle said he is adamant the women's ministry must remain, however.

Those who are assured a spot in Ramaphosa's cabinet include fresh faces such as David Masedo, Ronald Lamola and Zizi Kodwa. ANC elections head Filile Mbalula is also set for a return to the cabinet, this time as human settlements minister.

Premiers

Contacted yesterday, Dlamini said she would not comment on her possible axing from the cabinet.

"I will do what the ANC says I must do. I don't want to speak further than this because the feeling is when I respond I am arrogant and defensive," she said to the Sunday Times.

Dlamini said the fight for a balanced cabinet "is not a fight for ourselves but it is a fight for other women".

She confirmed that the women's league is expected to meet today to discuss gender parity in the cabinet.

"We are going to be talking to the officials on Sunday after our meeting," said Dlamini.

Dlamini took a swipe at the ANC for how it has handled the deployment of premiers. She said discussions about women empowerment and development take place in the party "as if men are natural leaders". The cri-

OUT?



Nomvula Mokonyane

IN



Ronald Lamola, above, and David Masedo.



TITO TIMES TWO

Tito Mboweni is tipped to stay on as finance minister in President Cyril Ramaphosa's slimline new cabinet. Earlier this year, Mboweni told economists he would not return to the National Treasury after the elections, but he later backtracked. This week he refused to deny speculation by economists and analysts that he would extend his seven-month tenure. "It has not been offered to me. It's speculative," he said. Moody's, the credit ratings agency, warned this week that the composition of Ramaphosa's new administration, expected to be unveiled after his inauguration on Saturday, would be a key factor in its decisions on SA's rating.

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teria for leadership, she said, do not accommodate women.

"The president is the leader of the ANC and fortunately in the NEC [national executive committee meeting on Monday] he was not hard. He ended up summarising the meeting in favour of women," Dlamini said.

Five of the premier candidates announced by the ANC on Monday are men and two are women. There is still wrangling over the candidate for the eighth province held by the ANC, the North West, with a hard push for it to be a woman.

It is understood that the women's league was adamant that current incumbent Job Mokgoro cannot stay on as North West premier. It suggested Pinky Moloi instead.

The NEC rejected her because of her poor track record as mayor of Dr Kenneth Kaunda district municipality. This week the province's leaders met to find a female candidate for premier.

Ramaphosa's spokesperson, Khuseka Diko, said: "The president is unequivocal in his resolve to ensure that women find concrete expression in positions of leadership and responsibility, not only within the executive but the state as a whole, as well as in the private sector."

Mashatile and Mabuza

Meanwhile, the Sunday Times has learnt from multiple sources in and outside of the government that a deal is being brokered that could result in Mabuza moving to Luthuli House as the party's highest-ranking full-time functionary, with ANC treasurer-general Paul Mashatile taking his place in the Union Buildings. The top-secret deal is said to be brokered by Mashatile, aided by Nkenke Kekana, chair of the NEC subcommittee on communications.

Mashatile had not responded to questions at the time of going to press. Kekana was unavailable for comment.

Those with intimate knowledge of the matter said Mabuza was extremely reluctant to go back to the Union Buildings, preferring to rather consolidate his power base in the ANC, especially in his home province of Mpumalanga. They also cited health concerns as a reason he prefers to operate from ANC headquarters.

Others said this was unfounded speculation intended to influence the composition of Ramaphosa's executive. A long-serving NEC member told the Sunday Times, on condition of anonymity, that he had heard about Mabuza's intention not to go back to the Union Buildings and confronted a senior party leader close to the deputy president about this.

"He said there is no substance to it. All I know is that he [Mabuza] was worried about the integrity commission report so he did not want to compromise the president," said the party leader.

Another NEC member with close ties to the president said this could be a ploy by Mabuza and Mashatile to take over the presidency in 2022. "The third way that they presented before Nasrec has not died. They feel they can still take over the presidency. They are just getting into a battle they won't win. The high levels of confidence in no 1 [Ramaphosa] will make it impossible to re-



President of the ANC Women's League Bathabile Dlamini. Picture: Esa Alexander

BIG STORY



Martin Levick

Creditors hunt for Levick's gems

Custom jewellery worth more than R3m is the latest target of creditors who have lodged claims of R712m against the estate of business person Martin Levick.

Levick, 49, who faces a final sequestration order in the Johannesburg high court on June 4, commissioned the diamond-studded items from the family-run Segal Jewellery business in Johannesburg for his wife Leigh.

The Segals, who say their R3.25m bill has not been paid, have also accused Levick – former CEO of the Genesis Capital Group – of "misappropriating" R420m they invested.

Attorney Saul Shoot said the sheriff who seized Levick's assets had been unable to find the jewellery, which includes earrings and a necklace.

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INSIDE



SA's unequal view

"This is how we don't want the world to look." Cape Town photographer Johnny Miller might have made it to the cover of Time magazine with his Unequal Scenes drone shots of SA's dismal dichotomies, but he's not carried away by his global success.

Instead, the anthropologist is determined that his work must change the world he inhabits. "This project is about justice that has not been executed, or executed poorly, and how to fix that," he said.

"I see myself as a moderate activist, someone who targets people in the middle classes, who look like me and sound like me. We all have a role to play in pushing for change."

See Insight

Sad, and absurd, end to TV phenomenon 'Thrones'

By **KATHARINE CHILD**

There have been quizzes, dinners, dress-up evenings, 3am wake-up calls, office debates, books, blogs, games, social media posts and much more ... but at 3am tomorrow it will be game over.

That's when *Game of Thrones* fans can watch the sixth and final episode of the eighth and final series of the most expensive TV drama ever made.

"It will be like losing a part of myself," said Fazeliah Williams of Sea Point, in Cape Town. She said she had dedicated 10 years of her life to the show, and has more *Thrones* ap-



parel "than should be allowed".

"I will grieve the loss of this huge part of my life for a very long time. So much of my identity and friendships are wrapped up in the *Game of Thrones*."

Hout Bay resident Leonie Mollentze said she had spent 10 years reading George RR Martin's *A Song of Ice and Fire* fantasy novels and watching the TV series. Mollentze calls herself a "super-fan" who has "lived the story, characters and magic since the beginning".

Lifestyle blogger Lelo Boyana began watching the first seven series only in February in anticipation of the final sea-

Kit Harington is Jon Snow and Emilia Clarke is Daenerys Targaryen in *Game of Thrones*. Picture: Helen Sloan/HBO

son, "putting aside three weeks to watch and watch it after work", and going to bed at 2am.

She woke at 3am to watch the first two episodes of season eight but decided 5am was more palatable, as long as she checked her phone and social media only afterwards, to avoid spoilers.

"It was so brilliant for so long," said Boyana, who started a *Game of Thrones* podcast with Sunday Times Lifestyle editor Pearl Boshomane.

"It was a lesson on how to make really, really brilliant TV. Each episode was like a movie. And it is a global phenomenon: I was in the Eastern Cape, people from Norway were on holiday there and we were having a *Game of Thrones* conversation."

Close to a million people have signed a petition in the last week calling on the makers, HBO, to reshoot the final season.

"This series deserves a final season that makes sense," the petition said, but a Norwegian business website said a remake could cost about \$150m (R2bn).

Fans were angry with the rushed and "unbelievable" ending. The Rotten Tomatoes website rated the second-last episode the lowest rated in the show's history.

Williams was among the disappointed. "The last few episodes have upset me greatly because while they were visually mind-blowing, the plotlines have verged on the absurd," she said.

"Characters' arcs have been rushed and abandoned with no thought given to the audience who love those characters."

"I've resigned myself to the fact that the final episode will not live up to my expectations, so all I want for now is to say goodbye to a series that has meant so much to me and the world."

Too few black profs

Universities admit they deserve a black mark for the number of black academics in their law faculties. Twelve years after a former dean of law at the University of Pretoria,

Christof Heyns, pictured, described the racial composition of faculty staff as indefensible, he said: "We are still far from where we should be."

White professors and associate professors still form the majority in seven law faculties surveyed by the Sunday Times this week. And whites make up almost half of all academics.

The universities said the low number of black academics in law faculties was not for lack of trying, blaming a small talent pool and inability to offer competitive salaries.

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