

GOLD from only R100 a month!



Contact us and see why South Africans get involved with...

INVESTGOLD.co.za

031 830 5345 (DUR)
011 484 1196 (JHB)
021 530 5340 (CPT)

SINCE 1852

THE MERCURY

WITH BUSINESSREPORT

GET A HEAD START

Dbn 15/24
Pmb 12/22
SEE PAGE 24

R6.50 incl. VAT
R5.53 for subscribers

9 771016 821002

KEARSNEY EASTER RUGBY FESTIVAL 2014

17, 19 and 21 March

12 of SA's top rugby schools

Standard Bank www.kearsney.com

www.themercury.co.za Tuesday, April 15, 2014 @TheMercurySA

Zuma has set the ANC back **BACKGROUND** ▶ P8

Gogo gets a doctorate **NEWS** ▶ P3

The new Master of Augusta **GOLF** ▶ P11

We cover, compensate and rehabilitate road accident victims - Share Call Centre 0860 23 55 23



IT'S TREACHEROUS, SAY MINISTERS

Fury at Kasrils for 'no vote'

Tebogo Monama and Lebogang Seale

TWO former ministers have found themselves on the receiving end of the government's wrath over their "no vote" campaign against the ANC.

Yesterday, the security cluster of ministers branded former intelligence minister Ronnie Kasrils and ex-deputy health minister Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge and their group "irresponsible and treacherous" for their "Sidikiwe! Vukani! (We are fed-up! Awake!) Vote No" campaign.

"Let us remember that over the years since 1994, NGOs and the IEC (Independent Electoral Commission) have spent a lot of resources teaching people how to exercise their right to vote," said current Defence Minister, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula.

"It is treacherous that after all that work and money spent, people want to encourage South Africans to go to the ballot box and spoil votes. It is irresponsible."

However, political analyst Moeletsi Mbeki said while he was surprised at Kasrils's move, he could not blame him for his decision. He said the move showed Kasrils's disgust at the extent to which the ANC had "drifted astray, morally and ethically."

He said: "I was in one of the ANC camps in Tanzania with Ronnie Kasrils and he is one of the most committed members of the ANC. He obviously thinks the ANC has gone astray, especially on Nkandla."

"So even the most dedicated of members who risk their lives like Kasrils feel disgusted about taking this scandal of taxpayers' money and paying (for) an individual's palace."

"It's total abuse of the so-called national key point."

The aim of the "no vote" campaign, to be launched at Wits University today, is to encourage struggle veterans and other citizens to go to the polling stations on May 7 and spoil their ballots by writing "No" on them. This is to protest against corruption and current government policies.

'Betrayal'

Addressing journalists about election preparations in Pretoria yesterday, Mapisa-Nqakula said the action by Kasrils and his group was "a betrayal" of what the ANC fought for: "The person should have come out and said, 'I am not going to vote.' This is a betrayal of what we fought for."

Correctional Services Minister S'bu Ndebele was more scathing, daring Kasrils and Madlala-Routledge to start their own political party and contest the elections instead of calling for spoilt votes.

"They have no courage to put up an alternative. Our constitution gives you the right to start your own party. This is an irresponsible stance by those who do not have the courage to stand for something."

Earlier, Public Service and Administration Minister Lindiwe



KASRILS



MADLALA-ROUTLEDGE

Sisulu also criticised Kasrils and Madlala-Routledge.

"Let's concentrate on the story of good (service) delivery. What they are talking about is issues of personal interest. It's just a bad smell in a wind. Maybe they must say which branch they belong to and when was the last time they attended a meeting," Sisulu said, speaking on the sidelines of an ANC breakfast meeting with journalists in Joburg.

Kasrils could not be reached for comment, but he said in a radio interview yesterday that he had not renewed his ANC membership since 2009.

Asked for comment, ANC spokesman Jackson Mthembu said: "We are concentrating on our good story and taking South Africa forward. We don't want to be distracted."

The ANC Youth League said it would consider filing a formal complaint against Kasrils and his group. "We remind Ronnie Kasrils that he became who he is because of the ANC... If Uncle Ronnie continues to be troublesome, we shall allow proper characterisation of Ronnie Kasrils to be known and he will age a very bitter and angry man who only have (sic) himself to blame," the league said.

● The call for voters to spoil their ballot papers would be a wasted opportunity, the African Christian Democratic Party said.

"Spoilt votes, although they express dissatisfaction, still keep the same party in place," ACDP chairwoman Jo-Ann Downs said.

"Citizens must be proactive, and instead of only expressing their unhappiness, they should change the government... Their vote is their only opportunity to do that."

Those who were unhappy with the ANC should not vote for them, she said.



Vietnamese pop singer Thu Minh, who lives in Ho Chi Minh City, gets up close to two white rhinos in the 21 000ha Shamwari Game Reserve near Port Elizabeth. PICTURE: WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

Vietnamese pop duo to help stop horror of rhino poaching

Tony Carmie

WITH more than 3 million Facebook friends between them, Vietnamese pop stars Thu Minh and Thanh Bui are hoping they can help turn the tide against rhino poaching before these creatures become extinct.

The two singers, who have spent the past week at the Shamwari Game Reserve outside Port Elizabeth, are already working on a song to subtly raise awareness about the South African rhino poaching crisis in their home country of 90 million people, most of whom are under 30.

"We will have to be incredibly sensitive about how we go about this. We can't just go and sing something like 'Save the Rhino' or 'Stop using rhino horn powder.' If it is too blunt or too cheesy, it could backfire," said Australian-born Bui, whose parents fled Vietnam in 1982.

Two years ago, Bui moved permanently to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) after his music career took off and he gained a major following in his parents' home country.

Minh, also from Ho Chi Minh City, said the experience of seeing and touching a rhino in the wild

lands of Africa had made a deep impression on her.

"I felt its heartbeat and the warmth of its body when one of the rhinos was immobilised at Shamwari for a DNA test. When I came to South Africa this week, I really was not sure that I would be able to deal with this issue when I got back in Vietnam. But now I am a lot more confident about telling the real story about rhinos in my shows and talk shows."

Bui and Minh can attract up to 90 000 likes on a single posting on the social media page.

Honour

Andrew Muir, the chief executive of the Wilderness Foundation which helped sponsor the visit, said various strategies had been used to stem the tide of rhino poaching during the past six years.

Some of the experiments had included de-horning animals or deliberately tainting horns with poison and indelible dye.

"But we also have to look at new strategies to try to reduce the demand in Vietnam and China through education campaigns and by communicating with people in the countries where most of the horns go to."

"We are the global custodians of more than 80 percent of the remaining rhinos in the world - but we cannot solve this problem on our own in South Africa," he said.

"We also realise that trying to reduce demand for rhino horn will not bring overnight solutions. It is going to take a long time and a lot of work to try to turn the wheel around."

Speaking at a media briefing in Port Elizabeth yesterday, Bui and Minh said neither of them had ever consumed or even seen rhino horn in Vietnam.

"But we have heard many stories from our friends about how rhino horn is becoming a symbol of wealth and power, or myths on how it can be used to cure impotence or cancer," said Bui.

"We will have to think carefully about how to massage our message and how to reach the elite sections of the population that use rhino horn. But I think we have to stress that we are part of the international community and that Vietnam can lead the way in stopping this problem."

Minh said: "The whole world is looking in horror at what we are doing to rhinos. It has to stop for the sake of the rhinos and for the honour of Vietnam."

A helping hand to pay bills

STOCKHOLM: Hand scanning had become an alternative payment method for people in a city in southern Sweden, researchers at Lund University said yesterday.

Vein scanning terminals have been installed in 15 shops and restaurants in Lund thanks to an engineering student who came up with the idea two years ago while waiting in line to pay.

Some 1 600 people have signed up already for the system, which its creator says is not only faster but also safer than traditional payment methods.

"Every individual's vein pattern is completely unique, so there really is no way of committing fraud with this

system," researcher Fredrik Leifland said. "You always need your hand scanned for a payment to go through."

While vein scanning technology existed previously, it has not been used as a form of payment before.

"We had to connect all the players ourselves, which was quite complex: the vein scanning terminals, the banks, the stores and the customers," he added.

To sign up users have to visit a shop or restaurant with a terminal, where they scan their palm three times and enter their social security and telephone numbers. A text message is then sent to their cellphone with an activation link to a website. - Sapa-AFP

Banksy spies on spooks' headquarters



The street art piece, thought to be a Banksy, that appeared in Cheltenham, England, on Sunday. PICTURE: AP

GLoucestershire: Residents of a street in Gloucestershire believe they may have had a visit from Banksy after a mural appeared on the side of a house.

The artwork in Cheltenham surrounds a BT telephone box and shows three men dressed as 1950s spies in trenchcoats and trilby hats. They are depicted carrying listening devices.

Residents said they saw men packing away a large white tarpaulin at around 7.30am on Sunday, before driving off in a maintenance van.

The location of the mural appears to be deliberate - Cheltenham is home to the headquarters of the government's

intelligence agency, Government Communications Headquarters.

News of the new addition to the street has attracted visitors, many of whom believe the graffiti bears the hallmarks of the elusive street artist.

Banksy uses stencils and graffiti to make comments about society. He has yet to confirm the piece on his website but fans say it has the 'narrative, style and execution' of his work.

The artwork follows the spying revelations by the National Security Agency's whistleblower Edward Snowden, which have put US and UK intelligence agencies under the spotlight. - orange news



It's not over yet.

We've extended our fantastic offer on C-Class models. For a limited time only you can still get an unbeatable R60 000 off the price of a C-Class, plus you could qualify for an extra R10 000 trade-in assistance. If you missed out on this offer the first time, now is your chance to take advantage. Contact the numbers below for more information.

Offer valid up until 30 April 2014 on C-Class sedan only.

Mercedes-Benz

Standard with PremiumDrive Maintenance Plan. Finance Provided by Mercedes-Benz Finance and *Insurance, a division of Mercedes-Benz Financial Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd., an Authorised Financial Services Provider (Licence no. 18 604) and Credit Provider (Licence no. NCRCP80). *Underwritten by either Regent Insurance Company Ltd. (FSB. 25 511) or Alexander Forbes Insurance Company Ltd. (Licence no. 30414). Vehicle specifications may vary for the South African Market. Participating Dealers only.

Mercedes-Benz Brand Centre Dealer of the Year 2014, 2013, 2012
Mercedes-Benz Umhlanga 2 Canegate Road, La Lucia Ridge, Tel: 087 943 4910
Mercedes-Benz Durban 190 Old Fort Road, Durban, Tel: 087 943 4911
NMI-DSM Pinetown 147 Old Main Road, Pinetown, Tel: 087 943 4912