

Ukraine divides SA leaders

Ramaphosa, Pandor differ over country's stance

By **George Matlala and Sandile Motha**

Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Naledi Pandor is on a collision course with President Cyril Ramaphosa after her pronouncement on the war in Ukraine, as fears deepen that the move will cause a diplomatic fallout between Russia and South Africa.

Sunday World understands Ramaphosa was unhappy with Pandor's announcement that Russian forces should withdraw from Ukraine.

It has emerged that during his visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo on Thursday, Ramaphosa was briefed by Pandor that she would release a statement on the war in Ukraine.

The Presidency had assumed Pandor would share the contents of the statement, only to be shocked when she called for Russian President Vladimir Putin to withdraw his troops from Ukraine.

Pandor had initially affirmed that the country's approach would be to encourage dialogue between the two parties, which has been at the heart of South Africa's foreign policy when it comes to conflicts.

"The president was caught by surprise. The president is not happy. Naledi is costing us," a source in diplomatic circles said.

On Tuesday, Pandor said South Africa was calling for



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the trenches as Russia continues its war against his country. Ukraine army/Social Media

the easing of tensions between Russia and Ukraine, encouraging "all the parties to strengthen all diplomatic efforts to avoid an escalation of tensions, and work towards an inclusive, sustainable and peaceful solution based on cooperation and dialogue".

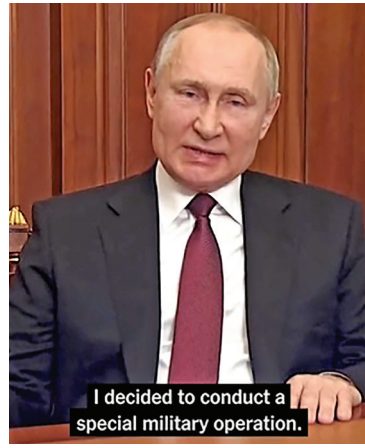
But on Thursday she changed the country's stance, saying "South Africa calls on Russia to immediately withdraw its forces from Ukraine in line with the United Nations (UN) Charter."

After the statement's release, one of Ramaphosa's advisors, Bejani Chauke, took to social

media to differ with Pandor as her statement had caused serious concerns in the Presidency.

Ramaphosa had to use the meeting of the inaugural inter-governmental national litigation forum to do damage control on Friday. He called for mediation in Ukraine, saying anything is possible through negotiations – a reaffirmation of the country's initial position of calling for dialogue.

It has come to light that the Russians were up in arms over South Africa's position on the matter. *Sunday World* under-



Russian President Vladimir Putin. / Russian Embassy in SA

stands a delegation of Russian leaders was scheduled to meet one of Ramaphosa's aides today.

Meanwhile, hopelessness and anguish best sums up the state of mind of about 6000 Ukrainians living in South Africa. They are engulfed by fear that what they used to call home in their native land has been reduced to rubble as Russia's deadly invasion rages on.

Dzvinka Chakur, chairperson of the Ukrainian Association of South Africa, describes the past few days as heart-wrenching, saying the organisation has been inundated with calls from desperate Ukrainians wanting to know whether the families they left behind are safe.

"This is a full-scale war, and the situation is severe. Our families have been displaced as homes are being bombed. Some have lost their lives and some are about to lose their lives. The impact will be a massive humanitarian crisis, which will

be inherited by generations to come," Chakur said.

"We are receiving calls from those who are displaced asking for food donations," she said.

She relayed the horror of having to watch visuals of the attacks on TV and keeping tabs on their loved ones, praying their lives are spared.

She said the world did not yet understand what was at the centre of their conflict with Russia, saying theirs was about key principles. "These are principles of sovereignty and the principle of respect for human rights."

Chakur said Ukrainians in South Africa wanted the government to allow their family members to be reunited with them without having to apply for visas. "We understand that the South African embassy in Ukraine is currently not functioning, so they can't apply for visas," she said.

Another Ukrainian living in South Africa, Galyna Kovalenko, said she was devastated to hear Russian forces had destroyed her family home. "My mother and my two sisters were able to escape unharmed and managed to flee to Slovakia. What I would like is to unite with them in a peaceful place like South Africa."

Putin defied the UN's call to desist from starting what could be a potential world war and launched a sweeping invasion of the eastern European country.

The conflict was triggered by the two countries not seeing eye-to-eye on the status of Crimea and parts of the Donbas, which are internationally recognised as part of Ukraine.



Former MP Nono Maloyi has been named the strongest contender by an analyst.

North West factions take the field

Legitimacy of IPC to convene conference called into question

By **Obakeng Maje**

Factions in the North West are preparing to take legal action against the convening of the ANC provincial conference, which is scheduled for the end of March.

As the ruling party prepares for its national elective confer-

ence in December, provinces are expected to convene their elective conferences by June.

The party's North West interim provincial committee (IPC), led by Hlumani Chauke, is facing a rebellion from some structures that are questioning its legitimacy to convene a conference.

Joe Mboweni, ANC provincial list committee representative in North West, said constitutionally and legally speaking the lifespan of the current IPC had lapsed and its legitimacy was questionable.

"The delegation that will participate in that conference from the branches will also be illegitimate. It is unfortunate that we have raised this matter, but we were ignored because people are taken up by nostalgia, hype and euphoria of getting to the conference," he said.

Mboweni said the ANC should save itself the embarrassment because allowing the current IPC to convene an elective conference would be futile.

His sentiments were echoed by Lopang Rothman, who

was a member of the disbanded ANC provincial executive committee (PEC) and the regional chairperson of Dr Kenneth Kauda. He said they were going to interdict the conference.

"You will remember that we have challenged the ANC NEC's [national executive committee's] decision over the dissolution of our PEC that was led by the former chairperson, Supra Mahumapelo at the South Gauteng High Court. "We are still waiting for the ANC NEC to implement the court decision to reinstate that PEC. So, we have already instructed our lawyers to file for contempt of court against the NEC."

Rothman said they are also questioning the legitimacy of the IPC structure. The structure was put in place by the ANC NEC to bring unity and rebuild the ANC structures in the province after the dissolution of the ANC PEC structure led by Mahumapelo in 2018.

IPC spokesperson Kenny Morolong said they were ready to convene the conference to

elect the new PEC.

"Well, the ANC provincial elective conference will take place as planned. So, the conference will be held at the end of March 2022 at Rustenburg Civic Centre."

Morolong added that they were not worried about any court challenges because their structure was legitimate.

Andre Duvenhage, a political analyst at the North West University (Potchefstroom campus), said he expected the elective conference to be marred by challenges.

"There are three groupings that are competing. One group is of the IPC coordinator, Hlumani Chauke, another one is of the former ANC provincial chairperson, Supra Mahumapelo and the third one is of the former MP, Nono Maloyi.

"According to my assessment, Maloyi is the strongest contender because most branches are supporting him. But I think we will see delay tactics being applied by introducing legal processes to disrupt the conference," he said.

NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



PUBLIC NOTICE

ADJUSTMENT BUDGET (MTREF) 2021/2022

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions Section 21(1) of the Municipal Systems Act (MSA) Act 32 of 2000 that the Nkangala District Municipality Adjustment Budget (MTREF) 2021/2022 was tabled to Council on Wednesday 23 February 2022.

Copies of the Adjustment Budget are available for public inspection on the Nkangala District Municipality's website: offices of Local Municipalities, the Department of Finance at the District Office and Libraries within the District.

Enquiries may be directed to : Mr Msiza AS at (013) 249 2112 or email msizaas@nkangaladm.gov.za during office hours from 07h30 to 16h30

MM SKOSANA MUNICIPAL MANAGER