



Question: *Does this take care of Foreign Affairs minister, Mrs Zuma, as potential presidential candidate?*

Answer: Yes I think it does. She will be a serious candidate to beat as the next president. She has the ability and aptitude. Provided she is not tripped (by Oilgate or any other matter) she will be the female candidate for 2007/9. Then there could be some male candidates as well, but I doubt Mrs Zuma will also stand.

Question: *So we have now lost two Zumas in one week as presidential candidates?*

Answer: As matters stand now, yes. But no guarantees of course. Remember Harold Wilson's words: "In politics one week is a long time". And Harold Macmillan classic answer, when asked what determines success in politics: "Events, dear boy, events". Mr Zuma can surely testify to that. Events can turn again.

Question: *Why a woman as deputy?*

Answer: In his inauguration speech last year, Mr Mbeki had the following to say: "Africa will not be liberated until its women are liberated." He repeated the theme in his post-election State of the Nation speech to the new parliament. Four female premiers out of 9; 12 female cabinet ministers out of 27; deputy-president and an internal ANC target of 50% female candidates in the local government elections later this year. There is a huge effort to bring woman into the main stream of public life and contribute to changing perceptions about their role in society. Even Patricia de Lille applauded that yesterday on national radio.

Question: *Why is that such an issue?*

Answer: Dani Rodrik from Harvard published good research on Pakistan indicating that the failure of that society to incorporate 52% of its population (women) into public and economic life, explains part of the failure of Pakistan. Failure in the sense that its potential has so far not been exploited. The same lessons probably apply to Africa. In this, as in so many other fields, Mbeki is driving a modernisation agenda.

Question:

Modernisation agenda?

Answer:

Think of it: **economic policy**; **Nepad** with its thinking of renaissance and self-responsibility being the counter to aid (exactly the basis of the UK government's Commission for Africa proposals); positioning SA as a **foreign policy** player punching way beyond its weight; focusing the **state agenda** on micro-economics and specific delivery targets; pushing even the 25% of the SA population that lives under **tribal authority** towards modern local government and now the **status of women** in society. Even the hard push to **host soccer** in 2010: it is all indicative of the ambition to be part of the modern world.

Question:

Not popular with traditional supporters?

Answer:

Absolutely not! In the process a lot of holy cows need to be slaughtered - from yesterday's economic policies to sacrificing the camaraderie and mutual comfort of a liberation movement. Want to show me another leader that is driving such a hard modernisation agenda? Blair tried and failed; Chirac is a joke; Schroeder is neutered; Bush is not succeeding (Iraq and social security are stuck); Berlusconi did not even get off the ground....

Question:

And Ms Mlambo-Ngcuka will support and help drive all this?

Answer:

No doubt. She is not afraid of pushing change – some you will like, some you will not like, e.g. the mining charter and her (old) department's sporadic attacks on Anglo not transforming quickly enough. Not popular with all. Is it leading to pretty fundamental changes? You bet.

Question:

Fasten safety belts?

Answer:

Yip. Hard drive on upping economic growth, transformation, structural changes. Comfortable? No! More growth and wealth? Certainly. Enjoy the ride.