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Rwanda calls in SA envoy over shooting 'insinuations'

Requests to extradite general

PETER FABRICIUS
FOREIGN EDITOR
AND SAPA-AFP

KIGALI has summoned South Africa's ambassador to complain about the shooting of a former Rwandan army chief in Joburg last month, and Pretoria has been asked to extradite the general to France to stand trial for murder.

Rwanda's Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo said on Tuesday she had expressed concerns to South African ambassador Gladstone Dumisani Gwadiso that "some insinuations emanating from official circles in South Africa and carried in the media appear to be pointing a finger at the Rwandan government".

"Naturally, there is no truth to this. We find these insinuations very alarming," she said.

Dissident Rwandan General Faustin Kayumba Nyamwasa survived being shot in the driveway of his Atholl-Oaklands home on June 19. His wife, who was with him, has blamed President Paul Kagame's regime.

The shooting is placing great strain on relations between South Africa and Rwanda, otherwise strong allies.

Rwanda had asked Pretoria to extradite Nyamwasa to face a number of charges, among them terrorism, at least partly related to a spate of grenade attacks in Kigali in February.

The South African government has also been considering a request from Nyamwasa for asylum on the grounds that he is being unfairly persecuted by the Rwandan government for criticising it.

And, last week, the South African government received a formal request from French Judge Jean-Louise Bruguiere for Nyamwasa to be extradited to France for trial on allegations of complicity in the shooting down of the aircraft on which then-president Juvenal Habyarimana was a passenger at Kigali airport in April 1994.

The court case has been initiated by the wives of two French airmen who died in the crash with Habyari-

mana, Burundian president Cyprien Ntaryamira and others.

The crash sparked the genocide by Hutus against Tutsis that Kagame, a Tutsi, and his Rwandese Patriotic Front brought to an end by invading Rwanda and seizing power later in 1994.

According to some official sources, the South African government has also received a request from Spanish Judge Fernando Andreu Merelles to extradite Nyamwasa to stand trial in connection with the murder of Spanish citizens in Rwanda and the massacre of civilians in Rwanda and the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo in the 1990s.

A South African official said this week he believed the government would leave it to the South African courts to decide which course of action should be taken.

If Nyamwasa appears before the French or Spanish courts, this could embarrass Kigali as the evidence against him could also implicate several serving senior Rwandan government officials, possibly including Kagame.

Mushikiwabo's concerns about South African officials pointing fingers at Rwanda for the shooting of Nyamwasa seem to emanate from comments made to the media by Ayanda Ntsaluba, director-general of international relations and co-operation, last week.

Ntsaluba was asked what South Africa's stance would be – in general terms – if a country's security agents were operating in another country.

He emphasised that the government "has not made any determination, for now, about where the suspects to this case come from... So, we are still at the stage where we want to be very cautious that we do not appear to be pointing an accusing finger at any state."

Ntsaluba said foreign governments had to declare any foreign security or intelligence operatives stationed in another country.

If they allowed their agents to operate clandestinely in another state, this would "complicate relations" with that state, as "those activities may very well border on subverting security and stability".



Minister of Higher Education and Training, Blade Nzimande, at a media briefing on the Mandela Day Career Guidance Campaign.

PICTURE: ETIENNE CREUX

Mandela campaign to boost career guidance

LESEGO MASEMOLA
and SAPA

YOUNG people, including pupils in rural areas, will benefit from an initiative linked to the Mandela Day 67 minutes campaign.

Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande announced the campaign yesterday at the Union Buildings.

The initiative is the department's tribute to Mandela and has been developed in line with the Nelson Mandela Day Campaign which encourages people to use 67 minutes of their time to support a charity or perform community service.

It aims to mobilise people in the higher education and training sector, as well as other professionals, to assist high school pupils with information on universities and colleges, course programmes, financial aid, bursary schemes and training opportunities.

As a result, the department will be launching the Nelson Mandela Career Guidance Campaign on July 18 (Mandela's birthday) at an event in Giyani, Limpopo.

Announcing the campaign, Nzimande said career guidance at schools was not of a satisfactory standard.

"Career guidance must be built into teacher education. We must work to strengthen that," said Nzimande. We must put resources to it unashamedly."

He said the lack of information and guidance for pupils contributed to the high dropout and failure rates in universities and colleges.

"If we are able to get career guidance right, half of our problems would be solved," he said.

The minister was referring to the 2.8 million young people aged between 18 and 24 who are not in any form of education, employment or training, as research by the Ford

Foundation indicated last year. The numbers have since increased, said Nzimande.

"Our groundwork also reveals that a major contributor is the lack of information and guidance about what is needed at higher education and training institutions for enrolment and course requirements."

Nzimande said though the campaign – a joint venture between the department and the Youth Development Agency and others – was particularly aimed at rural areas, it did not exclude youth in urban areas.

"The problem of lack of career guidance is especially prevalent in townships and rural areas and among children in poor socio-economic conditions.

"This entrenches the cycle of poverty, and makes human and social development in these areas extremely difficult," he said.

About 1 000 high school pupils are expected to attend the event in Limpopo, and the department is expected to hand over 67 bursaries from various institutions next year.

Nzimande said they were also working on improving the efficiency of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, to help more young people to access post-school learning and training.

Department director-general, Mary Metcalfe, cautioned that pupils would need to consider learning alternatives other than universities and colleges.

She said information about these alternatives could be obtained from the State Information Technology Agency.

Metcalfe said the existing skills infrastructure must provide bridges to a range of activities for young unemployed people.

"If they have skills, then they can operate," she said.

Policeman shot in back

A 36-year-old Mpumalanga policeman was shot and wounded by two intruders while sleeping in his Hazyview home yesterday, provincial police said.

After Captain Sipho Brian Mnisi of the Mhala police station was shot in the back at 1am, he ran and jumped through the bathroom window, breaking his left hand. The men demanded cellphones and car keys from Mnisi's wife. They fled with only the cellphones. – Sapa

Arrest, suspensions for prison sex

THE CORRECTIONAL Services Department has suspended two senior officials from Durban's Westville prison after a policeman allegedly had sex with a woman awaiting-trial prisoner, a spokesman said yesterday.

The policeman has been arrested. The prison's area commissioner and the head of the female section were suspended on June 23. – Sapa

Let's dance to political tunes – Malema

CARIEN DU PLESSIS
POLITICAL BUREAU

ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema has warned young and aspiring musicians about the dangers of sleeping around, comparing it to "opening the door straight to the grave".

Malema said if they abused drugs and alcohol and had unprotected sex they would "die of Aids like many others who are abusing their celebrity status" to have sex with many people.

He was addressing the Southern African Music Conference in Braamfontein yesterday.

He also warned about the dangers of drunken driving or driving tired late at night, as many musicians and DJs had died in car accidents because of this.

Malema did not refer to President Jacob Zuma during his lengthy tirade against multiple sex partners, but the league has been critical of the president's sexual deportment.

Malema also told the young musicians they should use music to convey a political message.



ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema addresses music enthusiasts at the Alexander Theatre yesterday.

PICTURE: WERNER BEUKES/SAPA

capitalist values of that society.

"All of you grew up dedicating your life to bling. We must be like Venezuela, where there is a hit song about (revolutionary leader) Che (Guevara). We must be more like South America," he said.

"Let us tell politics through music," he said, adding that the history of the struggle and the life of Nelson Mandela and his ex-wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela should be told in song.

He said Afrikaans people were quick to celebrate their heroes in song, like the controversial hit *De la Rey*, about a Boer general.

"You need to tell your story, and your revolutionary story, through your past. We have forgotten them but we have not forgotten what they did. We have not forgotten the pain we have gone through," he said.

He warned, however, that music about politics should not be boring like political speeches, but should be something people could dance to.

He also urged local radio stations to play mostly South African music.

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