

THE MERCURY HIGHROAD

F O R K Z N

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PICTURE: ROBERT D'AVICE

MUSIC LEADERS: KwaZulu Natal provides South Africa with about 75% of all its indigenous music, and here the political leaders of the province, Jacob Zuma and Ben Ngubane, join McCarthy Group deputy chairman Terry Rosenberg in what could be a prelude to a concert to join the people through music.

Using music as an instrument of peace

DAVID MARKS

MUSIC has been a powerful, if subliminal, means of persuasion and communication throughout history.

People all over the world relate to it, regardless of whether they are musical or not, or to what class, creed or religion they subscribe.

It has become an instrument of peace or a weapon of struggle.

In the Far-East the Mandarins would travel the land, listening to Troubadours, reflecting the soul and state of the nation; a mining town in conflict, and the mayor would organize a "kon-sert"; when Jamaica was going through a political and crime crisis in the 70's, it

was the reggae of Bob Marley and poems of Prime Minister Michael Manley, that helped heal the country.

Music came out of Africa, and, since the rhythm of the first human heartbeat, it swayed the head and moved the feet. Music is indeed powerful and persuasive, so imagine if our politicians, business and labour leaders were to get together with sports people and musicians in concert.

The man who initiated the idea, Terry Rosenberg, the deputy chairman of the McCarthy Group, is a pianist and lyricist of note and many of the other leaders play or love music.

To name a few, Clem Sunter of Anglo American has had songs recorded,

sings and plays guitar; Trevor Manuel is known for his dancing; Durban metro mayor Obed Mlaba played in a band; Pik Botha was known as a parliamentary poet; Chief Mangosutho Buthelezi grew up in a household of musicians and loves to sing; and ANC vice-president elect, Jacob Zuma, can also hold a tune and loves to sing.

So the idea is to get the nation dancing in harmony later this year. If readers know of any leaders who can sing and play – most are very shy about their talent – then let us know. We are in the process of planning the TV and stage concert for Durban in November.

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