

Judge Triggers Attack On President Mbeki

Judge Chris Nicholson set off the attack on President Mbeki by completely swallowing Jacob Zuma's complaint, that the fraud and other charges that were brought against Zuma by Mbeki and his administration were part of a political move to keep him out of office. Zuma has told this story to anyone who will listen to it, inside and outside of South Africa,

- Paragraph 209 of the ruling states: "The applicant [Zuma] states ... that after all these [legal] proceedings he and those who wished him to occupy a leadership role in the ANC 'were concerned about the criminal charges being re-launched at all and moreover being launched at a critical time in the po-

litical process.' He goes further and suggests that this was a stratagem to cloak him in the guise of an accused at the critical moments in the political process and so hamper his election as ANC President." Nicholson continues: "There does seem to be merit in that contention. I am therefore not inclined to strike out these allegations."

- In paragraph 216: "I am therefore not convinced that the applicant [Zuma] was incorrect in averring political meddling in his prosecution."

- In Paragraph 220: "There is a distressing pattern in the behaviour which I have set out above indicative of political interference, pressure or influence."

- In Paragraph 238: "As appears from the above findings I am satisfied that political meddling cannot be excluded and I am of the judgment that it existed to a sufficiently egregious degree that it justified inclusion in the papers."