

55 26/11

# 'Racist' tag is my badge of honour

**I**F YOU'RE the sort of person who thinks the Gaza Strip is the name of a lap-dancing joint somewhere in the Middle East and that Camp David is a gay friend of the US president, then you probably won't be too worried about the frightening level of corruption within the ruling party.

The economic miracle that has been cleverly engineered to take your mind off the thieving and grand larceny will probably do exactly what it was intended to do: make you feel good and not ask too many impertinent questions.

For those of us who aren't fooled by all the smoke and mirrors, things are not quite so rosy.

Every day brings reports of ever more horrific stories of senior political or business figures with their hands deep in the cookie jar.

Those who have been caught, prosecuted and imprisoned treat the whole thing as a huge joke and give the rest of us the finger from behind prison walls, knowing that their corrupt buddies will see them right.

Those not actively involved in rigging tenders, setting up dubious nominee companies, employing unqualified family members or just helping themselves to public money are involved in some other scandal.

They're either linked to shady business characters or reclining on a bed, asking a young woman to fondle their genitals.

We appear to live in a society where only the most venal and dishonest survive and prosper.

But there is hope. A growing number of eloquent black commentators are voicing their disgust at the ANC's apparent disregard for democratic accountability and its squandering of the hard-won freedom of 1994.

I am frequently referred to in

hate mail as a racist. I suppose it doesn't help that I have a white skin and carry the passport of a former colonial oppressor.

However, these days I regard the accusation of racism as a badge of honour.

It suggests that something I have written is upsetting someone in a position of power.

For the past 12 years the ANC has gone out of its way to discredit its critics by accusing them of racism. Even the President had an unfortunately timed go at whites who perpetuate the image of the

black man who can't control his sexual urges.

While it was mostly whites who were doing the criticising, it was a successful ploy because it effectively gagged most of white business, who were too terrified to stand up against political corruption for fear of being labelled racist.

Then there was the added threat of affirmative action, which is nothing more than a form of

economic ethnic cleansing.

Whites were obviously too frightened to speak out, in case they lost their jobs.

So a combination of political deviousness and psychological bullying, accompanied by a cavalier attitude towards the very people they purport to represent, has allowed the corrupt and incompetent to flourish in our society.

Since the "racism" smear has become somewhat devalued over the years, I do hope that those I criticise in this column will stop using it.

If I tell you that you are a dishonest, utterly useless #@\$\$\*, then please take it at face value and believe me when I tell you that you would still qualify for the insult whatever your skin colour.

That's true equality for you.



**OUT TO LUNCH**  
**DAVID BULLARD**