My purpose is to expose fabrication on Mbeki

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The Friday Grill

Anti-anti-retroviral activist/advocate Anthony Brink has launched a website, www.lyingandthieving.com. We asked him:

You've accused Ronald Suresh-Roberts of plagiarism. Have you laid a charge?
Not yet, I'm preparing an affidavit.

You don't write primarily for commercial gain. Why not simply be flattered that you have a convert?
Because he has also mangled my work. In no sense is he a convert.

You say some pretty nasty things about Roberts, like his being "a fabricator and falsifier of history, and the author of a colossal literary fraud, and accordingly so grossly unprofessional and discreditable a writer that he's unfit to be relied upon for any purpose, not even for directions to the post office". You don't like him then?
He was a good friend of mine for the best part of two years, but obviously we're friends no longer.

Why make your views public?
My purpose is not to attack Roberts personally. It's to expose (him). And, more importantly, his fabrication and historical falsification in regard to President Mbeki's political engagement with Aids.

If the president has been misrepresented by Mr Roberts, then why has the president not said so publicly, other than telling author Mark Gevisser of his true views?
His approach to Gevisser was a clear confirmation that he does not subscribe to the HIV-ARV-Aids model.

Do you believe that HIV causes Aids? No.

Do you think Mr Mbeki thinks HIV causes Aids?
No.

Do you think Mr Mbeki has always been forthright about his views with South Africans.
He has, very, in all his early public statements. But, as is well-known, he withdrew from the debate at the urging of the ANC.

Do you think he should have?
He told Gevisser he regrets it very much.

Do you think he should have overruled his own party?
I would have liked to have seen him do so.

What do you think of Zackie Achmat? He's a clown.

And our Health Minister, Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang?
I admire her enormously.

Personally or politically? Both.

If there's disagreement about treatment of HIV/Aids, for example, who do you think should be the ultimate arbiter of government policy and strategy?
The Minister of Health.

Is government policy consistent with her views?
Government policy, which provides ARVs, is at odds with her adamant, informed opposition to them.

Why is government policy at odds with her view?
Because the pharmaceutical industry succeeded in forcing the government to spend billions on buying these drugs.

So someone in government allowed themselves to be bullied?
The government was defeated by the superior power of the pharmaceutical industry.

Why did the president and health minister not step in and stop this?
A decision was taken in the Cabinet. I heard Dr Tshabalala-Msimang was in tears over it.

Do you believe that ARVs should be freely available to all South Africans who might want them?
I think they should be banned as the poison they are.

Do you think the health minister should ban them too? I do.

Don't South Africans who want them have a right to make the choice themselves?
Yes, they have the right to make an informed choice and they do under government policy.

What do you think of the prospect of a Zuma presidency for the treatment of HIV/Aids?
Indications are that Jacob Zuma doesn't take the HIV/Aids scare seriously at all.

So you'd look forward to him in power then?
I'm not concerned by the implications of his presidency. Actually, I like him.

You think that unprotected sex with HIV-positive women while married is fine?
I think making love is always fine and no one ever died from it, ever.