In his article entitled 'No', answering your headline question 'Has Thabo Mbeki Damaged the ANC?' in your January-March 2008 issue, Ronald Suresh Roberts persisted with his false allegation made in his book *Fit to Govern*, published in June 2007, that South African President 'Thabo Mbeki is not now, nor has he ever been, an AIDS dissident' – notwithstanding biographer Mark Gevisser's revelation in *Thabo Mbeki: The Dream Deferred*, published in November, that Mbeki had contacted him immediately to correct this for the record.

Three days after Gevisser's book came out, I published an exposé of Roberts's extensive plagiarism, historical fabrication and falsification in constructing his fake case: *Lying and Thieving: The fraudulent scholarship of Ronald Suresh Roberts* (free online at www.lyingandthieving.com). After investigating my charges, Roberts's publisher cancelled the second impression of his best-selling book then about to go to print, and its editor condemned it as 'the most serious case of plagiarism and literary fraud in South African literary history'.

Mbeki himself places great importance on seeing his thinking on AIDS truthfully reported and not falsely misrepresented: following the publication of Gevisser's biography, he wrote to him specifically to confirm that he'd correctly described him as an AIDS dissident.