

POLITICS TODAY



AN EXECUTIVE BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR PROGRESSIVE BUSINESS

NB! NB! NB! Two Important ANC Statements

- A Statement by Derek Hanekom, Chairperson ANC Disciplinary Committee – 4 April 2012**
B Statement by President Jacob Zuma – 3 April 2012

A IMPORTANT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ANC NATIONAL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (NDC)

COMRADE JULIUS MALEMA'S IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION PENDING DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

At a meeting on 2 April 2012, the NDC decided to suspend comrade Julius Malema's membership of the ANC with immediate effect in accordance with the provisions of Rule 25.12 (c) of the ANC Constitution.

The NDC considered the nature and seriousness of comrade Malema's utterance, namely "...It is under President Zuma that we have seen the youth of the ANC being traumatised, being expelled from their own home. It is under President Zuma we have seen a critical voice being suppressed. We have seen under President Zuma, democracy being replaced with dictatorship. We have seen an intolerance ... people, who become impatient with the youth...", at a meeting held on 30 March 2012 at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and concluded that such utterance could bring the ANC into disrepute as contemplated in Rule 25.5 of the ANC Constitution.

After due consideration, the NDC was satisfied that this utterance constitutes a very serious violation of the ANC Constitution and that the institution of disciplinary action, as provided for in Rule 25.3, and temporary suspension of comrade Malema, in terms of Rule 25.12(c), of the ANC Constitution is warranted.

The NDC also took cognizance of the fact that the said utterance received widespread coverage in the print and electronic media.

Comrade Malema was informed this morning of his immediate temporary suspension and that disciplinary proceedings would be instituted against him by the NDC, and that he would be provided with full details of the charge/s and details of the disciplinary hearings in due course.

In keeping with the principle and spirit of natural justice and to remove any semblance and perception of bias, the members of the NDC who participated in this decision to institute disciplinary action against comrade Malema will recuse themselves and not participate or adjudicate in the pending disciplinary action against him.

The NDC has stipulated the following conditions that comrade Malema will

be required to comply with during his suspension:-

1. He will not exercise any duty in his capacity as an ANC member, President of the ANC Youth League and/or Member of the Provincial Executive Committee of the ANC Limpopo Province;
2. He will not attend any meeting of the ANC or any of its structures, including the Leagues, except for the purpose of the NDCA hearing and the pending disciplinary proceedings to be instituted against him.
3. He will not address any meeting of the ANC or any of its structures, including the Leagues, whether as an invited guest, in his capacity as President of the ANC Youth League and/or as a member of the ANC; and
4. He will not make any public statement on any matter pertaining to the ANC.

The temporary and immediate suspension of comrade Malema will come into effect on Wednesday, 4 April 2012.

Issued by:
Derek Hanekom
Chairperson
ANC National Disciplinary Committee

**B STATEMENT OF THE
NATIONAL OFFICIALS OF THE
AFRICAN NATIONAL
CONGRESS ON 3 APRIL 2012**

We have called this special briefing due to some incidents that have occurred in recent times, which may be causing confusion within the ANC and the public at large.

The ANC has a rich history spanning over 100 years of selfless struggles. The organization is known for its rich culture, traditions and values, including placing a high regard on discipline and respect for one another as members, regardless of position or structures that we belong to within the movement.

We are therefore very concerned about some alien behaviour within our movement, which has manifested itself in various ways including some shockingly crude, disrespectful and un-ANC remarks that have been in the public domain over the past few weeks.

These remarks in their content and spirit are an attempt to create a perception in the public discourse that the National Officials of the ANC are at odds with each other and divided over a whole range of issues.

These remarks are also meant to portray the National Officials as disunited as well as competing against each other for positions within the organization. We wish to state at the outset that the National Officials of the ANC are at one with regard to any matters of discipline within the ANC as well as action taken as informed by the ANC Constitution. We remain loyal to all decisions we were part of.

We also wish to state that contestation within the ANC is neither a foreign, new or alienating exercise. All members of the ANC, in good standing, are eligible to be nominated and stand for any position within the organization. This is an inalienable right accorded to all members of the ANC as per the Constitution of the ANC.

As National Officials of the ANC we believe that the time has come to put an end to the blustering and often incomprehensible remarks that are made by various leaders and members of the ANC. The examples are the statements made by MKMVA today

and the response thereto by the ANCYL. The Constitution of the ANC dissuades any of its members from engaging in any action that will disunite the ANC along factional, racial, ethnic or class lines.

Sadly, we have observed, in recent times, that some individuals within the ANC have continuously utilized the platforms of our respected centenary celebrations to sow divisions and discord within the organization. Whilst the sowing of divisions and discord are chiefly directed toward the National Officials of the ANC, these individual members have also chosen this centenary of the ANC to divide the ANC along narrow ethnic and racial lines as well as to insult and denigrate the leadership of the ANC, its values and principles.

It is sad that this type of foreign behaviour rears its ugly head as we celebrate the 100 years of the ANC. The centenary of the ANC will come but once in the lifetime of this generation of ANC and ANCYL members. This period allows us to reflect on the lessons taught to us by our history and the gallant fighters for our freedom and their commitment to our struggles. This year points us to the selflessness of the contributions made by millions of people who braved the harshness of apartheid and colonialism. As we celebrate this centenary we pay tribute to their struggles and we have learned that the strength of the ANC derives from its capacity to self-correct and maintain high level of discipline and consistency. We are also celebrating the core values of the ANC to Unite this country and give leadership to our people.

Holding regular conferences and electing leadership is a long standing culture and tradition of the ANC, it is a way of life and strength within the ANC. It is a reflection of our commitment to renewal of the organization and to ensure that we maintain democratic principles that have always guided our practices and traditions. The 53rd National Conference of the ANC is no exception to the rule, in the run up to this conference we accept and appreciate, that members of the ANC will lobby for their own preferred candidates, however, it is important that all members of the ANC and its leagues do so within the confines of the Constitution of the ANC and guidelines

that will determine our behaviour towards the conference.

It is incumbent upon the membership of the ANC and its leagues to stop bickering and negative lobbying. We must constantly remind ourselves of the consequences that are inevitable should this continue. National Officials of the ANC are invited to address centenary celebrations organized by the ANCYL and find themselves in compromising situations of being implicated in statements where ANC leadership is denigrated and insulted, this too must stop. The National Officials and NEC members of the ANC are not above criticism and nor do they perceive themselves as such but there are mechanisms within the ANC where criticism and self-criticism is practiced. Public platforms do not provide the space for a person who is unfairly criticized to respond or for a debate to ensue that will allow correction, self-correction and growth of an individual.

The more recent example of the Deputy President of the ANC who was deployed by the Secretary General to address the ANCYL rally in celebration of the ANC centenary in Limpopo, found himself faced with t-shirts with his face and name on it. During this rally the Deputy President had to correct this deviant behaviour of people who were at that rally. It is a sad reality that the ANCYL has chosen this year of the ANC celebrating its centenary to attempt to cast the ANC as undemocratic and unresponsive to the voices of the youth, thus bringing the organization into disrepute.

The attempt to disrupt the second lecture in honor of, Sefako Mapogo Makgatho, the second President General of the ANC in Cape Town in February was evidence of the ill-discipline and disruptive nature of some of these elements. This matter is under investigation and in due time action will be taken. It is incumbent upon all members of the ANC and its leagues to ensure that platforms of the ANC are never used to divide and factionalize the movement.

The ANC's commitment to job creation and youth development is more than mere rhetoric; it is manifest in the decision to promote infrastructure development as a key driver for job creation. It is also manifest in the reality that the ANC has made education one of its key priorities.

The brazen and often rude and crude rhetoric to detract from real issues facing our youth does nothing to add value to the integrity of the ANC and its leagues. We encourage the ANCYL in particular to bring quality in debate and sharpness of purpose back in the movement, and thus make good of the characterization of the ANCYL as a body of opinion within the ANC.

It is in the interest of the ANC for the ANCYL to be a militant and forward looking organization, one which enables the discussion on a range of issues to be kept in the discourse of the ANC and to ensure that the ANC indeed does bring about transformation of our society.

The ANC discourages the elevation of individuals and personalities above the organization; this inevitably leads to

the creation of personality cults which hampers collective decision making.

The ANC is currently engaged in an intensive programme to have policy discussion documents discussed at the level of its branches, its regions and provinces. This is a time tested mechanism to ensure that a festival of new ideas, new perspectives and greater energy is injected into ensuring that the ANC values are enriched with the enthusiastic views of people of all age's especially young people. Therefore, the assertion made at the University of the Witwatersrand by Julius Malema, that new ideas are suppressed and that the current leadership of the ANC is dictatorial and does not appreciate new ideas is not only disingenuous but a deliberate falsehood.

The time has come for all members of the ANC and its leagues to work for unity and cohesion and to focus on the immediate task of preparing for the policy conference and the national conference. Our draft policy documents are in circulation and are posted on the ANC website. We call on all our members to respect processes and structures created by our Constitution.

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