

Premier misses deadline

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NORTHERN Cape Premier Sylvia Lucas could be hauled before an ANC disciplinary committee for “gross insubordination” after missing the Friday deadline to change her provincial cabinet.

Yesterday, newly-elected ANC provincial secretary Deshi Nxanga confirmed that Lucas had missed the deadline to change her cabinet – an instruction given to her by the provincial executive committee on Tuesday.

The developments within the ANC in the Northern Cape further widen the rifts between those who support Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and ANC deputy president Cyril Ramaphosa to succeed party president Jacob Zuma at the party's elective conference in December.

Lucas is a known Zuma supporter, while the newly-elected ANC provincial executive has pronounced on Ramaphosa to succeed Zuma in December.

The controversy unfolded on May 10 – on the eve of the ANC provincial elective conference – when Lucas “unilaterally” decided to reshuffle her cabinet, in what was seen as the “purging” of all those who were opposed to her nomination as provincial chairperson at that elective conference.

Lucas initially wanted to execute her reshuffle on May 3 but was blocked by the provincial executive for allegedly failing to consult with the ANC and its alliance partners. A week later, without consulting the former ANC provincial secretary, Zamani Saul, Lucas went ahead with her plans.

She axed MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism Mac Jack and his counterpart in roads and public works, Mxolisi Sokatsha.

Both Jack and Sokatsha were part of a campaign for Saul to be provincial chairman. Jack was replaced as MEC by Gail Parker, previously an ANC chief whip in the Northern Cape legislature.

All that led to the provincial elective conference, held from May 11 to 14, where Saul, who was officially elected chairman, took a decision that Lucas' action was unlawful and instructed her to rescind her reshuffling.

This was also officially communicated to her, after the first provincial executive committee meeting held in Kimberley on May 16. At the time, the ANC provincial executive committee said: “The provincial conference resolved that the reshuffling that took place in blatant disregard of the internal organisational processes must be reversed. The conference instructed the incoming leadership to urgently deal with this matter.”

Nxanga said the provincial executive committee would meet on Tuesday to decide on what steps to take on the matter.