

Reverse Madoda dismissal – SACP

The SACP says MEC Madoda Sambatha is a victim of political infighting and it was not consulted before the decision was made

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THE dismissal of public works and roads MEC Madoda Sambatha has caused a rift within the ANC-led tripartite alliance in the North West as the SACP calls for the decision to be rescinded.

The SACP said it took time to study the allegations advanced as reasons for Sambatha's dismissal and came to a conclusion that he is a victim of "political infighting".

SACP provincial spokesperson Smuts Matshe said Madoda will give a detailed account on the allegations levelled against him this week.

"Comrade Madoda will hold a media briefing in Klerksdorp on Thursday to clarify issues for himself so that we are not seen to be speaking for him," he said.

Matshe said the provincial SACP was not consulted before the decision to fire the MEC was taken. Sambatha is SACP provincial secretary. This contradicts the ANC statement that consultations were done with the SACP at national level.

Matshe said the SACP provincial leadership got a detailed briefing on the matter on the processes, meetings and got documents during its meeting at the weekend.

"North West politics have been defined by personality cult and manipulation of processes aimed at self-serving interests. Nominations to public office is being done along factional lines and in return public representatives are compelled to always serve the agenda of a faction. Government has become an instrument for dispensing patronage which has led to the collapse of governance as well as systems to deliver services. This powerful faction through its presence in government systematically prevents public servants and public



DISMISSAL: The ANC says MEC Madoda Sambatha was dismissed because he had allegedly signed suspected a fraudulent document for the illegal sale of state land. PICTURE: TWITTER

representatives from performing their duties in a manner consistent with the constitution, approved laws, regulations and our revolutionary mandate," the SACP said.

Matshe said intimidation and fear have become the order of the day for those who are passionate about serving the people. Some key leaders of the alliance structures are consistently being targeted for disciplinary processes.

"Government has become a fiefdom of some leaders and they are using it for self-enrichment. A worrying factor

is that the provincial government has effectively been Gupta-ised. Those who express a different view are punished and government has been used successfully for that purpose," he said.

The SACP spokesperson said the appointment of MECs and their dismissal has developed into an interesting trend where those who are of no value to the faction are either ignored for appointment or dismissed from the executive.

"The alliance is not engaged on important decisions related to appointment

of public representative. In instances where the alliance is involved, those that are a product of the alliance are targeted for political smearing and vilification. They then get hunted for the rest of their time in the executive until they get dismissed.

The list of those from the SACP falling in this category includes Grace Pampiri-Bothman, Tebogo Modise and now Madoda Sambatha. There is also an emerging trend where MECs are dismissed to embarrass them and their organisations. In the case of Tebogo

Modise, she was dismissed during the festive season only to have a new MEC appointed after six months. In essence dismissals of MECs happens as if there is an emergency and urgency only to find the ANC is not ready for a replacement," Matshe said.

He said in terms of an established and agreed procedure, the alliance has to be involved in the appointment or dismissal of MECs.

"For the record the SACP was never taken into confidence on the planned dismissal of Sambatha. This principle of alliance consultation and engagement applies to every MEC even those who are not members of the SACP. We are aware that the dismissal of Madoda Sambatha was planned immediately after his appointment in 2014 because he was seen to be an inconvenience in the executive," he said.

The SACP also believes Madoda was the first target in a campaign to purge communists at both provincial and national levels across the country.

"The SACP augmented PEC was shocked to learn that Sambatha, a few hours before being dismissed, was directed to resign as MEC and to vacate his position in the legislature. The SACP will not be intimidated to reconsider its political views. Instead of retreating the SACP will be more vocal on issues affecting the working class and the poor," Matshe said.

In justifying Sambatha's dismissal, the provincial government and the ANC said the former MEC had allegedly agreed to have signed suspected fraudulent documents the illegal sale of state land. The said land is in Mahikeng and is believed to be about two hectares.

The SACP argues that at the time of the alleged sale, Sambatha was an official of the National Union of Mine-workers (NUM).

"It would therefore not be possible for Sambatha to sell land while he was outside government. What Sambatha has done is sign for a transaction to stop the department of public works to pay property rates for a property owned by a private individual. He is dismissed because public works and roads is seen by those with factional intentions as an important institutions for corruption, defrauding the state through tenders and assets," Matshe said.

The dismissal of Sambatha was also seen as part of the ongoing jockeying for the new ANC national leadership as December elective conference draws close.

The SACP has been vocal in its call for Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa to be elected as the next party and nation president. There is also a strong voice for former African Union chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma to take up the reigns in December.

Matshe said the SACP will not relent in its call for the principle that the ANC deputy president becomes the next party president.

"We therefore view the decision to remove Sambatha as factional, irrational and unfortunate and wants it reversed," he said.

ANC provincial secretary, Dakota Legote said he would not be tempted to respond to the SACP through the media.

"The issue has been taken to the disciplinary committee and that is the organ dealing with it. We will only comment when there is an outcome," he said.

Asked on the possibility of reinstating Sambatha, Legote said the prerogative to appoint MECs lies with the premier.

"It is the premier who chooses a team of people he wants to work with. As such, I cannot give a comment on that matter," he said.

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