

FORMER ANC CHAIRPERSON SENZO MCHUNU LAYS BARE RULING PARTY'S INTERNAL CONFLICT

'Corruption caused killings'

SIBONGISENI MAPHUMULO

FORMER KwaZulu-Natal premier Senzo Mchunu has called on the ANC to take responsibility for the murders of its members in the province.

Mchunu told the Moerane Commission on political killings in KZN that manipulation of councillor lists, nominations and corruption had played a huge role in the murders.

He said it was a breeding ground for hate and anger brought on by factionalism within the party.

"The ANC must accept responsibility for the murders then deal with it internally by making it clear that competing for positions via manipulation means nobody wins," Mchunu said.

Citing the recent murder of Umzimkhulu councillor Sindiso Magaqa, who was allegedly killed for planning to expose corruption in the building of a local community hall, Mchunu said: "There's this movement called 'it's our turn to eat now'. It's a movement without a chairperson or secretary. Being a councillor is becoming highly competitive. It promises double growth in terms of status and money, with benefits for those who supported you. Then enters the manipulation and factionalism within the ANC. If your faction wins, positions become available and go to the people for their continued support," he said.

Referring to the lack of arrests in political killings, he said: "In 2015, while I was KZN premier, an employee, Xolani Nkosi, was murdered. I hired a private investigator and called the then minister of police, Nathi Nhleko, to intervene. Two national senior officers were sent and worked with the private investigator. Within one day, they identified a suspect who had been in possession of the deceased's cellphone. This shows we have the capability to

investigate but the case was dropped, just like the Senzo Meyiwa case."

He testified that he was told by the officers and the private investigator the reason the case was not going anywhere was because he was a suspect in the murder of Nkosi.

"I called Nhleko about this and he denied knowledge of me being a suspect and later sent an email confirming I was not a suspect. I later found out when the Hawks took over the investigation, they had been given five days to arrest me for the murder."

Mchunu said the factionalism within the ANC in the province, which he is party to, can still be resolved through dialogue to stop further bloodshed.

"We need to look at if we are strong enough to move past this and resolve the issues internally," Mchunu said.

In the no-holds-barred testimony, Mchunu said dialogue between political parties in KZN could have prevented the massacre of 20 000 people who were killed between 1970 and 1990.

"As the ANC, we felt justified in defending ourselves and our cause during conflict of the apartheid era. The state and its machinery was always the main enemy up until 1994. The IFP was never the enemy. We always looked beyond it and saw them as victims like us," Mchunu said.

He said about the same time there was a proliferation of illegal firearms supplied by the apartheid government to parties that sided with them.

"KZN was the only province that received seven tons of firearms and ammunition, which were made available to anyone," Mchunu said.

ANC national spokesperson Zizi Kodwa declined to comment, saying: "The ANC hasn't made its submission to the commission."

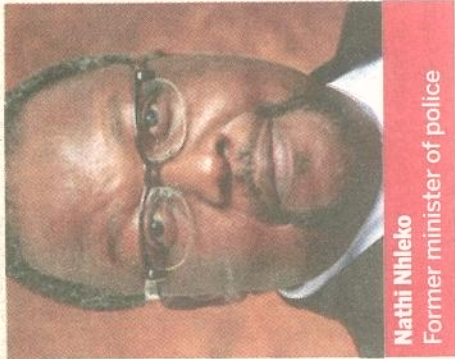
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RESOLUTIONS: Former KwaZulu-Natal premier Senzo Mchunu at the Moerane Commission. PICTURE: ANTV



Sindiso Magaqa
Former ANCYL general secretary



Nathi Nhleko
Former minister of police



Mangosuthu Buthelezi
IFP president

Mchunu timeline

2012: Member of the PEC

2013: Provincial chairperson and acting KZN Premier

2014: Reappointed as KZN Premier

2016: Fired as Premier of KZN

Methods of vote manipulation:

- » Membership numbers inflated to suit certain factions
- » The deployment of comrades to rig results
- » Venues changed at the last minute
- » Different factions given different times for meetings
- » Bouncers remove certain individuals so they weren't allowed to vote or nominate

“One of my employees while I was KZN Premier, Xolani Nkosi, was murdered in 2015. The investigation was going nowhere so I hired a private investigator and called the then minister of police Nathi Nhleko to intervene. Two senior officers were sent down from national and they worked together with the private investigator. Within one day they had identified one suspect who had been in possession of the deceased's cellphone, the case was eventually dropped just like the Senzo Meyiwa case,” Mchunu said.

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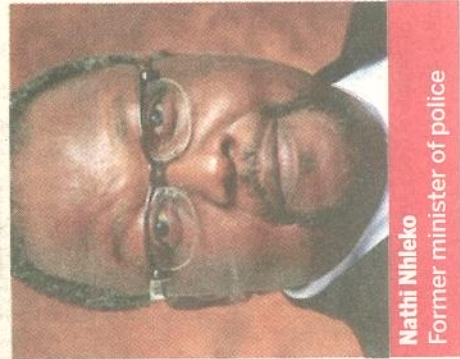
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