

Cosatu pushes for ousting Mahumapelo as ANC asks for more time

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COSATU deputy general secretary Solly Phetoe wants North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo axed for “messing up” the province.

Phetoe, a former North West provincial secretary of the trade union federation, claimed Mahumapelo had brought the ANC into disrepute. “Supra must go and the Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) must be dissolved,” he said.

The North West needed a neutral person from outside the province to take over as no one in the current PEC was capable of doing so, he added.



Supra Mahumapelo

This week, insiders told Independent Media that ANC leadership have been calling on provincial and alliance lead-

ers of the SACP, Cosatu and Sanco to be patient while they negotiate a smooth exit for Mahumapelo. According to the sources, the top leadership said they needed at least four more days before giving “a solid” response on Mahumapelo’s future.

The confusion around the premier’s fate grew after conflicting statements from ANC Veterans League president Snuki Zikalala and ANC deputy secretary Jessie Duarte.

Zikalala told media the party’s national working committee had taken a decision for Mahumapelo, which Duarte denied.

“No such decision was taken by the national working

committee. It was just the view of the Veterans League. For this reason we took a decision for national officials to meet with Mahumapelo,” Duarte said.

Initially, according to the sources, Mahumapelo unilaterally placed the Department of Health and Public Works under administration. The respective heads of departments had to report to the MEC for Finance Wendy Nelson, who is believed to be a Mahumapelo ally. “These are the factors that led to the ANC national working committee delegation drafting an adverse report on him,” the source said.

Mahumapelo also instructed the North West Development

Corporation (NWDC) under Bheki Khumalo, former president Thabo Mbeki’s spokesperson, to report directly to his office.

Initially, the NWDC, which is responsible for the economic rejuvenation of the province, fell under the Department of Economic Development. According to the sources, the province has been unable to secure the return of wildlife worth more than R100million “unlawfully donated” to one of the premier’s closest friends, Matthew Wolmarans, who is now an ANC MP after he successfully overturned a conviction for the murder of ANC member Moss Phakoe.

The DA in the North West

welcomed Ramaphosa’s decision to hand over control of the provincial health department to Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi.

DA provincial health spokesperson Dr Tutu Faleni said shortly after Mahumapelo placed the health department under administration, two major contracts worth at least half a billion rand – Buthelezi Ambulances and Gupta-linked Medios – were approved without proper tender procedures being followed.

“The beneficiaries of the contracts are known associates of the embattled premier and the contracts are now the subject of criminal investigations by the Hawks,” Faleni said.



Protesters loot a cement truck as chaos spread during protests in Mahikeng, North West, last month.

PICTURE: REUTERS/AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA)