

# Let's go 50-50 on premiers - Women's League

## But party provincial chairs are all men

By **Neo Goba, Moipone Malefane** and **Peter Ramothwala**

The demand that half of ANC be women is proving to be a headache for the party's national executive committee.

Party leaders were still locked behind closed-doors last night deciding on who will take over the premiership in the eight provinces the party won during the elections.

The meeting is the first real test for President Cyril Ramaphosa, who has promised that the party would appoint only credible and competent members to key government positions.

As the party's executive went

into yesterday's meeting, there was serious jostling for who would be appointed premiers, especially given calls from the ANC Women's League that at least four of those appointed should be women.

Sources that spoke to Sowetan on condition of anonymity yesterday, gave names of their preferred premier candidates which were top of the agenda at the NEC meeting that ended late last night.

The publication understands that Limpopo has put forward the names of provincial chairperson Stan Mathabatha, MEC for treasurer Rob Tooley and MEC for public works, roads and infrastructure Nandi Ndalane.

At least three ANC Limpopo provincial executive committee members told Sowetan Mathabatha will retain his po-

sition. The PEC met yesterday to discuss the nominations.

"He kept both the ANC and government in a good shape since the collapse of the provincial administration under Cassel Mathale," said the member who wished to remain anonymous.

Gauteng has put forward the names of ANC chairperson David Makhura, deputy provincial secretary Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko and Lebo-gang Maile.

KwaZulu-Natal has nominated provincial chairperson Sihle Zikalala, PEC member Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu and deputy secretary Siphon Hlomuka.

Sources said should Zikalala not be appointed, his supporters would also push in the NEC meeting for Makhura to be replaced by Nkomo- Rale-

hoko.

The Eastern Cape have put forward chairperson Oscar Mabuyane, Nomakhosazana Meth who is the mayor of OR Tambo district municipality and MEC for rural development Xolile Nqatha.

But by virtue of being provincial ANC leaders in the four provinces, the chairpersons have the best chance of being endorsed by the party's national leadership. Sowetan understands that all chairpersons of the provinces who are men are topping the lists submitted to the NEC.

Yesterday, ANC secretary-general Ace Magashule said the party would not immediately deliberate on the performance of the ANC at the polls, but would focus on deploying its premiers.

"This is a special NEC. We

are just discussing the issue of premiers-elect because you know in terms of the conference resolution, the provinces must give us three names, and the provinces have done so."

Speaking to reporters at St George's Hotel in Irene, shortly before the NEC meeting, Magashule said the lists of parliamentarians could still be amended.

"I'm not saying the list to parliament can't be changed. I am saying we have registered the list [to the IEC]. To take out a person from parliament from the list, that person must agree to resign," he said.

The ANC has received a lot of flak from the public, including veterans and alliance partners, after including members that had damning allegations of wrongdoing and corruption hanging over their heads.