

Limpopo premier race gains steam

CONTESTATION: ANC MEMBERS PUT UP THEIR NAMES

» I think it will only be fair for NEC to appoint female premier this time, says source.

Alex Matlala

ANC bigwigs, including some of those alleged to have been implicated in the VBS Mutual Bank scandal, are scrambling for Limpopo's top political job.

This is happening as President Cyril Ramaphosa prepared to appoint new premiers.

The scramble comes after suggestions that Premier Stanley Mathabatha was earmarked for Ramaphosa's new Cabinet.

The Citizen can confirm that the Limpopo ANC provincial ex-

ecutive committee yesterday gave the party's national executive committee (NEC) a list of three names for the premier's position. These are Limpopo treasury MEC Rob Tooley, public works MEC Nandi Ndalana, and Mathabatha.

"Limpopo has had only male premiers since 1994," said a source at the weekend. "The first premier was Ngwako Ramathlodi, followed by Sello Moloto, then Cassel Mathale and now Mathabatha.

"I think it will only be fair for the NEC to appoint a female premier this time around, in line with the 50-50 call by the ANC Women's League."

Kenny Mathivha, Mathabatha's spokesperson who also acts as Limpopo spokesperson, said the premier was likely to announce his new Cabinet after May 28.

According to a senior government official, some of the people vying for MEC appointments are ANC deputy provincial secretary

Baisekopo Makamu, Mopani District Municipality executive mayor Nkakareng Rakgoale, health MEC Phophi Ramathuba, former Waterberg ANC regional secretary Tolly Mashamaite, Vhembe District Municipality executive mayor Mavhungu Lerule and MEC for cooperative governance, human settlements and traditional affairs Jerry Ndou.

Others include Limpopo spokesperson Donald Selamolela, speaker of the legislature Polley Boshielo, former education MEC Dickson Masemola and chief director in the human settlements department Rodgers Monama.

"The biggest contestation is in Sekhukhune, between Monama and Masemola," said the source.

The Economic Freedom Fighters and Democratic Alliance yesterday called for the new Limpopo premier not to appoint VBS-tainted cadres into the Cabinet. – news@citizen.co.za