



Zine George Insight

Mabuyane faces women conundrum for PEC

Premier-elect Oscar Mabuyane faces a decidedly tough task in identifying sufficient competent women to join his provincial executive council.

This is after the ANC's national executive committee (NEC) resolved on Monday that all provincial executive committees in ANC-governed provinces, where a man is set to become premier, must ensure 60% of its MECs are women.

In addition, ANC secretary-general Ace Magashule announced that in all eight provinces where the ANC secured a majority, all legislature speakers must be women.

In addition to announcing Mabuyane would become premier of the Eastern Cape, Magashule named Sisisi Ntombela as Free State Premier-elect; David Makhura for Gauteng; Sihle Zikalala for KwaZulu-Natal; Stan Mathabathe for Limpopo; Refilwe Mtsweni for Mpumalanga and Zamani Saul for the Northern Cape.

The premier-elect for the North West is yet to be decided.

"Pertaining to the North West the Premier candidate will be announced in due course following internal engagements," Magashule added.



BULELWA TUNYISWA

Dating back to the Nasrec elective conference in December 2017, the ANC has fallen short of meeting its gender balance quota when electing its leaders.

Deputy secretary-general Jessie Duarte is the only woman in the party's top six officials, an outcome criticised by the ANC Women's League (ANCWL) and others.

When the ANC nominated election candidates late last year, only one province had a woman top the list, a situation which prompted the ANCWL to announce before the heated Monday meeting of the party's NEC in Irene, Gauteng, that they would demand the party adhered to its 50/50 gender

balance policy when selecting premiers.

In line with this demand, Magashule said there had been consensus in the NEC meeting that "in instances where the premier is a female there shall be at least 50-50 representation" in the cabinet.

"Speakers in all provinces will be women irrespective of whether the Premier is male or female.

"Youth representation must be integrated," Magashule added.

This poses a challenge for the Calata House-based provincial executive committee (PEC) considering that of the five female MECs in the 10-member cabinet of outgoing premier Phu-



PHUMZA DYANTYI

mulo Masualle, three are set to go to parliament.

They are Arts, Sport and Culture MEC Bulelwa Tunyiswa, Social Development MEC Phumza Dyantyi and Public Works MEC Pemmy Majodina.

To make matters worse, the PEC also has to scout for another woman to fill Speaker



PEMMY MAJODINA

Noxolo Kiviet's position, as she too is heading for the National Assembly.

This means Mabuyane will probably retain MECs Weziwe Tikana and Helen Sauls-August in his provincial cabinet, although it is not clear in which positions.

Assuming the provincial cabinet remains the same size, the PEC will have to scout around for four more women MECs as well as a suitable candidate for provincial speaker.

Adding to the challenge is that the ANC has a policy of deploying only PEC or NEC members to cabinet, and there are mighty few women in these structures.

This means Mabuyane will

have to consider the likes of ANCWL provincial chairperson Bukiwe Fanta, a PEC member who came in at number 11 on the ANC's list of legislature candidates.

Other women topping the list of candidates for a seat in the Bhisho legislature, who are also PEC members, are former Buffalo City councillor Sindiswa Gomba (15); Nonceba Khontsiwe (16); and Nozibele Nyalambisa (37).

The inclusion of OR Tambo mayor Nomakhosazana Meth on the province's list of candidates to become premier suggests the PEC is considering moving Meth to fill a key role in the provincial government.

Even with Meth as an option, Calata House bosses may still fall short of options.

They may then be forced to consider women from outside the PEC such as Kholiswa Fihlani (13); former Amathole district mayor Nomasikizi Khonza, Tumeka Gaya (18) and Babalwa Lobishe (29).

But there is also a possibility that the size of the provincial cabinet may be trimmed, given that President Cyril Ramaphosa has given every indication he intends reducing the size of his bloated cabinet.

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