

Nelson appears in court for fraud

MAFIKENG MAIL – MAHIKENG; The ANC in the North West has noted the arrest and subsequent appearance of Wendy Nelson at the Mafikeng Regional court.

Wendy, a member of the Interim Provincial Committee faces charges of fraud and corruption. Nelson who briefly appeared and granted R20 000 together with former Head of Department of Health Thabo Lekalakala last Friday. The ANC in the province said that while they respected the constitutionally enshrined right of every South African to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, they wished to appeal that the law must be allowed to take its course without hindrances.

“The ANC reaffirms its respect in our law enforcement agencies and believe that the criminal justice system will dispense justice in this matter expeditiously. The Interim Provincial Committee shall at its earliest convenience engage Cde Wendy Nelson on the political implications of this developments and shall thereafter pronounce itself explicitly,” said Hlumani Chauke, IPC Coordinator said in their statement.

The provincial Working committee in the North West also welcomed Nelson’s decision to approach the Integrity Commission with the aim of taking the movement into confidence on her criminal charges.

The 54th National Conference resolution “demands” that every cadre accused of, or reported to be involved in, corrupt practices accounts to the Integrity Commission immediately or faces disciplinary processes.” Code Wendy has notified the Interim Provincial leadership that consistent with the latter resolution, she has accordingly approached the Integrity Commission.

The IPWC urges structures of the ANC, members and supporters to allow the movement to appropriately ventilate this matter. “We reiterate our confidence in the ability of the criminal justice system to expeditiously dispense justice on this matter, without fear or favour,” added Chauke.

The EFF in the North West who were not surprised on the charges brought against Wendy Nelson and had always questioned appointments of contracts that lacked accountability and transparency to good governance. “Of course, the call to the end of corruption and building of a corrupt free government was the initiative of the EFF. This is not new, the allegations, and the arrests are evident to the call made by the EFF in a public discourse. The former MEC is not the only one to unduly influence appointments in government departments, and securing lucrative posts for the members of the governing party and the magnitude of corruption which manifests itself through nepotism at all levels of government and Gupta influenced appointments,” said the Provincial Chairperson Shakes Botswe.

He further added that it is alleged that the premier of the former regime, Supra Mahumapelo, appointed Wendy Nelson from the Department of Finance to preside over a panel that appointed Thabo Lekalakala for

the H.O.D post in the Department of Health. “Among other things, the appointment of Mr Lekakala was ultra vires and inconsistent with the standards of appointment procedures. Interestingly, subsequent to his appointment, Thabo Lekalakala, finalised a contract of roundabout R180 million with the Mediosa company of the notorious Gupta family”.

The DA Joe McGluwa - DA North West Provincial Leader said The Democratic Alliance (DA) in North West noted the recent arrests of former MEC of Finance, Wendy Nelson and Head of Department (HOD) of Health, Thabo Lekalakala, who both appeared before the Mmabatho Regional Court,

“Nelson, recently elected Treasurer of the ANC Interim Provincial Executive Committee, stands accused of being involved in the irregular appointment of HOD Lekalakala in 2014. Amid far worse cases of corruption allegedly committed by the Supra administration, it almost seems trivial that Nelson would be arrested for her role in the “irregular appointment” of an HOD. This highlights the factional battles between the Supra / Ramaphosa camps and once again exposes the fault lines within the ANC,” said McGluwa.

The DA further said these arrests were the first of its kind in the North West, but more arrests were needed to follow as the Mediosa scandal was merely the tip of the iceberg, as

they knew that far more than R180 million was looted from this province during former premier, Supra Mahumapelo’s tenure.

The North West Province has been plagued by corruption without a single politician being brought to book. This includes allegations that the Chairperson of the ANC Interim Provincial Executive Council, MEC Molapisi, as well as Premier, Job Mokgoro been involved in corruption within the Department of Public Works, which came to light during the Zondo Commission Inquiry.

The DA also called upon whistle blowers to come forward with evidence of the countless untold cases of corruption that robbed the people of services and a better life in order for justice to prevail.