

EFF fight over hijacked state building

Party members at loggerheads with leadership over tenure

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A group of EFF members who illegally hijacked a department of public works building in East London in 2018, are now at loggerheads with the party's regional leadership, whom they accuse of trying to take over the premises from them.

The group took over Northdene complex in St James Road, in Southernwood, more than a year ago.

Tensions have now reached boiling point, with the EFF's Buffalo City Metro regional leadership being accused of trying to hijack the building from the group.

The regional leadership denies the claims.

Meanwhile, Eastern Cape public works spokesperson, Vuyokazi Mbanjwa, said they would be back at the East London high court on November 14 in their bid to have the illegal occupants evicted.

EFF provincial chair Yazini Tetyana said the party was dealing with the matter internally.

When we took over this building, they started acting funny

Thirteen EFF women living in the building have obtained protection orders against some of the party members, who allegedly assaulted some of them while trying to forcefully evict them.

One of the women, Liyomeleza Nqabisa, successfully obtained an interdict at the East London magistrate's court.

The order was granted in August after she accused a man of assault and harassment.

His warrant of arrest was issued on August 16, but the court suspended it on condition that the man complied.

The women still share the building with the man, but say they use different gates to avoid one another.

The Dispatch visited the women at the building and saw rats running about and sewage overflowing in the yard.

The women's spokesperson, Anathi Maqhashu, said: "The regional leadership wants this building.

"When we took over this building, they started acting funny.

"Before that they 'supported' us; now it has turned out to be a pretext. Now we're in court, they're assaulting us and the peace is over.



"We're not going to leave the EFF. They're stuck with us. We are registered with ward 3," she said.

After "winning" the building, tensions brewed among the EFF members and mudslinging ensued with allegations of missing memberships.

The Dispatch has seen letters from the 13 women to the EFF's ward 3 committee chair, Mncedi Liwani, who in turn wrote to regional secretary Sibongile Aloni, accusing his office of interfering in his ward and sab-

QUESTIONS: EFF members are at loggerheads over Northdene complex in Southernwood.

Picture: MARK ANDREWS

otaging its membership. Liwani did not respond to requests for comment.

Tetyana said: "It's an internal matter we're dealing with, the [regional] secretary has just informed me.

"We will be talking to our structures about this."

Aloni said: "I don't know anything. I'm an EFF member and I have nothing to do with buildings. If they stay there and identify as EFF members, what does that have to do with the EFF?"

When told that EFF members

directly accused him of being involved, he said: "You are an ANC member, I'm telling you.

"If someone is staying in building, the EFF has nothing to do with that.

"This is the first time I have heard about anything you're telling me about."

Liwani also wrote to EFF provincial secretary Mlami Makhetha, complaining that Aloni had ignored his complaints about the alleged harassment of his EFF ward members by regional members.