



Publication: SundayTimesNCO - Main

Title: SENIOR MPs NOT YET OFF THE HOOK ON CYRIL VOTE

Publish date: 18 Dec 2022

Page: 8

**Reach:** 7000 AVE:R 144320.00 Author: Staff Reporter

## Sisulu, Mkhize and others 'absent' face possible sanction from incoming NEC

## By AMANDA KHOZA

 Six MPs who were absent from the Phala Phala impeachment vote in parliament this week without explanation are not off the hook and may still face the party's wrath, in-

hook and may still face the party's wrath, in-cluding presidential hopeful Zwell Mkhize and tourism minister Lindiwe Sisulu. The ANC gave notice this week that it would institute disciplinary proceedings against four MPs who defied the party line and voted in favour of an impeachment pro-cess against President Cyril Ramaphosa. Although the national working commit-

Although the national working committee initially said the four MPs, including co-operative governance minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, should face discilinary charges, the NEC later decided to leave the

matter to the incoming NEC.
Dlamini-Zuma, who openly flouted a national executive committee (NEC) resolution to vote against impeachment, heads the list of prominent members who had already been notified of pending disciplinary action. Sisulu's troubles are likely to be com-

pounded by the leaking of a telephone conversation which she had with former EFF secreatry-general Godrich Gardee in which she appears to be colluding against Rama-

Others are international relations com-mittee chair Supra Mahumapelo, former mineral resources minister Mosebenzi Zwane and MP Mervyn Dirks. They are all

known opponents of Ramaphosa.

The incoming NEC will also decide what action to take against absentees, including a deputy transport minister Sindi Chikunga after it emerged that she missed Tuesday's Phala Phala vote because she travelled abroad without authorisation, according to a report of the national working committee presented to the NEC meeting on Thursday. The report shows Chikunga is among the

six ANC MPs being probed by the chief whip

and party bosses over missing the vote. Chikunga denied she had gone to London without permission from transport minister Fikile Mbalula and Ramaphosa to attend an

International Maritime Organisation event. Chikunga said the invitation was initially extended to Mbalula, but he deployed her.

"I even wrote an apology letter to the speaker of parliament because the sitting had been planned for an earlier date and then it was rescheduled for December 13."

Chikunga said she left the country on December 10, three days before the vote, ac-companied by her support staff. "When the trip was paid for I did inform

the chief whip about my frustration and she

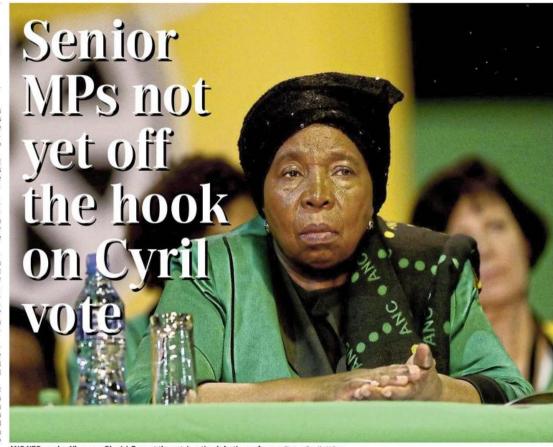
sent a message to me after voting.

"If I had cancelled at that time I was going to attract accusations of irregular and wasteful expenditure, including for all the ground transport in the UK, and ... South Africa ... I would have not been present at a very cru-cial climate change meeting and that could

have left the country isolated."

She said the meeting was so important that if South Africa did not attend "our ports will essentially remain white elephants".

Chikunga shared a letter dated December 5, signed by state law adviser Geofrey



ANC NEC member Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma at the party's national elective conference. Picture: Sandle Ndiovu



Lindiwe Sisulu reportedly 'left the chamber after the debate.'



post of ANC president, did not vote.



Mphaphuli giving authorisation for her to travel to the UK from December 10 to 14.

Apart from Mkhlze and Sisulu, who "left the chamber after the debate", only to find herself locked out when the voting took place, other MPS who may also be in trouble

include Bongani Bongo, chair of the appro priations committe Siphokuhle Patrien.

Sphokune Patren.

Backbencher Thabo Mmutle is under scrutiny after he was "locked outside the chamber when the doors closed".

The only MPs given permission to be ab-

sent were defence committee chair Cyril Xaba, who was in hospital; Philisiwe Xaba-Ntshaba and Simphiwe Mbatha, who were both on sick leave; and Sibusiso Kula, who had a bereavement.

had a bereavement.
"The chief national presenter has been requested to take the necessary steps to institute disciplinary proceedings against the
above members," says the report.
Ramaphosa survived a possible impeachment hearing over Phala Phala when 212
ANC MPS, supported by two from Cope and
Albamah, vend against the section 89 possible.

Al-Jamah, voted against the section 89 panel of experts report that found he had a prima facie case to answer over the theft of foreign currency from his farm.

Opposition parties mustered 148 votes in favour of the report. Two MPs from the Good party, public works minister Patricia de Lille and Brett Heron, abstained from the vote.

De Lille serves in the cabinet at the invita-tion of Ramaphosa.