

EX-ANC BIGWIG NOW SINGS TO ZILLE'S TUNE

'We need to find a new political home, and that is the DA'

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EX- ANC Western Cape secretary Neville Delpoit has warned that more disgruntled members will follow in his footsteps and join the DA after recently being replaced by a reconfigured leadership.

Delpoit said despite winning an elective conference, former Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) members were discarded and replaced by "leaders who lost a conference".

"In the ANC after the reconfiguration that was announced two weeks ago, you would see a conference that we won... We were actually thrown out, replaced by leaders who lost a conference, and those leaders are particularly in the Metro.

"Now those leaders (of the reconfigured PEC) do not represent the will of our coloured communities, and that is where we are stuck.

"Then we made a decision as a collective, and as I've said, many (others) will follow, to make sure that we need to find a new political home, and that new political home is the Democratic Alliance," Delpoit said.

He made the remarks during a DA press conference announcing a number of ANC members joining the party yesterday. They also include Daniel Baadjies, Jason Don and Paulus Strauss.

DA Federal Council Chairperson, Helen Zille said: "This is a milestone moment, and it mirrors the swing in support by South African voters who continue to abandon the ANC to support the DA. This is an example of the realignment of politics in South Africa.

"ANC support is in decline across South Africa and in the Western Cape, it is in terminal decline. In contrast, DA support continues to grow and momentum is building behind the DA's offer to reform South Africa's economy, grow jobs for all and replace BEE."

ANC national spokesperson Mahlengi Bhengu said Delpoit's "exit attests the correctness and necessity of the ongoing reconfiguration process, which seeks to restore the ANC's integrity, discipline, and ideological clarity".

"We have always been aware of his regressive and narrow ideological posture, which sought to divide our people on the basis of apartheid classification.

"His departure is a confirmation that those who hold these kinds of tendencies in the movement will not survive an ANC that is renewed."

She said Delpoit's decision to join a "right-wing formation that is openly anti-transformation, anti-justice, and indifferent to the suffering of Palestinians exposes the moral and political bankruptcy of those who abandon the

cause of equality".

"The ANC's mission in the Western Cape is to unite all South Africans, black (Africans, Coloureds, Indians) and white; behind one vision of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, and prosperous South Africa.

"We seek a province where the children of Bonteheuvel, Delft, Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, and Mitchells Plain can live with the same dignity, safety, and opportunity as those in Franschoek, Stellenbosch, and Sandton," Bhengu said.

ANC Provincial Task Team spokesperson, Sifiso Mtsweni, said the DA has now turned to the ANC itself in order to try and save its dwindling popularity.

"It hopes that, in the same ANC it has consistently falsely accused of not having quality leaders, it would change its fortunes.

"It's a pity that once again, its fishing rod has attracted defects and by-products from the rubble that the renewal process has chinned out.

"The renewal process was always going to separate opportunists and political adventurers from real revolutionaries who are driven purely by the desire to serve the interests of our people in the province," Mtsweni said.

Political analyst and higher education consultant Professor Sipho Seepe said: "We should always accept that politicians are expedient, and they always act in their own interest, despite the notion of saying that they act in the interest of the organisation.

"The fact that you can have people who were long-standing members of the ANC joining the DA, underscores that the ANC is no longer seen as a vehicle for the betterment of the people, which these former members of the ANC represented," Seepe said.

He said in the Western Cape, the DA is seen as a political choice because there is no alternative.

"The ANC's notion of being a leader society is continuously eroded, and it is eroded at the time when Ramaphosa had claimed that the ANC is embarking on a renewal campaign," he said.

Members of the PTT top seven are former South African ambassador to the US Ebrahim Rasool as convenor, Linda Moss as first deputy convener, Vuyiso Tyhalisisu as second deputy convenor, Thandi Manikivana as co-ordinator, Pholisa Makeleni as first deputy co-ordinator, Melany Tembo as second deputy coordinator and Richard Dyantyi as fundraiser.

In announcing the disbandment of the PEC, ANC secretary-general, Fikile Mbalula, said: "The reconfiguration is not a punitive measure against the PEC but a proactive and corrective step to enhance the movement's effectiveness in one of the most strategically important provinces of the Republic."



DA FEDERAL Council Chairperson Helen Zille and the party's provincial leader Tertius Simmers welcome senior ANC members including former Western Cape secretary Neville Delpoit to the DA. I IAN LANDSBERG Independent Newspapers

NATION

Treat violence against women and children as interconnected crises, say researchers

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ABOUT 7.3 million women have endured violence in their lifetime and for many, the trauma began long before adulthood, with experiences of abuse or neglect before the age of 15.

This is according to the 2025 South African Child Gauge from the UCT Children's Institute, which argues that South Africa must treat violence against women and children as interconnected crises, to break intergenerational cycles of harm.

"Violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC) are driven by a web of interrelated factors such as childhood trauma, observing violence in the home and community that leads to learned behaviour, all increasing

the likelihood for victimisation and for perpetration, and the displacement of aggression," said Prof Mathews, of UCT's Faculty of Health Sciences.

According to the report, 24% of women aged 18 and older have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence. While 42% of children have experienced some form of maltreatment (sexual, physical, emotional abuse or neglect) by an adult who was supposed to take care of them.

Lucy Jamieson, senior researcher at the Children's Institute at UCT said: "In every country, violence against women and children carries profound individual, social and economic costs. The long-term effects on individuals are devastating: children who experience violence face a higher risk of mental health issues,

substance abuse, and chronic health conditions. They also struggle with learning and socialisation, hindering their future potential.

"Violence places an enormous burden on the health, social services and criminal justice systems. Violence against children was estimated to cost nearly 5% of South Africa's gross domestic product in 2015."

To truly understand the intersections between VAC and violence against women VAW, the study found that it was necessary to have data systems integrated across relevant sectors.

"Data collected in criminal justice, for example, may be linked with data from health, education and social development. At a very basic level it could identify numbers of children who might be at risk, i.e. those whose mothers/ caregivers

have domestic abuse protection orders, or who were seen by health services for serious injuries likely in relation to domestic abuse, or the numbers of children whose fathers have committed sexual offences."

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has called for increased and sustained budget allocations for prevention, not just response services.

"Intervening early to break the cycle of intergenerational violence alleviates the burden on health, social and criminal justice services. It also enhances human capital and social cohesion, while boosting economic development.

"Hence, UNICEF advocates for the budget allocation for prevention to be increased and prioritised as response services are," said Irfan Akhtar, UNICEF South Africa deputy representative.

NATION

Cachalia backs Political Killings Task Team in tackling organised crime

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THE Political Killings Task Team (PKTT) that Senzo Mchunu controversially disbanded has received the backing of acting Police Minister Piroz Cachalia who could not understand the reasons it was discontinued.

Testifying at the parliamentary inquiry probing allegations made by KwaZulu-Natal Commissioner Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi, Cachalia said National Commissioner Fannie Masemola had submitted a report in mid-August at his request when he was enquiring whether the PKTT was disbanded.

"In that report, he made a recommendation essentially recommending that, in his view, the task team that has been established should continue to exist and that similar capacity needed to be developed, and he was in the process of doing so in Gauteng," he said.

Cachalia expressed concern about the assassination of whistle-blowers

and councillors after Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi reported to him the killing of two ANC councillors in Soweto.

"My perspective then, by this point, was the following: I could not understand what the reasons were for the disbandment of the task team.

"It seemed to me that the problems of political killings were ongoing, and in the run-up to the local government elections, they were likely to deepen and become worse."

His remarks are in stark contrast to Mchunu who questioned the PKTT's effectiveness when directing Masemola to discontinue the task team.

Other than the PKTT, the inquiry is also investigating, the moratorium in the filling of vacancies in the Crime Intelligence Unit, and the alleged corrupt relationship between senior leadership of SAPS and criminals, as well as political interference in the work of the police service.

The inquiry was sparked by a media briefing Mkhwanazi held on July 6,

where he made allegations months after Mchunu issued the directives on December 31, 2024, to disband the PKTT with immediate effect.

Cachalia told MPs lessons could be learnt from the good practice of PKTT because it worked based on an integrated approach to the challenge, an organised crime approach, which brought investigation and prosecutions together.

"To deal with organised crime, that is exactly what we need," he said, adding that the criminal justice, crime prevention, and security cluster was not working together to tackle the challenge.

"I was quite happy with his (Masemola's) recommendation, which was contained in his written report that the team should not be dismantled at the current moment, but we do need to have a conversation, and we are having a conversation on how to tackle the problem that is broader and deeper than perhaps it was five years ago."

In his earlier testimony, Cachalia

told the parliamentary inquiry about his attempts to get an update from Masemola on whether the PKTT was disbanded and what had happened to its dockets.

"It took the two of us, myself and the national commissioner, some time to get into a position to understand what he was communicating to me, and having listened to his evidence before the Madlanga Commission and yourselves, I do have a better understanding in retrospect."

Cachalia said cartels were "increasingly emboldened, quite prepared to assassinate without consequences" as many of the cases don't get properly investigated.

"This is not a problem localised in one province, and it is not restricted to political killings in an earlier period, if that is meant killing of politicians. The problem is a deeper one, and we certainly need, on a national basis, to respond to this problem of involvement of cartels infiltrating our institutions."