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SACP REJECTS ANC DUAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTIVE

Party instructs members to ignore instruction to declare election campaigning choice amid tensions

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THE South African Communist Party (SACP) has ordered its members to disregard the ANC's instruction for those with dual membership to state in writing which party they will campaign for in the upcoming local government elections.

The party said it took exception to the instruction and viewed it as an attempt by the ANC to disenfranchise members regarding their right to dual membership. Other SACP leaders in KwaZulu-Natal have already stated that the rank-and-file membership is unlikely to comply with the ANC's instruction.

It was reported that the ANC instructed those with dual membership to submit in writing which party they will be campaigning for within the next ten days. The issue has come to the fore as the SACP has taken a resolution that it will contest the local government elections as a stand-alone political party. The matter has made the ANC uneasy, with a subsequent decision by the party to call on dual members to clarify their stance.

Head of Media, Communications and Information in the SACP, Mbulele Mandlana, said: "We want to state clearly that we reject the press conference that was called by the ANC, as it seeks to disenfranchise members of their right to dual membership. We call on our members not to comply with that instruction."

He described the instruction as "unfounded and unjust", adding that it ignores the reality that dual membership is the basis of the alliance.

Mandlana addressed a variety of issues, including the allegations that senior leaders had resigned from their leadership roles in the party following the instruction, and concerns that the SACP will not do well in the elections.

"It is not true that leaders have resigned; that is just gossip," he said, responding to reports that Minister of Higher Education Buti Manamela had resigned from his leadership role in the SACP.

On the party's poor showing in by-elections, he said it is incorrect to use by-elections as a measure of how they will perform in the upcoming local government elections.

"That argument presupposes that the SACP should have nothing to do with elections. No political party can survive that. We may not get 50% in the election, but we will gain lessons that will strengthen us. The party is not going to die after this; we can only grow from this point." An ANC councillor and SACP member in eThekweni said those

with dual membership were unlikely to comply with the ANC directive.

"They will simply look at the instruction and ignore it."

He conceded that the party is facing challenges.

"There are other parts of eThekweni where the SACP has been strong but is now facing challenges after the death of some of our leaders in those areas."

Another SACP leader in KZN was more pessimistic about the party's hopes in the election.

"If you understand politics, you need to look at the trends and speak the truth. The by-elections have shown us this is the likely outcome of this decision. It is clear that the SACP will not do well; it will come off weaker after the elections."

Cosatu leader in KwaZulu-Natal, Edwin Mkhize, said Cosatu was in a very difficult position.

"We have workers that hold dual membership of both parties, while others are exclusively ANC and others are exclusively SACP, so this puts us in a very difficult position. We are going to a congress in September where this issue will be ventilated, and the rank-and-file members of the union will have to decide who they would want to align with and campaign for heading into the elections. They should be patient and understand that the DNA of our membership is very different, and we need to take direction from the members on the ground, which is what we will be doing in the September congress."

Political analyst Siyabonga Ntombela said the SACP is facing a difficult future.

"Any party that wins elections gains access to real power. The real question lies in the likelihood of that happening for the SACP, which has been struggling to secure wins in municipal by-elections. The breakup is bad because it suggests there are unresolved deep-seated grievances that have led the SACP to contest the elections," he said.



SACP leaders Thulas Nxesi and Solly Mapaila.

IN THE DOCK



THE case involving Police Commissioner Fannie Masemola was postponed to May 13, where he is expected to appear alongside tender tycoon Vusimuzi "Cat" Matlala and 12 police officers linked to a tender plot. Masemola appeared briefly at the Pretoria Magistrate's Court yesterday. I OUPA MOKOENA Independent Newspapers

NATION

Why the NPA decided not to prosecute in Emmarentia road rage incident

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THE National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) says the decision not to prosecute a suspect involved in the fatal road rage shooting that left a husband dead and a wife injured in Emmarentia, Johannesburg, is due to insufficient evidence.

The NPA announced yesterday that it had decided not to proceed with the prosecution of the 58-year-old man who was arrested in connection with the shooting.

The suspect was expected to face charges of murder and attempted murder following the death of a motorist, Faisal ul Rehman, 48, and the wounding of his wife, Tehseen.

The incident happened on Barry Hertzog Avenue following a minor fender-bender that escalated into a physical altercation.

Tehseen was taken to the hospital following the shooting.

The suspect was scheduled to appear in Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday but the matter was not enrolled.

NPA spokesperson in Johannesburg, Magaboke Mohlatlole, told the media that the matter was dropped pending further investigation.

"After a careful consideration of the evidence in the alleged incident which occurred in Emmarentia, the NPA has decided not to prosecute or proceed with the case pending further investigations," said Mohlatlole, adding that the matter will be allocated at a later stage.

He indicated that the NPA was dissatisfied with the evidence at hand.

"The investigation will continue with the SAPS, and the matter will be prosecuted once the NPA is satisfied with the evidence," said Mohlatlole.

Gauteng police spokesperson Colonel Dimakatso Nevhuhulwi said the investigation into the incident is ongoing. In a statement released



NPA will not prosecute a 58-year-old suspect in a fatal Emmarentia road rage shooting that killed Faisal ul Rehman and injured his wife, citing insufficient evidence. The case remains under SAPS investigation. The incident followed a minor collision that escalated into gunfire, with children present during the violent confrontation.

shortly after the incident, Nevhuhulwi said the confrontation between the deceased and the suspect escalated into a physical altercation, during which the deceased's wife allegedly retrieved a firearm, prompting the second driver to also draw a weapon.

"It is alleged that a female passenger suspected to be the wife of one of the drivers went to get a firearm from the car, and the second driver also pulled out his firearm, resulting in a shooting which claimed the life of the husband, while the other driver sustained minor injuries and the female passenger was taken to the hospital with a gunshot wound," she said.

The couple's two young children were present during the shooting.

Footage of the aftermath, which showed the children in distress and attempting to help their father, circulated widely on social media.

Meanwhile, police and Arrive Alive have urged the public, particularly motorists, to always abide by traffic rules and exercise patience while using public roads to avoid road rage.

Gun Free South Africa told the SABC that gun violence extends beyond organized crime into daily conflicts, road rage, and social arguments.

The organisation's executive director, Dr Stanley Maphosa, said: "It is a really heart-breaking incident that could have been prevented. It shows that guns don't only feature in organised crime, but they are in our day-to-day present life in conflicts. For example, Gauteng alone in the past reporting period of 2025, 2026, the last quarter, which was released on March 5, indicated that 200 people out of 1 277 gun murders were murdered through misunderstanding, road rage and social arguments."

NATION

Karoo village goes under the hammer

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A QUIET Karoo village has been put on the market, with agents effectively inviting buyers to purchase an entire town in one of South Africa's most remote and atmospheric regions.

The auction window officially closes today.

Home and Hectare Real Estate is offering Middelpo, a small settlement, describing it as a rare opportunity to acquire a fully functioning rural village with development potential across multiple sectors.

"Buy your own town of Middelpo, close to the Tankwa Karoo National Park."

The listing presents Middelpo as a place largely untouched by modern development, positioned between Sutherland and Calvinia along the R354 in the Upper Karoo region of the Northern Cape, where its isolation and landscape are central to its appeal.

"Middelpo is considered one of the few remaining authentic Karoo villages in South Africa," said the real estate company.

The 103-hectare property includes infrastructure suited to commercial, residential, agricultural and tourism development.

The village is already used as a stopping point for travellers and surrounding farms, and its proximity to the national park is expected to drive steady visitor traffic.

"With its tranquil, enchanting atmosphere, original character and charm, it retains the cultural heritage of long ago, untouched by modern mass tourism."

The auction for Middelpo opened yesterday at 12pm and closes today at 12pm, giving prospective buyers a narrow 24-hour window to bid for what is effectively an entire town.

The property also includes a hotel, shop, factory building, three dwellings in good condition, a hall, an old post office, a strong borehole, and approximately 4.75 hectares of irrigable land, forming the backbone of the settlement's existing infrastructure.



A REMOTE Karoo village near the Tankwa Karoo National Park has been listed for auction by Home and Hectare Real Estate, with Middelpo offered as a rare opportunity to purchase an entire, functioning town.

