

SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE

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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Media statement by the Secretary General of the ANC, comrade Elias Sekgobelo Magashule, about my suspension as Secretary General of the ANC

Date: Wednesday, 5 May 2021

I am issuing this media statement in my capacity as Secretary General of the African National Congress (ANC).

I have received a letter under the signature of the Deputy Secretary General, comrade Jessie Duarte, that temporarily suspends me for an initial period of six months. It is my understanding that this letter was issued to me in terms of a decision of the National Working Committee, held on Monday the 3rd of May 2021, in terms of Rule 25.70 and Rule 13, to the effect that all members who have been indicted to appear in a court of law on charges, are to be temporarily suspended.

Other members who are similarly effected have received similar letters.

It is evident that the Deputy Secretary General does not have the authority to issue such letters. Thus the letter is fatally flawed, and in fact unconstitutional. Furthermore these letters are based on a selective and factional interpretation of the relevant Resolution.

I herewith announce that I am immediately, and formally, appealing this unconstitutional suspension. In terms of the ANC Constitution, my suspension is thus wholly suspended, until my appeal has been heard, and it's final outcome announced.

For the sake of fairness and justice to all the affected comrades, who have received similarly unconstitutional letters, I as Secretary General - who is duty bound to uphold the ANC Constitution and all administrative processes - urge them to also follow the appropriate internal appeal processes. It follows that the suspensions of all affected members will also in terms of the ANC Constitution be suspended with immediate effect.

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I have also, in accordance with the powers vested in me as the Secretary General of the ANC, and furthermore in full compliance with the relevant conference Resolutions summarily suspended the President of the ANC, comrade Cyril Ramaphosa.

This is done in terms of Resolution 8.2 of the 54th National Conference, which states that, "... Every cadre accused of, or reported to be involved in, corrupt practices accounts to the Integrity Committee immediately, or faces DC processes...., and Resolution 8.3 that further provides for the suspension of, "... people who fail to give an acceptable explanation, or to voluntarily step down while they face disciplinary, investigative or prosecutorial procedures".

I call on all members of the African National Congress to act with revolutionary dignity and respect, and to uphold the ANC Constitution. None of us should bow to illegal and unconstitutional actions. In doing so we must protect the unity of the ANC as leader of society.

Issued by the Secretary General of the ANC
Comrade Elias Sekgobelo Magashule