

ANC WESTERN CAPE STATEMENT ON ALAN WINDE'S ATTEMPTS TO RUN A PARALLEL GOVERNMENT

10 March 2022

The African National Congress (ANC) Western Cape notes the desperate and embarrassing attempts by Alan Winde to run a parallel state from that which is unitary and democratically elected by the people of this country.

Ordinarily we would not respond to the DA's desperate clamouring for attention however we believe that the Premier and his Provincial government have crossed the line. The South African democratic constitution defines our country as a unitary state. Provinces do not enjoy federal status where they can willy nilly develop policies that are directly opposed to policies and positions taken at the national level.

Matters of international relations are managed and driven at national level through the Department of International Relations and Co-operations (DIRCO). One Provincial minority government cannot override nor define itself outside of the overall governance of our country.

President Cyril Ramaphosa and the ANC Government has correctly expressed deep concerns on the escalation of hostilities between the Ukrainian and Russian governments. We have called for and supported efforts aimed at encouraging dialogue as a means to find lasting solutions and discouraged at all material times the use of brute force to settle conflict.

As a liberation movement our struggle has always derived its impetus from the dictates of the Freedom Charter, which proclaims that "there shall be peace and friendship amongst the nations of the world". Our own democratic breakthrough in 1994 was heralded through a series of engagements and dialogue between the warring people of South Africa who were for centuries divided along racial lines. Together, we have been on a path to create a non-racial, non-sexist, prosperous society which is united in its diversity. We have demonstrated to the whole world that dialogue to achieve a peaceful settlement is not only possible but a necessity.

Our Government's approach to international relations has always been underpinned on the principles of peace and dialogue as the best option to stop a bloody conflict. We remain deeply concerned for those suffering from the impact of the war. We continue to call for a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine, we are encouraged that negotiations in Belarus are ongoing to find a lasting solution to this impasse.

One thing we will not accept, is a racist and repugnant DA government's continued cheap attempts at federalism. They started these cheap stunts by abusing the provincial legislature in draping it in

partisan colours of Ukraine and now the Premier makes pronouncements on international relations policy that he has not mandate on.

The DA is not known for its firm position on the human rights violations of the Sahrawi people of Western Sahara whose territory continues to be violently invaded by Morocco. Palestinian people continue to suffer oppression for many decades under the illegal occupation by Israel which continues to use brute force to impose its will on the indigenous people of Palestine.

We have called for a debate on Palestinian occupation in the legislature which they refused. The DA's response to this has been to open its doors to Israel and support it openly. It's quiet unfortunate that the DA uses this very difficult moment facing the east of Europe to play cheap politics and without any consultation, we say not in our name!

The ANC will oppose every attempt by the DA in the Western Cape to run a parallel state.