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INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY:

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DAY, Wednesday 06t

Leon still on the war path

Alan Fine

Cape Editor

CAPE TOWN â\200\224 It appears unlikel  
that Democratic Alllance (DA) lead-  
er Tony Leon softened his stance at  
the meeting with his deputy Marthi-  
nus van Schalkwyk yesterday, after  
weeks of tension and outright con-  
flict between them,

The meeting came hours before  
former Cape Town mayor Peter  
Marais applied to the Cape Town  
High Court to review and set aside a  
decislon by the DA's national man-  
agement Committee (NMC) re-  
questing him ta resign as mayor and  
terminating his party membership.  
The case will be heard on Friday,

Officials on both sides oÂ¥ the  
Democralic Party (DP)/New Nation-  
al Party (NNP) divide drew a vell of  
secrecy over Â¥esterday's meeting,  
which took place at Van Schalk-  
wyk's request.

However, a source within the DA  
sald it would probably not be cor-  
rect to come to the conclusion that

It had been a â\200\234kiss-and-make-upâ\200\235 session between the two.

It Is therefore likely that Van Schalkwyk and his colleagues are

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now considering conditions laid down by Leon as a precondition for the survival of the alliance,

It Is unlikely that the threat of disciplinary action against Van Schalkwyk has been withdrawn. In terms of positions taken previously by DA offici lals loyal to Leon, disciplinary action would. become possible only if Van Schalkwyk and the NNP refuse to meet what Leon and his loyal followers see as the terms of the original allllance agreement.

This would include shutting down all NNP structures, Including Van Schalkwyk's separate office. Leonâ\200\231s allles Insist that this needas to be done so that Van Schalkwyk can no langer use these structures to mobilise his allles In the NNP against Leon's leadership and authority Inthe DA,

Despite hls strong backing of

Marals over the last few weeks, Van Schalkwyk's position 15 weakened by the NNP's weak electoral position outside the Western Cape, and its perilous financial situation illustrated by the debt forgiveness arrangement with Absa,

n a statement last night, Marals sald that the grounds for his appli-

cation were that he was not treated fairly and that he was not given an opportunity to properly prepare himself for the case before the management committee.

â\200\234When my removal from office and expulsion from the DA could not be nchieved through the Heath enquiry and the Rules Portiolio Committee of the City Council, Mr Tony Leon steam rolled a motion for my resignation and expulsion from the DA through the National Map-agement Committee,â\200\235 Marals said.

â\200\234In the result the NMC could not properly have considered the matter, and its decisions were therefore wholly Irrational, unreasonable and unjustifiable,â\200\235 . .

Marals sald he had also asked

the court for jnterim protection -~  
that the â\200\234unlawfulâ\200\235 actions of the :  
committee be suspended until the |  
decisions sought to be set aside  
were reviewed by the court. â\200\231

â\200\234This entire costly exercise was  
really unnecessary. All | asked the  
NMC was to give me a chance to pre-  
pare my delence. Unfortunately It  
denled me this right, It left me with  
no alternative but to approach the  
court,â\200\235 he sald. With Sapa.

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- BUSINESS DAY, Wednesday, Octobg24 2001

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exal)npleottl;eis baas(IIJtA!eader mocrats, buthâ\200\231ngsr?fndxing?ony, by -  
e â\200\234This trend Suppresses internal are iin toatautly partyline. ony Leon getting his  
way, ISnota ignorig the fact Marais bas done no  
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0 IS an expedient sound happySPectacleirmn party that provap WIrong â\200\224 other than be  
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tiparty negotiations on de- should not afiow itself to be black- bite, selectively practis  
ed. It is well claims to be the upholder of demo- character the gĩ~\201ss\ business funder  
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Mmocracy have come back to ; maxâ\200\230ledhtosi~\202mcgâ\200\230hesaid. known that Presid  
ent Thabo Mbeki cmicfairplayinthiscnlmtry. of the Demacratc Party (DP) do not  
haunt us. They have allowed Â» the DA could gloat at rules the ANC with an iron hand. Dis-  
Marais recetved no 4x4s, no hous- likeâ\200\224is;â\200\230ndangeroxâ\200\230alxsmg(heprin-  
the entrenchment of political baas- sych comments. Now it cannot, as it sent is firmly deai  
t with, albeit dis- â\202~s, no-one died as a result of his ac- cipjes he so often articyl  
ates

skap, first in the African National has used similar tactics in the shamel creetly and wit  
hin party structures. tions or inactions. he took up no bat- The DP. by  
Congress (ANC), and now most vivid- gl Peter Marais saga. . y a peep is heard tles with sci  
entists. shehed no Tâ\202~- media, has failed ag essential manage-  
ly in the sorry spectacie of the Demo- As an exampie, it claimed New Na- from the ANC to Â¢  
ict the presi- POTLS, and yet the official oppasition ment Jesson â\200\224 You never, ev  
er. fight

cratic Alliance (DA) waging its inter- tiopal Party (NNP) charrman Marthi- dentâ\200\231s  
AIDS stance. although privately s ing itself apart because of his through the media,. Those  
that do find

na}baalgsthroughthemediâ. nus van Schalkwyk was not defending roany MPs and provinciaj MPs  
are bit- Irying to change the pames of two that EVeryone comes aut of the tussie  
in the two top political parties, a Marais because of concerns aboyt terty unhappy with jt  
. Cape Town streets? After the city looking soiled. No effective teader

pattern is emerging of democracy be- democratic process, but because he . When the Pan Afri  
canist Congress councit faijed to make Leon's taskeas- shoyld ever allow such a situation\_  
ing selectively tweaked when 2 party wants to be Cape premier. So what? It removed leader  
Clarence Makwethu, jer by dismissing the Mayoer, and in There is another important lesson  
boss feels threatened. or wants his democratic processes are followed, for political mepti  
tude three years fact cleared him\_ auemmdÃ@ ~â\200\224the DA wants 10 secqre black votes,  
way. Zwelinzima Vavi, Secretary-gen- his ambitions wili amount to nought. 3go he underwent  
an internal disci- o sack him. Marais, backed by Black voters have had 300 vears of  
eral of the C)ongr&s of SA Trade Un- Nothiiag Hk?~\ a Lit:jl;ee character as- phnary process  
uâ\200\230aend had the option of rlâ\200\230eoeadu VanhSchahalkwykd â\200\230. rrrghm to go  
. mem .

ions (Cosatu . referred o it this wee- sassination when going gets appealing to national e  
xecutive n said he â\202¬ right, as party t rups B's a shame  
when beuâ\200\234sugguled 2 review of tough. committee before being expeller leader, to di  
smis Marais, He does -  
the tripartite alliance :

Freedom of ion is a term j H the debacle the But with; the DA has fre. agamthe ngoa'ï¬\201  
shï¬\202l hite bazag prlap =  
- Of expression is a term jp Oowever, oy e O a system the it ike white Kap.  
He said claims by some ANC mem- the constitution, bt Certainly not DA has put the couï¬\201  
g through has que]ltly expressed unease about,

arty leaders within the Current B Smah isa freelance journglisy

bers that Casatu intended to form a something practised in partv ranks ajj the trappings of  
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