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AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

ANC MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE MURDER OF REGGIE HADEBE

The National Working Committee of the ANC learnt with shock and outrage of the murder of Regional Executive Committee member and media officer of the Natal Midlands Region of the ANC, Mr Reggie Hadebe. The vehicle he was travelling in with another prominent member of the ANC Regional Executive in the Natal Midlands, Mr Shakes Cele, and lawyer Mr John Jeffries was ambushed on the Richmond-Ixopo road.

The ANC will leave no stone unturned in an effort to bring the murderers to book. The ANC finds a direct relationship between the murder of Mr Hadebe and the propaganda that violence in Natal and elsewhere in the country will be primarily solved by a meeting between the leaders of the ANC and the IFP. The ANC is of the view that a meeting of all the signatories to the Peace Accord, is the best way to revive the Peace Accord. The ANC is therefore, going to work towards a meeting of all the signatories to the Peace Accord.

Cdes Reggie Hadebe and Shakes Cele and Attorney John Jeffries attended a Peace Meeting in the Ixopo area this morning. The meeting was attended by the Police, Chief Dlamini, a minister from Ulundi, and Chief Xawulengwe Mkhize who faces a number of murder charges. Chief Dlamini refused to allow the meeting to proceed on the pretext that a number of chiefs were not present. There is reason to believe that the time the ANC delegation used in Ixopo trying to persuade Chief Dlamini to allow the meeting to proceed was to prepare for their ambush.

We appeal to the people of Natal to exercise restraint and discipline at this time of extreme provocation. All our people must bear in mind that many of those who shed copious crocodile tears at the carnage in the province provoke violence in many ways in the hope that they will make us annihilate each other while they continue to pretend to be above the barbarism of their creation. This is a trap we must avoid whatever the provocation.

The National Working Committee conveys its deepest condolences to the bereaved family and friends of Reggie Hadebe.

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The People Shall Govern!

ANC PRESS STATEMENT ON PIK BOTHA'S CALL FOR CODESA TO GO

The African National Congress is determined that the negotiation process move forward with maximum speed to elections for a Constituent Assembly, as already agreed in the Record of Understanding with the National Party.

The Codesa forum is one that is inclusive, whereby all organisations, irrespective of size or proven support, are free to participate fully and equally in deliberations to chart the way forward.

The statement by Pik Botha, after the bilateral meeting with the PAC in Gaborone, that Codesa must go to make way for a more representative forum, is another blatant attempt to delay, if not completely stall, the process.

It is highly regrettable that the PAC should lent its weight to this call, which, if it was to be accepted, would considerably delay the date of an election for a Constituent Assembly.

Any such delay can only exacerbate the climate of violence, economic insecurity and instability that prevails. For the sake of the future of the country a date for elections should be set, so that a truly representative body that reflects the will of the people is established through a Constituent Assembly.

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