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**African
National Congress**

ANC PRESS STATEMENT ON THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST MXOLISI PETANE

We utterly reject police allegations that ANC Western Cape Regional Executive Member, Xolisi Petane, was involved in the taxi violence, particularly as he was central to discussions within the ANC on how to bring the two taxi associations together and end the feuding. If anything, his arrest is likely to exacerbate existing tensions.

But the arrest of Comrade Petane raises other important matters as well. Firstly, the police focus on Petane, who is also MK Chief of Staff in the Western Cape is, in our view, an attempt to discredit Umkhonto we Sizwe. It is part of propaganda and pressure by the regime to blame the terrible crime rate on MK cadres, and to try to force the ANC to hand over the weapons it has in safe-keeping in terms of the agreement to suspend armed actions.

Secondly, it is members of the police force themselves who have been identified as being involved in the taxi violence, and one is even up on a charge of murder. This arrest is a smokescreen to cover up their own nefarious deeds.

Mxolisi Petane, who was sentenced to 17 years in prison in 1988 for MK activities, was only freed from Robben Island in 1991. We welcome his release on R2,000 bail, but insist that the police produce all their evidence so that it can be tested in a court of law.

We demand that the assassination, detention and harassment of ANC members and officials, as well as that of community, trade union leaders and activists, cease.

We demand that the appropriate investigating structures established in terms of the Peace Accord immediately investigate the ongoing violence in the Western Cape, the behaviour of the police and the continued singling out of MK cadres for harassment.

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The people shall govern!