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ANC – Endemic Corruption and Systemic Racism

The ANC – at its conference held in December 2022 – has in a desperate attempt to detract from the endemic corruption and systemic racism within its own ranks, once again resorted to playing the race card. This they have consistently done since the demise of Apartheid over 30 years ago.

It was reported that the ANC has resolved to take harsher action against any persons or organizations found to be engaged in racist acts, with they alone determining exactly what is meant by 'racist acts'. This can be interpreted as the implementation of more draconian legislation and a further erosion of the constitutional rights of a certain segment of the South African population.

NEC member David Makhura reportedly said that racism cannot be tolerated and that the state needed to 'sharpen their instruments' as they 'follow through on the South African Constitution' in dealing with racism. This sounds rich coming from a political party that does not hesitate to change the Constitution to suit their ideological agenda, and that has done incalculable harm to the spirit of the Constitution with their never ending Affirmative Action, BEE and BBBEE legislation. All of which has cost the country dearly and has done absolutely nothing to strengthen racial relations. Makhura further said that a racist agenda was being driven by the 'right wing', conveniently ignoring the blatant racism of the ultra-left EFF. This is a clear indication of the direction the ANC was taking in their approach to the question of racism.

He went on to say, that the ANC was looking to boost fundamental transformation (expropriation without compensation?) – inferring that anybody opposed to this is in favour of white domination, and that they have availed themselves of democratic institutions to try and sustain 'racial privilege in the economy and broader society'. Evidently, they want to develop a more assertive and emboldened strategic posture to defend the constitutional democracy and advance the transformation agenda without apology, across all sectors. Where necessary policies and programs that have not worked, should be reviewed.

Listening to politicians speak on an emotive subject like this and comparing it to what I have experienced at grass roots level, makes me realise afresh just how far they are removed from the lives of the ordinary people they claim to represent. In our daily relations and communications with one another, I have experienced nothing but good will between people, from different cultures and language groups.

We need to remind ourselves that there is a big difference between racism and race. The former is based on discrimination. The latter signifies a group of people who have the same culture, history and language. Our country is made up of various cultures and languages. All of which need to be recognized, as having the right - according to the Constitution - for individuals to identify with and to contend for their continued existence and protection. The CDP has written a letter to the Speaker of Parliament demanding that Parliament create a law giving practical effect to Section 235 of the Constitution, which acknowledges the right of cultural groups to self-determination.

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