



ANC Women's League

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

29 July 2013

RE: ANCWL Extremely Disappointed with Vavi Rape Allegation

The African National Congress Women's League has noted with utmost concern and extreme disappointment the serious allegation of rape against the General-Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Union (Cosatu), Zwelinzima Vavi by an employee of the federation, especially given all the factors that have been raised in the public and the position that comrade Vavi holds in our society and the respect that he commands from South Africans.

While we respect the fact that this rape allegation came through the realm of an internal administrative grievance process of Cosatu, we were extremely concerned that, firstly, Cosatu might not be the most appropriate platform to properly determine and give due consideration and credence to all the factors in an allegation of rape. Secondly, it was our view that Cosatu could not offer the comprehensive protection, support and assistance to the complainant as it would be the case within the legal system. Finally, it was clear from the onset that any outcome on this serious allegation will be taken within the realm of perceived internal occurrences within Cosatu, which will undermine the credence of any pronouncement on this matter.

The withdrawal of the complaint "just two hours before the commencement of an internal disciplinary hearing" by the complainant who has gone to the tremendous trouble of publicly stating her position in various platforms, including the media and a grievance process is worrying and disconcerting. Thus, we are extremely concerned that this case will result in an immense setback for our national fight against the rape epidemic in our country and the persistent harassment of women in the workplace. It will ensure that women with genuine intentions to pursue complaints of rape and sexual harassment in the workplace are viewed with extreme cynicism and malicious intent.

"Forward to a united, non-sexist, non-racial, democratic South Africa".

ISSUED BY:

NOSIPHO DOTHY NTWANAMBI

Deputy President of the ANCWL

Cell: 083 658 0097

E-mail: nntwanambi@parliament.gov.za and copy dinkiezee@gmail.com

For further information contact: Nosipho Mndaweni

Tel: 011 376 1055 or Cell: 078 210 3730

FORWARD TO A UNITED, NON-SEXIST, NON-RACIAL, DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA

3rd Floor, Chief Albert Luthuli House, 54 Sauer Street, Johannesburg, 2001

P.O. Box 61884, Marshalltown 2107

Tel: (011) 376 1055 • Fax: (011) 376 1098. E-mail: dinkiezee@gmail.com