



**MINISTRY  
PUBLIC ENTERPRISES  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**Secretary General  
African National Congress  
Luthuli House  
PO BOX 61884  
MASHALLTOWN  
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Dear Cde Ace

I refer to the attached statement issued by the ANC.

I want to state emphatically that I have not made any public statements diminishing the status of Black Engineers.

In fact my history in the public sector and in the struggle more generally is one of being uncompromising on the principle of non-racialism. More importantly, my history has been one of building and nurturing black professionals and transforming institutions in every sense of the word, in line with established ANC policy.

I, therefore, reject, and find extremely offensive, the contents of the statement.

It would appear that some individuals at Luthuli House give more credence to the orchestrated utterances of individuals like Matshela Koko who has done so much of damage at Eskom.

Accordingly, I must insist on a retraction of the above mentioned statement and a public apology from the ANC spokesperson.

At a time when all members of the ANC are obliged to promote unity and renewal in our ranks, this kind of reckless statement raises doubts about the commitment to build a resilient and effective ANC.

I hope to hear from you shortly.

Regards,

**PRAVIN J. GORDHAN**  
[prgordhan@dpe.gov.za](mailto:prgordhan@dpe.gov.za)  
21 FEBRUARY 2019

CC PRESIDENT OF ANC.

For immediate release  
20 February 2019  
ANC DISMAYED BY ATTACK ON BLACK PROFESSIONALS

The African National Congress (ANC) has noted utterances attributed to Cde Senzo Mchunu, Head of Organising and Cde Pravin Gordhan, Minister of Public Enterprises, both of whom are members of the National Executive Committee. The ANC finds these utterances rather unfortunate. The attack on black professionals is neither warranted nor acceptable and goes against the grain of ANC policy.

The ANC would like to assure all structures representing black professionals, academics and entrepreneurs that the party remains committed to the ideals of the Freedom Charter.

Accordingly, the ANC acknowledges the importance of constructive engagements with all professionals including black engineers and the Black Management Forum. The ANC believes that it is important to have ongoing dialogue in order to discuss issues of mutual interests in order to find a common ground.

Such an approach will assist in dealing with what Black Management Forum perceived as an unfair and direct attack on its members working for Eskom as Engineers.

Critically, the ANC is on record appreciating the role played by black professionals in driving socio-economic development. To this end, the ANC has always called for black professionals to lead critical institutions of our economy.

The ANC has resolved to meet with both Gordhan and Mchunu in order to understand the context and logic behind statements attributed to them.

On the issue of corruption, the ANC is of the view that this scourge knows no colour. Fraud and corruption is rife in both private and public sector. In Africa, it is estimated that the cost of corruption could represent up to 25% of the continent's GDP and increase the cost of goods and services by as much as 20%.

We recently witnessed the biggest scandal involving Steinhoff which left many people shocked. In addition, banks have admitted to be involved in fixing rand something which all South Africans regard as the biggest fraud and corruption ever.

Corruption is a problem we must all fight in our beloved South Africa. The ANC, within its structures, has a wide range of progressive professional bodies and has worked very hard to build and maintain the progressive and revolutionary relationships.

It is for these reasons that we will never condone any action that seeks to threaten this strongly bonded relationship.

ISSUED BY THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

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