

# AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Western Cape Region

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## PRESS STATEMENT

National Party Minister Herandien's allegations about events at Macassar on Friday night appear to be complete nonsense. His version of what happened differs so substantially from what eyewitnesses report that one must seriously question his memory of events.

The dance was attended primarily by people from outside Macassar, as evidenced by the number plates of the cars in the parking lot. It was guarded by some 14 members of the SAP. A small group of members of the Macassar civic association gathered outside the door and were continually subjected to harrassment. No member of this group at any stage entered the hall or tried to interfere with the dance.

Mr Herandien also incorrectly claims that the gathering, which consisted of members of the local civic association, was organised by the local ANC members. Indeed, Mr Vincent Shibangu - the only "ANC member" named by Mr Herandien is, in fact, a card-carrying member of Azapo and publicity secretary of the Civic.

Mr Herandien also alleges that a member of the group outside was armed with an AK47, a ludicrous statement in the light of the fact that there were so many policemen present. The police have since confirmed that there was no such weapon.

Despite the fact that there was no attempt to disrupt the proceedings, civic members were continually harrassed by the party goers. On one occasion, Mr Heinrich Magerman, an ANC member, was threatened with a knife while police looked on. It was only later, when Mr Magerman, reported the incident at the police station that the knife was removed from the aggressor.

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Mr Herandien claims that his car was damaged. This is a preposterous allegation in the light of the fact that Mr Herandien's car actually ran over and injured three people - a man and a child in the parking lot outside the dance (a Mr John Jenner and a child with the surname of Hans) and, later, a man at the police station (so far only identified as Eddie). Two of the injured were taken to hospital by ambulance.

We would like to express our outrage about Mr Herandien's attempt to present such a distorted version of events and to gain publicity from an incident in which he and his supporters were clearly the aggressors.

We are also deeply angered by the evidence that, once again, a National Party minister has made use of state resources for his own party political gains. Not only was Mr Herandien's dance guarded by the SAP, but police vehicles were used to take participants home afterwards.

Once again the South African taxpayer will foot the bill for National Party abuse of state apparatus for its own party political purposes.

**Issued by Willie Hofmeyr, Assistant Secretary**  
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