

# AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

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ANC Western Cape

## PRESS STATEMENT

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### Re: De Klerk's visit to Mitchell's Plain

Mr FW de Klerk's proposed visit to Mitchell's Plain this week has been condemned as out and out opportunism by members of the Mitchell's Plain community.

In response to the announcement, the Mitchell's Plain ANC Zone, Civic Associations and other organisations have called for three days of action to protest against the visit. We stress that these demonstrations are not intended to disrupt, but simply to demonstrate strong community opposition to the visit. The action begins today with a picket in the town centre which will be joined by pensioners and other organisations. Tomorrow (Friday) a protest motorcade will leave the town centre for a tour of Mitchell's Plain, and on Saturday, Mitchell's Plainers will gather at the Town Centre to stage a demonstration.

Strong objections to the visit arise from a feeling of outrage that De Klerk should, after all the harm done by the NP to the people of Mitchell's Plain, display the insensitivity and downright opportunism to approach them for support and votes.

The irony is, of course, that to this day the people of Mitchell's Plain enjoy only token representation in parliament. In addition, many of the people who live in Mitchell's Plain were removed from District Six by De Klerk and his party. Many Mitchell's Plainers too have suffered from arrest, imprisonment and even death for their opposition to the NP's apartheid policies.

Another issue that outrages the community is that De Klerk should abuse his position as State President to garner votes for his own party - further demonstration of the danger in allowing the NP to act both as referee and player in the forthcoming democratic elections.

Beyond this, there is also considerable anger that, with many of the inequalities of the apartheid system still in place, De Klerk should seek support from a constituency that suffers from discriminatory social and other benefits. To this day, despite a population of some 400 000 people, there is still no general hospital in Mitchell's Plain.

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**The People Shall Govern !**

The ANC condemns this visit as a piece of shocking opportunism by De Klerk and support the people of Mitchell's Plain in the protest. We find it extraordinary that De Klerk should embark on what amounts to a piece of cheap propaganda at a time when there is so much at stake ... and in a community to whom he and his party have done so much harm.

We are also deeply concerned at this abuse of the office of State President which we see as further evidence of De Klerk's intention to distort the democratic process by attempting to act as referee and player in South Africa's first true elections.

**Issued by: Mziwonke Jacobs      Publicity secretary (25 3844 code 6470)**

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