

FROM SUSAN

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DRAFT PRESS STATEMENT RE GRABOUW

(I have faxed a copy through to Allan for his comments)

"A chilling precedent has been set in Grabouw", reported ANC Regional Chairperson Dr Allan Boesak, late last night.

Dr Boesak met with the Grabouw squatter community and municipality yesterday in order to intervene in an action that has become a national scandal of huge proportions.

Wednesday's squatter shack demolitions by men in white masks and concealed number plates was shocking enough. The fact that they appear to have been protected by the police in the perpetration of these acts is an outrage.

Dr Boesak's intervention has resulted in a decision that demolitions will halt until a forum consisting of the municipality, representatives of organisations involved and the CPA meet to discuss both the immediate problem as well as longer term solutions to housing in Grabouw. The date of his meeting has still to be agreed.

"The ANC expresses its strongest condemnation of this appalling action and demands immediate executive action by all parties concerned," said Dr Boesak last night. "Incidents of this kind not only create an extremely dangerous precedent, but impact negatively on the delicate process of building a climate in which negotiations can take place".

Dr Boesak has requested a meeting with the Minister of Law and Order to discuss police involvement in the incident.

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