



AZAPO
AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

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TO: MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FROM: AZAPO Presidency
DATE: January 05, 2022
SUBJECT: AZAPO CALLS FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF MR ZANDILE CHRISTMAS MAFE

AZAPO has been watching with dumb-founding disbelief, as news reports broke, of a raging fire in the seat of legislature in neo-colonial Azania – The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa. The story dramatically took an unexpected turn to becoming a case of arson. No sooner had this finding been made, an arrest was swiftly announced. To AZAPO this was potentially the greatest conspiracy theory ever peddled in the history of this country's quasi democracy.

A 49-year-old man has since been arrested and appeared in court on Tuesday January 4th, 2022. Five trumped-up charges have been levelled against him. The charges are housebreaking, with intent to steal and theft; two counts of arson; possession of an explosive device and destruction of an essential infrastructure.

AZAPO emphatically rejects the five charges with the contempt they deserve. The charges Mr Zandile Christmas Mafe faces emanate from what AZAPO describes as the four cardinal sins, in the face of the law of neo-colonial South Africa, namely,

1. Being Black
2. Being Homeless
3. Being Poor
4. Being challenged with mental health issues, albeit officially unconfirmed.

AZAPO is of the view that the state would have done better by dealing with Mr Mafe's mental state as preliminary step before rushing into charging and asking him to plead to the charges against him. AZAPO maintains that the plot against Mr Mafe is not something new in this country – Almost without exception, Black poor citizens are always targets of such weird plots in this country. Vulnerable citizens like Mr Mafe, who continue to be on the margins of society, face untold injustices in their daily lives. They are victims of a brutal system that doesn't favour Black and poor people. Lest it be forgotten, the April 2021 fires that destroyed flora, fauna, and a restaurant on Hoeri Kwaggo mountains and burnt some buildings at UCT, were blamed on yet another homeless person, who was accused of arson. This seems to be a worrisome trend.

The ANC government, through its agents, should conduct proper investigations, and refrain from using low hanging fruit strategies, which impact negatively on the image of Black People in this country. They should also stop employing cheap tactics to score points, while there are mountains of unresolved criminal cases countrywide. As if the drama of charging and trying Mr Mafe is not enough, here comes someone, a day after the fire broke out at parliament, who claims to be an Architect, who has the costs all worked out, on how much it will cost to repair the damages to the burnt building. The country is told the amount is R1 billion – what a joke! To AZAPO this is another well-calculated plan and attempt at looting state coffers.

Driven by Black Consciousness and inspired by her rich history of struggle against injustice and oppression in this country, AZAPO cannot sit back and watch idly when vulnerable Black people in this country are vilified and accused of crimes they might not have even committed. AZAPO commits to be on the side of these vulnerable and voiceless Black people. To this end AZAPO invites the multitudes of people of our land AZANIA, to join AZAPO in making a call for the immediate release of MAFE, to stop the attempts of making him a deliberate scapegoat of a poorly managed campaign by those who failed to protect a national key point, to appear to have apprehended a criminal who allegedly single-handedly set a national key point alight.

AZAPO firmly believes that MAFE is victimised because of his Blackness! MAFE is notably one of the countless victims of the ANC CORRUPT Housing Provision Practices. MAFE is a victim of the DA's hostile policies towards the poor and homeless people living in Cape Town!

AZAPO says HANDS OFF MAFE!

Ends.

Issued by AZAPO Department of Publicity and Information (DPI).

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