



AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

Enquiries: Gaontebale Nodoba

Or Cikizwa Dabula

Telephone: 061 332 4792 or
061 487 2032

Office: Publicity Secretary

TO: MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FROM: AZAPO Publicity Secretary: Gaontebale Nodoba
DATE: January 02, 2022
SUBJECT: AZAPO ON THE SYMBOLISM OF THE FIRE AT RSA PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

AZAPO is of the view that ordinarily it should not be business as usual in a democratic country when the legislative seat of such a country is on fire. That said, the symbolism of this fire cannot be ignored either. Though it is too early to speak of investigations into the cause of this inferno, it should worry us all that buildings in the seat of the legislature of all places have caught fire. This leaves many questions in the mind of the ordinary citizen and taxpayer. Should such a place not have in place state of the art fire combating equipment such as automatic water sprinklers that go off in the event of a fire? Or is the Old Assembly building still with its old infrastructure? Is this fire also not communicating a message to Public Works with regard to the state of government buildings? Hopefully investigations will probe all these and related questions. From a security point of view there are many dots that need to be connected. Chief among them being the state of surveillance of the precincts of parliament and presence of security personnel. The other issue is the effectiveness of fire detection devices – what can be said of the fire alarms? These are supposed to be early warning signals. Did the fire alarms go off as it is supposed to be?

AZAPO cannot help but wonder as to the implications of this fire, especially on the second day of 2022 - could this be a warning sign that parliament needs to beef up its security and crisis prevention equipment so that when the time comes to house the *Zondo Commission reports*, then there is no need to worry about the possibility of documents going up in flames? Or could this fire be a symbolic form of cleansing? After all the Old Assembly and National Assembly buildings are colonial symbols that perpetuated Black subjugation through the promulgation of anti-Black legislation, even to this day we have anti-Black legislation. What comes to mind is parliament's inability to repossess stolen land of Black people.

AZAPO has noticed an emerging trend of destruction of physical infrastructure in the country. This is a worrying phenomenon. It takes the form of the torching of Metrorail couches and destruction of train stations and general destruction and looting of rail infrastructure. AZAPO observes with concern the insufficient investigation into the KwaZulu Natal fires that were arguably because of ANC factionalism. As a result, AZAPO does not have confidence that the factionalised state security in the Presidency will be able to investigate and get to the root cause of this fire at Parliament buildings. AZAPO calls instead for the establishment of a Judicial Commission to investigate possible sabotage in the country. It cannot be that as a country we can be so exposed to security threats. The questions AZAPO posed earlier in this statement are meant to assist the suggested Judicial Commission to get to the bottom of what is amiss in our country in terms of state security.

Ends.

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

Name: Gaontebale Nodoba & Cikizwa Dabula

Office 503 - 5th Floor, Corner House, 77
Commissioner Street, Johannesburg 2001
P.O. Box 4230, JOHANNESBURG 2000.
Email: cswepu@gmail.com