

No to 'tribalism' – Limpopo ANC

NEXT LEADER: STRONG SUPPORT FOR RAMAPHOSA AT COSATU WORKERS' RALLY

» **'Party does not belong to a particular province or family. It belongs to us all.'**

Alex Matlala

The ANC is a nontribal organisation, Limpopo premier and ANC provincial chairperson Stan Mathabatha says.

Introducing Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa at the trade union federation Cosatu workers' rally in Seshego on Sunday, he added: "The ANC does not belong to a particular province or family. It belongs to us all."

He was applauded by people in a packed stadium when he said the ANC had not had a president from Limpopo since 1917, when Sefako Makgatho held the position.

The inference was the time is ripe for Ramaphosa, who is from Limpopo, to lead the party.

Mathabatha, who has been linked to Ramaphosa's lobby group, CR-17, said tribalism with-

in the ranks of the ANC was dividing the movement.

Political analyst Professor Lesiba Tefo agreed with Mathabatha's assertion that tribalism was a new phenomenon in the ANC.

"I think Mathabatha is just saying the ANC must be careful of tribalism, which has seen other presidents in some African countries wanting their sons, wives or relatives to succeed them when their term of office expires.

"It is, therefore, not logical for President Jacob Zuma to advocate his former wife, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, to succeed him in December, because that would be tantamount to tribalism and nepotism."

In 2012, the ANC in Limpopo compiled a document opposing tribalism within the party.

The paper claimed tribalism was rearing its head within the movement.

The document, which formed part of the discussion at the party's Mangaung elective conference, said tribalism was at play in ANC elective conferences, branches, communities and at the workplace.

The document was compiled by



Couples attend a group wedding ceremony in traditional Han Dynasty style as they celebrate the Qixi festival, or Chinese Valentine's Day, in Hengyang, Hunan province in China yesterday. Picture: Reuters

the Mopani regional leadership of the ANC under the stewardship of Joshua Matlou.

Matlou, who is also former

Limpopo ANC Youth League provincial chairperson, inherited three former bantustans: Gazankulu which was for Tson-

ga-speaking people, Venda for the Venda speakers and Lebowa for Pedi-speaking people. -news@citizen.co.za



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