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FACEBOOK POSTINGS PROVE MALEMA WRONG: AFRIFORUM
YOUTH

(SUBS/NEDS: NOTE LANGUAGE IN PAR 7 and 8)

Racist Facebook postings, believed to be made by fans of ANC Youth League president Julius Malema, proved wrong his defence of

his singing of the "shoot the boer" song, Afriforum Youth said.

"Malema's defence regarding the controversial 'shoot the boer/farmer' song, namely that he does not mean this literally, is

irrelevant," Afriforum Youth's national chairman Ernst Roets said

in a statement on Wednesday.

"What is relevant, is the way in which this song is interpreted

on grassroots level by the 'Boers' and Malema's supporters.

"In this light of the huge support which AfriForum Youth's Stop

Malema campaign enjoys, as well as the shocking statements made by

Malema's alleged supporters, Malema's defence has clearly been proved wrong."

The ANCYL distanced itself from postings on the social networking site, Facebook, saying it was against all forms of hate speech.

"The ANC Youth League president does not have an official Facebook fans page, and does not use Facebook," spokesman Floyd Shivambu said in a statement.

A Malema supporter, named Thato Mbateti Mbateti, angered Facebook users when he penned a post on a fan page for the ANCYL president referring to whites as "fucking white pigs" and in which

he threatens to rape "white whores".

"We will rape them and rape them until their last breath is out.

White kids will be burned... men will be burned," states the online

post.

It continues: "Its true what Malema said, silently we shall kill

them... Police will stand together... our leader will lead us to take our land over... Mandela [former president Nelson Mandela] will smile again."

Shivambu said the ANCYL had on "more than one occasion" reported Facebook pages which "spread hate speech" and were "illegally created and linked" to it and its leadership.

"The ANC Youth League has recurrently said and emphasised that we are against all forms of hate speech and will forever oppose attempts to threaten people based on race.

"Facebook is a social networking site and extremely vulnerable to fake impersonations and postings of hate speech and it's very sad that some news agencies treat facebook as a source of news and information."

The league "ascribed to a non-racial South Africa, where black and white people live side by side in harmony", Shivambu said.

Roets said Afriforum Youth appreciated that the ANCYL distanced itself from the postings.

He said Malema should put his words into action by immediately putting an end to his statements that incite racial hatred and violence in South Africa.

"It serves no purpose for the ANCYL to distance itself in a statement from such proclamations, while they go ahead making statements in public that serve to incite racial hatred and violence," Roets said.

He said Afriforum Youth would monitor the Facebook comments in an attempt to establish whether contributors can be identified.

"We cannot allow polarisation to increase even further in South Africa. Mutual recognition and respect should be promoted and now is the time for the ANCYL to show whether they are serious in this regard."