

# Malema gets it in the neck from all sides

Faces charges, move to depose him

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**W**HILE the ANC is worried about Julius Malema being assassinated, he is facing a cyber petition of 45 000 signatories who want to depose him, an e-mail campaign, more than 100 formal complaints, Equality Court charges, and angry journalists who want President Jacob Zuma to rein him in.

The SA Human Rights Commission yesterday confirmed it had received 109 complaints against Malema for singing "*dubul' ibhunu*" ("kill the boers").

These complaints came from Afriforum, the FF+ and the DA in the North West, as well as a range of individuals, commission spokesman Vincent Moaga said.

Commission chairman Lawrence Mushwana said this week the commission had taken no decision yet on the complaints.

He said he was compelled to wait for the Equality Court case against Malema, brought last week by the Afrikanerbond, to take its course.

But constitutional expert Pierre de Vos, of the University of Cape Town, said the commission could continue with its own investigation and could even make pronouncements based on past precedents, like its pronouncement as hate speech three years ago of former ANC Youth League leader Peter Mokaba's chant "kill the farmer, kill the boer".

Meanwhile, the ANC has leapt to Malema's defence after the FF+ launched a campaign against him on Thursday.

The ANC said the FF+ was putting Malema's "personal safety and security" in danger, especially considering that "rightwing elements" were responsible for killing former SACP leader Chris Hani in the early 90s.

"The ANC would not like a repeat of what happened to Chris Hani to happen to Julius Malema," ANC spokesman Jackson Mthembu said.

He said the ANC had already instructed its lawyers to approach the Equality Court, "because we view this campaign as indicative of hate speech meant to endanger and

pose a threat to the well-being and safety" of Malema.

Mthembu said the FF+'s "repeated lie that a song sung by the ANC Youth League president on various occasions has led to death of some farmers, is a clear, deliberate ploy on their side to mobilise the farming community and their next of kin not to hesitate in causing harm to (Malema)", he said.

He said if the FF+ was serious about its claims, it would have reported the matter to the police – something which party leader Pieter Mulder did last week.

FF+ chief whip Corné Mulder said yesterday that it was "ironic" that the ANC was worried about Malema's safety but showed "no real understanding for the thousands of farmers who have already been murdered in South Africa".

He denied that the FF+ wanted to "jeopardise" Malema's safety.

Meanwhile, this week a social networking site on Facebook, entitled "Official petition: remove Julius Malema as president of the ANCYL" had close to 45 000 fans.

Last night, Yusuf Abramjee, chairman of the Pretoria-based National Press Club, appealed to Zuma to rein in Malema, without mentioning him by name as he presented Zuma with the club's News-maker Of The Year award. Abramjee's plea follows Malema calling journalists a mob after they wrote a complaint letter against the league's spokesman Floyd Shivambu.

Sapa reports that the league yesterday refused to accept a memorandum from AfriForum youth in central Joburg.

AfriForum national youth chairman Ernst Roets said the ANC's Luthuli House headquarters was surrounded by police yesterday and they were refused entry.

"Officials and policemen told us we were not allowed there, and when we informed them that we were only coming to give them a list of the farm attack victims and a memorandum, they took the list and the memo, threw it on the pavement and literally stepped on it," Roets said.

He was addressing a crowd of about 200 AfriForum supporters.

League spokesman Floyd Shivambu was not immediately available to comment.