

# Come clean on Machel, NP told

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THE ANC has asked the NP to come clean about its involvement in the death of the late Mozambican President Samora Machel following new allegations that R1,5 million was paid to an air-traffic controller in Mozambique to take part in the plot.

ANC MP Willie Hofmeyr tabled a motion yesterday calling on Parliament to express its shock that the NP was apparently involved in a conspiracy to murder a legitimate head of state of a neighbouring country.

Hofmeyr said several members of the former security forces had been implicated in the plot and would be giving evidence to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission about their involvement.

"This appalling saga shows against that the South African Council of Churches was quite right when it quoted a well-known philosopher to describe the NP government as 'a government without justice is

no more than a group of bandits'," he said.

The TRC has been presented with new evidence linking the crash with activities of the former SADF. The commission is to hold an in-camera inquiry into the crash in Cape Town on June 4.

Evidence will be heard from several witnesses, including an ex-SADF Military Intelligence operative and the former Mozambican official who was allegedly bribed.

The TRC statement has declined to reveal the names of the witnesses because of fears for their safety.

The NP condemned the ANC's despicable attempt to convert the tragedy of this incident into cheap political capital. The party said any references to Machel's death outside the TRC were totally inappropriate and ill-considered.

Machel and 33 others died on October 19, 1986 when their aircraft, a Soviet-made Tupolev 134A-3, crashed into mountainous terrain near Mbusizi on the Swaziland-Mozambican border.