

## **Official Letter of Resignation**

I, Councillor Aslam Richards, hereby wish to formally submit my letter of resignation as a Councillor and member of the PA. I wish to thank those who have supported me, and guided me in taking this decision.

I will continue to serve the people, however I can no longer do so under the banner of the PA, and can no longer be part of the Patriotic Alliance for the following reasons:

### **1. The PA puts the ANC in power when it suits them personally**

When the PA was campaigning it campaigned in the name of God and claiming strong religious and moral values. As a member and councillor of the PA I have been in communities telling them of the evils of the ANC and how the ANC is destroying communities and destroying South Africa. Every day we see the disaster of loadshedding making life impossible for poor people.

Yet, twice in a row now, I have had to watch the PA hand councils back to the ANC for the sake of a position or a fight with the DA, where new coalitions had previously managed to remove the ANC from power.

The PA is just being the ANC in camouflage and is taking the vote given to it by voters who trust them to oppose the ANC and create a better government and a better future and using that vote to put the ANC back in power. This is betraying the trust voters have put in us and it makes it impossible for voters where I work in the Cape Flats to trust me as a PA councillor.

### **2. The PA treats its public representatives like dirt**

As a Councillor I have had no support from the Party or the leadership to assist me with any of the projects I have implemented in communities thus far.

The hard working PA Councillors in the Western Cape never gets recognition for the extremely good work they have been doing for the party. The party gives no resources and the leadership gives no support to the communities in the Western Cape.

The leadership portray the PA to be invested in on the ground upliftment of communities, but this is only a campaign for purposes of media and publicity.

### **3. The PA culture is driven by fear**

Whenever the President of the Patriotic Alliance goes onto Facebook live he threatens PA Councillors. He fires his Councillors on Facebook live with no procedure, no systems in the party. Everything depends on the whims of the leader.

President of the PA goes onto Facebook live the Councillors feel threatened because they don't know if they will be fired. Recently a Councillor was humiliated and fired just before Christmas on Facebook live in front of his family and friends. This is not sustainable and no party can build unity and strength and move to become a government if it has no internal systems.

The Party brought a Candidate from JHB to be the Premier candidate for the Western Cape for the 2024 Provincial and National election. I believe that we have capable leaders in the Western Cape for this role. The Premier Candidate has also been made Mayor in Beaufort West, where we have hard working capable members that have an in-depth understanding of the Western Cape.

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The PA has no formal party processes. Members aren't duly informed or consulted about anything within the organisation, and are instead intimidated and issued instructions by one individual alone being Gayton McKenzie. I don't believe this is an environment that can grow and become a positive agent for change and meaningfully govern.

The PA often publically celebrates how many new members the party is attracting and recruiting, but there are far bigger numbers leaving the PA because of fear.

I have for the past year tried my utmost best to get the party to financially support the Western Cape, to build our communities where it is needed most. I have come to the realization that the Party will never support the Western Cape the way it deserves to be supported, and will falsely claim to care, while it will only exploit the people of the Western Cape for political gain at all costs even if it means empowering or governing with the ANC.

This brings me to my last reason for leaving the PA.

#### **4. I believe the PA is a threat to a thriving SA**

As we have seen in municipalities in other parts of the country including here in the Western Cape, the PA has facilitated putting the ANC back into power, when it suits them personally. We all know through the recent State Capture Report, the ANC has for decades governed with the purpose of accessing state resources for personal gain.

Any party who enables the ANC back into power, is not only supporting this continuous looting of public funds but surely empowering this, and destroys any hope for a prosperous South Africa.

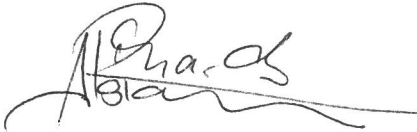
I joined politics because I wanted to make a difference and build the communities I care about. It is becoming harder and harder to see how I could achieve that in the PA. I have

become disillusioned to the point where I can no longer be a part of a party I cannot respect and which I cannot see as my home.

Working in Council this last year I have come to believe that the DA is the best vehicle for someone wanting to develop their community and make a difference.

For this reason I am resigning from the PA and joining the DA in Cape Town today.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aslam Richards', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Cllr Aslam Richards**