

ACDP calls for probe into Kamfers Dam ordeal

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THE ACDP in the Northern Cape has called on the Premier, Dipuo Peters, to appoint a commission of enquiry into the Kamfers Dam saga.

Francois van Wyk, ACDP leader in the Province, who held telephonic discussions with Environment Affairs, Tourism, Environment and Conservation MEC Pieter Saaiman on Friday last week, called for the inquiry following serious allegations made by Dr Gerhard Verdoorn on the television programme, *50-50*.

Van Wyk said yesterday that according to a press statement by Saaiman, the suspension of the three officials at the department was an internal departmental matter and he did not want to comment further, although his department had always supported the flamingo project and continued to do so.

Three scientists from the Department of Economic Affairs, Tourism, Environment and Conservation, Mark Anderson, Julius Koen and Eric Hermann from the Department's scientific investigations section, were suspended last week, apparently as a result of complaints received about their attempts to secure the future of the globally threatened lesser flamingo at Kamfers Dam for posterity.

"The economy of the Northern Cape is dependant on eco tourism and the damage that is being caused nationally and internationally as a result of the suspension of the three officials, is immeasurable," Van Wyk said yesterday.

"The whole matter, especially the allegations of corruption in the development together with the allegation that pressure was placed on the department to suspend the three officials, must be investigated as soon as possible".

Van Wyk said the party therefore requested that a commission of inquiry, consisting of an independent judge, a member of the Green Scorpions and an independent environmental expert, with access to all the relevant information, be established to investigate this issue.