

## Niehaus Blames Prison, Apartheid

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Former ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus' current "personal situation" was the effects of his "time spent in prison for his principled opposition to apartheid", his lawyer said on Wednesday.

Niehaus was seeking professional help, his attorney, Ian Small Smith, said in a statement.

"Carl Niehaus has today [Wednesday] sought professional assistance in the two areas vital to dealing conclusively with his personal situation and reconstructing his life.

"He is seeking psychological counselling to assist him in dealing with the long-term and deeply negative affects of his time spent in prison for his principled opposition to apartheid," read the statement.

Niehaus served seven-and-a-half years of a 15-year jail term in the 1980s for high treason.

This is according to the "A - Z of South African Politics" published in 1994, which also states that "Niehaus is known for his uncompromising views, but is also respected for his honesty".

The statement by his lawyer confirmed his resignation from "his position with the African National Congress" but added that he remained a loyal member of the party.

It added that he was "obtaining assistance in settling his debts".

"The media is asked to respect the privacy of Carl Niehaus and his family in the coming period. He is no longer available for interviews or to take calls from the media," said Smith.

Claims against Niehaus have been rolling in since a Mail & Guardian report on Friday on his alleged fraud and lies to maintain an expensive lifestyle that has dumped him in debt.

These include lies about him obtaining a doctorate, a fraudulent letter to obtain a loan and reports of millions of rands of debt, default payments and judgments against his name.

The ANC initially said he would be redeployed within the party but it said on Tuesday that Niehaus had withheld information from it.

Niehaus announced his resignation Tuesday night, which the ANC accepted, unlike last week, when it did not want to accept his offer to resign.

Source : Sapa /fg/gj

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