

# WHERE ARE 'STOP ZUMA' POSTERS?

**Anna Majavu**

The DA's controversial "Stop Zuma" posters have disappeared from central Cape Town but the party claims it hasn't taken them down.

By lunch time yesterday dozens of the "Stop Zuma" posters which were launched by DA leader Helen Zille at a press conference last Sunday had been replaced with a newly-designed DA poster saying "Your vote can win it".

But DA communications director Paul Boughey said the posters had not been withdrawn although many had been removed by members of the public.

The posters raised eyebrows with some observers saying they were reminiscent of the "Fight Back" campaign led by former DA leader Tony Leon in 1999.

## They have disappeared but DA says it has not taken them down

The campaign was interpreted to mean "fight the black ANC government".

Boughey refused to speculate why members of the public might have taken the posters down, but said the DA had "not received one complaint" about the posters.

Human Sciences Research Council executive director Kwandiwe Kondlo said it was good for the DA that the posters had been removed.

"The DA is still seen as a predominantly white party by some sections of the population.

"The "Stop Zuma" slogan could remind people of the 'Fight Back' slogan they used before, which many people interpreted as having racial connotations," he said.

Political analyst Steven Friedman said the posters were a "strategic mistake by the DA".

"The posters indicate that they are worried about one individual because they have some kind of cultural problem with him. It is a setback for them because they have made an attempt to profile their black members and not be



entirely critical of affirmative action during this campaign".

But Boughey dismissed the analysts' criticisms.

"The reality is that the overwhelming majority of DA supporters understand the threat that Jacob Zuma poses to the Constitution," he said.

ANC spokesperson Brian Sokutu said the ANC was taking legal advice about the posters, which he believed contravened the IEC's electoral code of conduct.

IEC staffers said the poster did not break any particular rule but that the ANC could complain if it felt offended.

The IEC electoral code of conduct does not prevent parties from mentioning their opponents by name but prohibits them from publishing any false or defamatory allegations against each other.