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Politics

SF urged to help in McCartney case

Tuesday, January 30, 2007

By Noel McAdam

The DUP today challenged Gerry Adams to assist police "in a practical way" over the murder of Belfast man Robert McCartney.

But a senior figure, as the party's officer team met in the aftermath of the Sinn Fein ard fheis, acknowledged that Mr Adams' encouragement for co-operation with police represented further progress.

Ian Paisley jnr said: "Gerry Adams' call for people to report crime to the police is a step in the right direction and the DUP will take credit for pushing Sinn Fein. However, Adams could be more decisive. His organisation has information about the circumstances of the brutal murder of Robert McCartney," the Policing Board member claimed.

The MLA added: "Given that this case remains unsolved, it is a live investigation and should be assisted now. It is in matters such as this that the public will judge the sincerity of Sinn Fein."

It came as the political parties were today shifting into election mode, in anticipation of a formal announcement from Tony Blair - which could come with a warning that the campaign will be halted if restoration of power-sharing looks unlikely on March 26.

Clearly signalling a theme for his campaign, Ulster Unionist leader Sir Reg Empey said it was time for the DUP to come clean.

"If the DUP has no intention of sharing power on March 26, regardless of Sinn Fein movement, then the public should be told," he said.


"It is clear that the DUP are trying to slither into an election without making any commitments, decisions or explaining what the outworking of their 'strategy' is."


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
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