

Nzimande hits out at 'reckless culture' in ANC

● Zuma's focus on radical economic transformation is rhetorical and self-serving, says SACP leader

Karl Gernetzky

Recklessness, with a disdain for collective decision-making and formal democratically elected structures are part of a growing trend in the ANC, its alliance partner, the South African Communist Party, said on Sunday.

SACP general secretary Blade Nzimande delivered this damning verdict after a meeting of the central committee yesterday. He also took aim at President Jacob Zuma's new-found

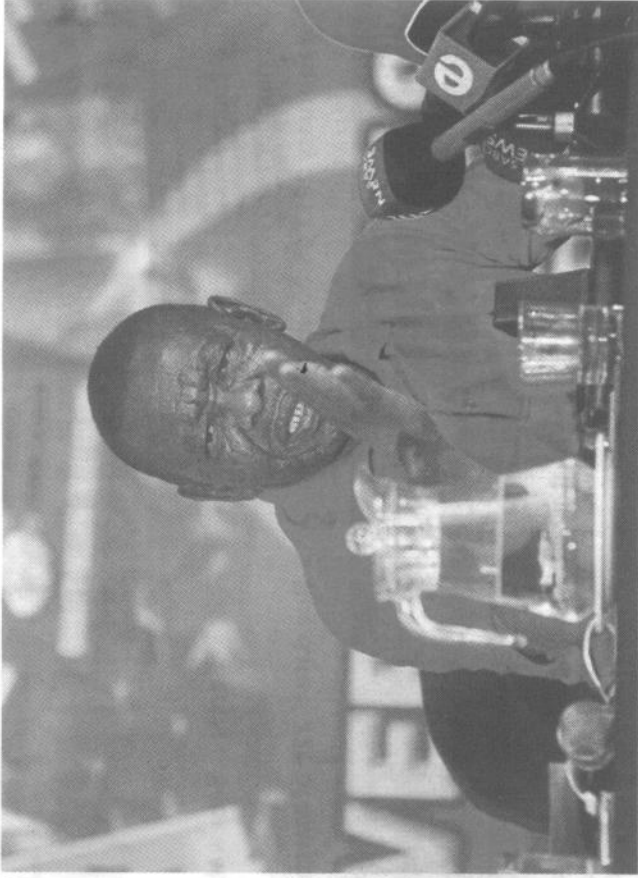
liking for "radical economic transformation", describing it as "rhetorical" and self-serving.

"Policy shifts with a radical-sounding air are being announced randomly. Existing and even deeper-lying crises in the water sector, in revenue collection, or in the payment of social grants are left unattended for apparently factional reasons, while ministers performing patriotic service in extremely difficult circumstances become the targets for sustained and

factionally orchestrated undermining," Nzimande said.

The SACP's comments come as the ANC, and Zuma in particular, has resuscitated a call for "radical economic transformation". The president's backers are blaming Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan and the Treasury for the failure by the government to effect such a transformation of the economy.

The SACP said the influence of the Gupta family underpinned factional statements.



Damning: SACP general secretary Blade Nzimande says ANC policy shifts with a radical-sounding air are being announced randomly, without consultation. /Sowetan/Sunday World

amid mounting rumours that yet another Cabinet reshuffle is in the offing, the latest sign being the swearing in of former Eskom CEO Brian Molefe as MP on Friday.

Details of the acrimonious relationship between Gordhan and various departments and state entities have also been doing the rounds, while the ANC Youth League has called for Gordhan to be fired and for the Treasury to be restructured, due to alleged "impropriety" in his ties with SAA board members.

Nzimande refused to be drawn on widespread speculation of a Cabinet reshuffle.

But referring to the ANC's appointment of Molefe as MP, he said the governing party should not expect an automatic "closing of ranks" when alliance partners are not consulted.

SACP deputy general secretary Jeremy Cronin said the SACP would likewise avoid overstepping when it came to talk of ANC succession.

"This is an ANC space and the ANC must be given space. It is very important to be partisan, but partisan around issues, not around factions," said Cronin.

/With Natasha Marrian

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and Africans in particular', but in effect, it's about 'me and mine specifically'," Nzimande said. "The reduction of 'radical economic transformation' almost entirely to a question of private black corporate 'ownership, control and management of the economy' sidelines any notion of social ownership, or of popular control, or of worker ownership and management," Nzimande said. The meeting took place

phase of the national democratic revolution to tackle the "core crises confronting the majority of South Africans – unemployment, poverty and inequality". However, the recent call from within the party for radical transformation was "largely rhetorical" and "almost entirely focused on advancing narrow black elite accumulation".

"This very narrow version of BEE evokes 'blacks in general, the call for a second radical