

Rand takes a nosedive

ANC joins SA in slating Zuma

DAILY NEW REPORTER

THE rand slumped as South Africa tried to come to grips with President Jacob Zuma's long anticipated cabinet reshuffle.

This morning, the rand slumped to about 13.50 to the dollar on news that Pravin Gordhan was sacked as finance minister and replaced with Malusi Gigaba.

At the start of this week, a dollar would have cost R12.30. The JSE also opened lower with banking shares particularly hard hit.

Meanwhile, the divisions within the ruling party are now out in the open.

This morning, Gwede Mantashe, the ANC's secretary general, said he was not happy with the cabinet reshuffle.

He said the top brass were not consulted about the sacking of Gordhan, but merely "informed" about the other changes.

"We were given a list that was complete and my own view as the secretary general, I felt like this list has been developed somewhere else and it's given to us to legitimise it."

"And my own view is that I'm very uncomfortable because areas where ministers do not perform have not been touched. Ministers have been moved and the majority of them were good performing ministers. I'm very much uncomfortable with it."

The deputy president of the ANC and the country said the sacking of Gordhan was unacceptable, especially since it was based on a dubious intelligence report.

Cyril Ramaphosa said that he would nonetheless continue to serve in the cabinet.

Zuma's move, in the dead of the night, resulted in 20 changes to the cabinet.

He announced the changes via a press statement. The reshuffle included a new deputy finance minister with Sifiso Buthelezi replacing Mcebisi Jonas.

Other changes include Fikile Mbalula, who has been appointed the Minister of Police, and Faith Muthambi as the Minister of Public Service and Administration.

Commentators have criticised the changes as a means to reward Zuma loyalists and not based on merit.

The other alliance partners, the SACP and Cosatu, already expressed unhappiness over the sacking of Gordhan. At this stage, it is unclear whether the SACP will continue allowing their members to serve in the cabinet or whether they will ask them to resign.

This morning Gordhan and Jonas joined protesters who had



Minister of Finance: Malusi Gigaba



Minister of Police: Fikile Mbalula



Minister of Home Affairs: Hengiwe Mkhize



Minister of Public Works: Nathi Nhleko



Minister of Communications: Ayanda Dlodlo



Minister of Sport: Thembelani Nxele



Minister of Tourism: Tokozile Xasa



Minister of Public Service and Administration: Faith Muthambi



Minister of Energy: Mmamoloko Kubayi



Minister of Transport: Joe Maswanganyi



Former minister of energy Tina Joemat-Pettersson



Former minister of public service and administration Ngoako Ramathodi



Former finance minister Pravin Gordhan.



Former minister of tourism Derek Hanekom



Former minister of transport, Dipuo Peters

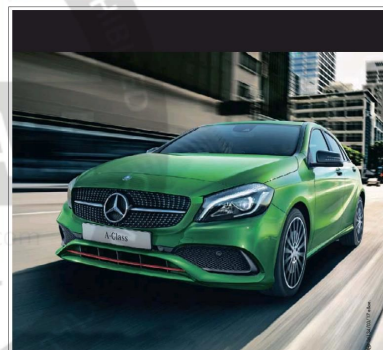
MINISTERS AXED

DEPUTY MINISTERS

1. Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration: Dipuo Letsatsi-Duba
2. Deputy Minister of Finance: Sifiso Buthelezi
3. Deputy Minister of Public Enterprises: Ben Martins
4. Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture: Maggie Sothy
5. Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry: Gratitude Magwaniche
6. Deputy Minister of Communications: Thandi Mahambela
7. Deputy Minister of Tourism: Elizabeth Thabethe
8. Deputy Minister of Police: Bongani Mkhong
9. Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services: Stella Nkomo
10. Deputy Minister of Small Business Development: Nomathemba November.



Comment:
Gambling with the lives of South Africans
Page 6



A for Amazing.

Get a 2016 A200 A/T Urban Line with low kms and loads of extras
Choose from 40 vehicles - various colours available.

from only **R399 990**

TO PAGE 2

gathered in Church Square, Pretoria, for a peaceful protest under the banner of Save South Africa.

"Our souls are not for sale. We hope that more and more South Africans will make it clear that our country is not for sale," said Gordhan.

The "intelligence report" referred to by government was "absolute nonsense," he said.

He was also sickened by the allegation that he was holding secret meetings. "We've been activists from a very young age. Why on earth would I undermine this country now," he asked.

He had met with the new finance minister and congratulated him.

"Whatever has happens does not mean there will not be professionalism," he said.

Several other organisations also attended, including the South African Federation of Trade Unions headed by Zweluthini Vavi.

Protests were also held outside Parliament in Cape Town.

Cas Coovadia, of the Banking Association of South Africa, said the matter was of grave concern.

"The actions of the president have put our country into turmoil, at a time the country is trying to come together to address the problems we face. We have no choice but to question the motives behind this action."

Coovadia said if South Africa's

investment status was downgraded, it would have a "serious impact" on the country's ability to fund social programmes which in turn would worsen the lives of the poor.

Claudette Sigamoney, vice-president of the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said she was "shocked" by the cabinet reshuffle and had fielded calls from business people trying to establish the impact of this latest development.

Yashika Padia, the media co-ordinator of the Active Citizens Movement (ACM), which has supported Gordhan, felt the reshuffle was not in the best interests of the country, and called on Zuma to

step down.

She said Gordhan and Jonas were two of the most efficient ministers and should have been left to continue with their jobs.

"The cabinet reshuffle is viewed as an attempt by those in power to loot public resources. We call on South Africans to wear black armbands as it is a black Friday for the country."

The EFF and DA called for a parliamentary motion of no confidence in the president.

Mmusi Maimane, the leader of the DA, said the decision to fire Gordhan and Jonas should be a rallying call for all South Africans to stand together.

Not everybody unhappy with Zuma's cabinet shuffle

FROM PAGE 1

"The president has once again shown that he has no interest in our beloved country's future – or the 9 million South Africans who are unemployed. "He has bowed to the whims of those who are determined to enrich themselves at the expense of the poor and job -

less," said Maimane.

"This is an act of complete state capture. It is Parliament who hired Jacob Zuma and it is Parliament that can fire him. We therefore urge all political parties, including members of the ANC, to vote President Jacob Zuma out when the DA's motion of no confidence is

debated in the National Assembly."

This morning, the DA said it would lodge an urgent application in the Cape High Court to stop the new cabinet members from being sworn in. This was expected to happen at 6pm.

However, not everyone was unhappy.

Mdumiseni Ntuli, the provincial ANC spokesman, welcomed the changes and said: "They (the new cabinet members) will be hitting the ground running and they know the work that they have to do as members of the ANC.

"Some people will be happy and some will not be happy about the president's decision. It is normal for this to happen. He did consult before he made the decision."

Thanduxolo Sabelo, ANC Youth League provincial secretary, also welcomed the reshuffle. He said the president's decision to appoint young ministers showed his commitment to service delivery. One of the first things the youth league wanted the new finance minister to focus on was the establishment of a national bank and for the South African Reserve Bank to be "nationalised".

Sabelo also hoped the minister would find a way to finance free education at tertiary institutions.

The KZN ANCYL welcomed the new police minister, Fikile Mbalula. "We feel pity for the criminals as he will take them head on. This will no longer be a lawless country."

President Jacob Zuma has appointed Malusi Gigaba Finance Minister.

PICTURE: RAJESH JANTILAL

