

ANC in crisis mode as it calls on provincial heads

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and Genevieve Quintal

The ANC has called in its provincial chairmen and secretaries for a meeting on Tuesday to discuss President Jacob Zuma's conduct following his cabinet reshuffle resulting in the downgrading of the country's credit rating to junk status.

Zuma reshuffled the Cabinet last week, firing finance minister Pravin Gordhan and his deputy Mcebisi Jonas, among others and replacing them with his key backers in the party.

The ANC is divided over the matter and the extension of the national working committee (NWC) meeting, to include provincial chairmen and their secretaries, indicates the seriousness of the situation and suggests a reinforcement of Zuma's backers.

The president enjoys the

support of the majority of the provincial secretaries and chairmen. Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza has already come out in support of the president, characterising as "ill-disciplined" senior members of the party who publicly disagreed with the reshuffle.

Mabuza, Free State chairman Ace Magashule, North West chairman Supra Mahumapelo and KwaZulu-Natal Premier Sihle Zikalala have long been regarded as the "Premier League", Zuma's key backers.

The Limpopo province is split, as is the Eastern Cape, Gauteng and the Northern Cape. The leadership in the Western Cape is seen as anti Zuma.

ANC spokesman Zizi Kodwa confirmed the extension of the NWC meeting and its shifting to Tuesday. He also confirmed that Zuma met the party's integrity commission, tasked with



6
of the ANC's
top officials
on Monday
met for the
first time
since Deputy
President
Cyril
Ramaphosa,
secretary-
general
Gwede
Mantase
and
Treasurer-
General
Zweli Mkhize
openly
disagreed
with
President
Jacob Zuma

upholding the integrity and public image of the party, on Monday. Members of the commission have in the past called on him to resign.

Also on Monday, the ANC's top six officials met for the first time since party deputy president Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary-general Gwede Mantase and treasurer-general Zweli Mkhize openly disagreed with Zuma on the reshuffle.

"It's been the most difficult days for the ANC, it has been the most difficult days for the country as well," said Kodwa.

Zuma removed Gordhan and Jonas using a suspect intelligence report to justify the move to ANC officials. While Zuma's opponents say his reasoning for the reshuffle was flawed, his allies told Business Day that the removal of Gordhan had

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CURRENCIES

R / US\$
13.69195
2.44



R / UK£
17.0851
1.81



R / €
14.59615
2.32



Figures as at 9pm SA time

COMMODITIES

Gold PM Fix
1,244.85
0.32



Brent Future
53.23
0.82



FOREIGN MARKETS

Dow Jones Ind
20,566.04
0.47



FTSE 100
7,322.92
0.63

