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Cronin willing to make his vote on Zuma motion public

Jeremy Cronin says he is not sure whether President Zuma will be removed by the Parliament vote whether secret or not. The South African Communist Party's (SACP) deputy general secretary, Jeremy Cronin, says he is willing to make public his vote in a motion of no confidence in President Jacob Zuma.

Cronin took part in a debate in Cape Town on whether or not the African National Congress (ANC) is capable of renewing itself. Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) also participated.

All speakers argued that the ruling party is beyond renewal. The ANC's alliance partners have publicly called for Zuma's removal. EFF MP, Mbuyiseni Ndlozi, challenged Cronin to make use of a secret ballot in a motion of no confidence - a matter currently before the Constitutional Court.

But Cronin declined, saying, "I am happy for my vote - whatever it might be - to be open. I don't want to hide behind anonymity ... but I'm not sure he is going to be removed by the Parliament vote whether secret or not."

But, Ndlozi cautioned that the secret ballot will offer protection to ANC MPs who are not as confident as Cronin. "I am glad you as the deputy general secretary are not scared of Zuma, but don't be naive to think those backbenchers - especially those not in the SACP - they need the secret ballot," adds Ndlozi.