

Zuma 'doing a Putin' on SA

SACP says Zumocracy uses authoritarian, shadow-state tricks

By QAANITAH HUNTER

● THE SACP has accused President Jacob Zuma and his factions in the ANC of emulating Russian President Vladimir Putin's style of authoritarian rule.

This is contained in SACP discussion documents prepared for the party's national congress, scheduled to start tomorrow.

The SACP, the ANC's alliance partner, says there is a growing inclination towards authoritarianism in Zuma's second term.

"There is an attempt to emulate a Putin style: authoritarian, low-intensity democracy, with meetings reported between this faction and their counterparts in Russia," the documents read.

The SACP has resolved that Zuma should step down and has barred him from speaking at its conference amid growing evidence of his complicity in state capture by the Gupta family.

Stronger condemnation

The congress is expected to decide its relationship with the ANC amid long-standing tensions with Zuma. While the discussion on whether the SACP should contest state power has reared its head once again, it is unlikely the ANC's alliance partner will make that bold resolution.

It is more likely the SACP will come out with a stronger condemnation of Zuma, the man the party helped to ascend to the highest office, also backing his re-election in 2012.

The party used its discussion documents to condemn and give detail to state capture, the creation of a parallel shadow state, and growing authoritarianism under Zuma.

The document refers to comments Zuma made in July last year when he said: "If it were up to me and I made the rules, I would ask for six months as a dictator. You would see wonders, South Africa would be straight. That's why if you give me six months, allow Zuma to be a dictator, you would be amazed. Absolutely. Everything would be straight. Right now to make a decision you need to consult. You need a resolution, decision, collective petition, yoh! It's a lot of work."

The SACP said Zuma was part of the creation of a "parallel state".

"With obvious presidential support, a par-

allel state has developed – SARS, the Hawks, the NPA are unleashed against Treasury, a rogue unit in SSA [the State Security Agency] is launched as a factional arm within the ANC and ANC-led movement," the documents say.

The SACP further details how attempts to bypass the cabinet are becoming more common, such as when Mineral Resources Minister Mosebenzi Zwane released a bogus cabinet memo that was not approved by the cabinet.

"On the policy front, shadowy presidential and ministerial advisers from outside of the state and even the movement are brought in and act parallel to constitutional structures in the university crises, on the Sassa matter, on nuclear policy etc," the party says.

While the SACP is agitating for Zuma to be removed from office, its general secretary, Blade Nzimande, is expected to be re-elected after 20 years in leadership. Nzimande's first deputy, Jeremy Cronin, will step down after 23 years in the leadership.



President Jacob Zuma and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the start of the first working session of the G20 meeting in Hamburg, Germany, this week. Picture: Reuters