

# SACP to thrash out policy issues

BONOLO SELEBANO

THE SACP will leave no stone unturned when it thrashes out key policy issues on the economy as well as its aims of establishing an electoral platform for contesting elections among others at its national congress, which kicks off today in Boksburg, Ekurhuleni.

SACP national spokesperson Alex Mashilo said the ninth national congress resolution to explore the feasibility of contesting elections, thus reconfiguring the ANC-led tripartite alliance, would be resolved when delegates gather in Boksburg from today until Saturday.

This comes as the party's first deputy general secretary Jeremy Cronin is scheduled to give a report on the

SACP's relationship with state power on Thursday.

"The congress will address the efficiency of the alliance, to identify whether the strategy is working or not and whether it must be improved.

"We will listen to those who are saying that the party must consider elections but we are not going at it alone," Mashilo said.

Mashilo said that the party's burgeoning membership augured well for its future prospects at the ballot box.

"At the 12th national congress in July 2017, we had 156 000 members, now it has doubled and it's close to 300 000."

SACP Gauteng provincial secretary Jacob Mamabolo said yesterday at the party's provincial congress, that while

the communists would not shy away from confronting the possibility of contesting in the elections, the party would also be taking other progressive forces along with it to the ballot box.

"The SACP will never go it alone. It will always be with the working class and other progressive forces, including civic organisations.

"We must not engage on a narrow electoral platform."

The party is also set to elect new leaders. While the party's general secretary Blade Nzimande is to extend his 19-year stint at the helm of the organisation, his deputy Solly Mapaila has said he would not be contesting Nzimande for the party's top post.

*bonolos@thenewage.co.za*