

SACP PREPARED TO WALK!

No support for 'factionalised ANC'

By **SIMON NARE**
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THE SACP is prepared to walk away from their long alliance with the ANC and lead a united front to defend constitutional rights.

The party is holding its 14th national congress from today, which will run throughout the week in Boksburg, Ekurhuleni. New leaders will be elected to take the party forward for the next five years.

SACP first deputy general-secretary, Jeremy Cronin, announced yesterday that he was unavailable for re-election to the party's leadership.

He told reporters in Boksburg that the party would not be in an alliance with a factionalised

ANC.

The party leadership has not identified the faction they are referring to, but it is clear if Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma wins, the SACP is out the door.

In a letter written to the ANC, they made it clear that they would prefer deputy president Cyril Ramaphosa to address their congress and not Dlamini-Zuma.

The letter said they hoped the ANC would elect a leadership that will unite and lead renewal.

Cronin said they had have no option but to form a united front to defend the constitution. He said it was under attack from certain forces, referring to the suburb of Saxonwold, which is where the Gupta family has a



Left: SACP first deputy general-secretary Jeremy Cronin, secretary-general Blade Nzimande and second deputy secretary-general Solly Mapaila at the media briefing in Boksburg yesterday.

Photo by Christopher Moagi

mansion.

Cronin said they have been frustrated by the ANC's reluctance to hold council with the alliance and said it was clear they did not want to have the meeting.

"We have to ask why," said

Cronin.

SACP general-secretary Blade Nzimande echoed Cronin's statements, saying the party would not stay in a factionalised ANC.

"We don't know whether the ANC will be able to unite itself."