

Back no-confidence motion – vets

ANC elders also urge SACP conference goers to agitate for secret ballot

BALDWIN NDABA

ANC veterans have asked the SA Communist Party to support a vote of no confidence against President Jacob Zuma.

The veterans also appealed to the SACP to pressurise the ANC to allow its MPs to exercise independence when voting on the motion on August 8 in Parliament.

The plea was made by ANC veteran and former City of Johannesburg municipal manager Trevor Fowler when he addressed SACP delegates during their national congress in Boksburg yesterday.

Detailing his reasons, Fowler said the ANC under Zuma had rolled back major achievements that had been made in post-apartheid South Africa since 1994. He said since Zuma took over, the country had been plagued by massive corruption, saying what was more regrettable was “the refusal of leaders to attend to the crisis”.

Fowler said the veterans compiled a report titled “For the Sake of the Future” and had handed it over to the ANC president and his national executive committee. The document had detailed all the accusations of graft and corruption against the ANC government, saying their primary aim was for them to deal with these issues.

According to Fowler, the document was given to the ANC in November last year, but they had done nothing about it.

Fowler said: “We wanted the party to do an introspection of itself. We wanted them to say what did we do wrong? What did we do that brought us here? How did we arrive at the fragmentation of the working class?”

He said none of those issues were attended to and, instead, in May this

year, the ANC told the veterans they would be set aside two days for a consultative conference ahead of the policy conference.

Fowler told delegates that the ANC never even bothered to convene a meeting with them to discuss issues contained in their document.

He said he had been taken by surprise by comments made by Zuma when he addressed delegates at the conference opening on June 30.

He said Zuma had claimed that the veterans were undermining the intellect of ANC branch members.

In his address, Zuma also told delegates that he was surprised that ANC branches were doing nothing about all those, referring to veterans, calling for him to step down. “You are quiet when people are taking away your powers. Any decision for me to step down, should be taken by branches. Power lies with the

branches and not so-called veterans,” Zuma had said.

But Fowler maintained that Zuma had misled the delegates, accusing him of trying to avoid discussing the crisis facing the country.

He said the ANC’s tardiness in dealing with the issues of corruption within its ranks would result in voters drifting away from it.

Another issue of concern raised by Fowler was that political assassin-

ations had increased significantly in the past 12 months. He attributed this to the apparent capture of the Hawks and SAPS.

A similar view was expressed by SACP general secretary Blade Nzimande during the tabling of his political report this week.

Nzimande said most of the victims were SACP members who were allegedly killed by their own – members of the ANC.



Jeremy Cronin at the SACP's 14th national congress.

PICTURE: NOKUTHULA MBATHA