

‘We must raise ideological bar for our cadres’

BONOLO SELEBANO

THE SACP is looking to modify its constitution in a bid to strengthen its party structures.

Addressing delegates on day four of the party’s national congress in Boksburg yesterday, newly elected first deputy general secretary Solly Mapaila outlined an organisational review commission presentation.

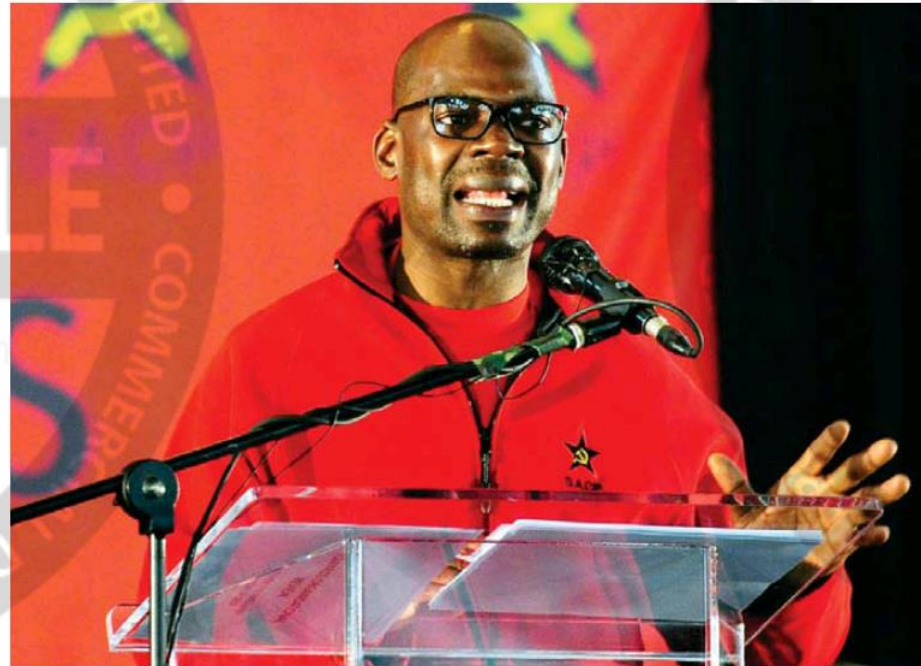
Mapaila argued strongly that amendments to the party’s constitution was needed to bring it closer in line with its “vanguard workers party” outlook, in the context of an ever-changing political landscape.

“The centrality of the party’s constitution means we must change the constitution.

“We must look into this question so that the party’s constitution becomes a political ideological document that has got strategic orientation for all its members.

“So if a member picks up a party constitution it doesn’t only read about procedures but reads about the content of this organisation, what it is and what it seeks to achieve,” he said.

Mapaila’s comments come on the



LAYING DOWN THE LINE: Solly Mapaila is the newly elected first deputy general secretary of the SACP. PICTURE: THAPELO MOREBUDI

back of his election as first deputy general secretary of the SACP.

He replaces Jeremy Cronin who has decided to give way to a younger leadership emerging from the party’s structures.

The congress has also conducted an election risk assessment, exploring the feasibility of contesting elec-

tions separately from the ANC at the national elections in 2019.

Mapaila said the SACP’s constitution should also clearly articulate the kind – and quality – of members the party hoped to attract to its ranks.

“(We must advise on) the do’s and don’ts of party members.

“There are certain areas that should

be no-go areas for party members. Criminal activity for instance. There should be no entertainment with having criminals in the party.

“Firm action needs to be taken constantly all the time. So the do’s and don’ts section is an important section that comrades must look into,” he said.

“The constitution should not just be a mechanical thing to guide operations, we also put the constitution at the core of defining the nature of our class struggle for socialism and its context as captured properly by the Communist Manifesto.”

Mapaila also said the party needed to improve the quality of its membership and branches.

“We want to raise the bar of ideological requirement for our cadres.

“We need to articulate our principles, policies and elevate the values of the party’s constitution to espouse the values of the SACP, its ideology and to train members correctly on the constitution.”

SACP deputy national chairperson Thulas Nxesi told delegates to reflect hard on Mapaila’s report to bring about changes to the party’s constitution.

“It needs us go deep and do a lot of self-reflection, if we are true commu-