

# Cronin pushes for political alliance council

MTHOKOZISI DUBE

THE South African Communist Party's (SACP) leadership is treading carefully over rising calls from delegates for the party to gun for state power in 2019.

Addressing delegates on the issue of state power yesterday, outgoing deputy secretary of the SACP Jeremy Cronin called on alliance partners to help the ANC through its current crisis ahead of its December elective congress.

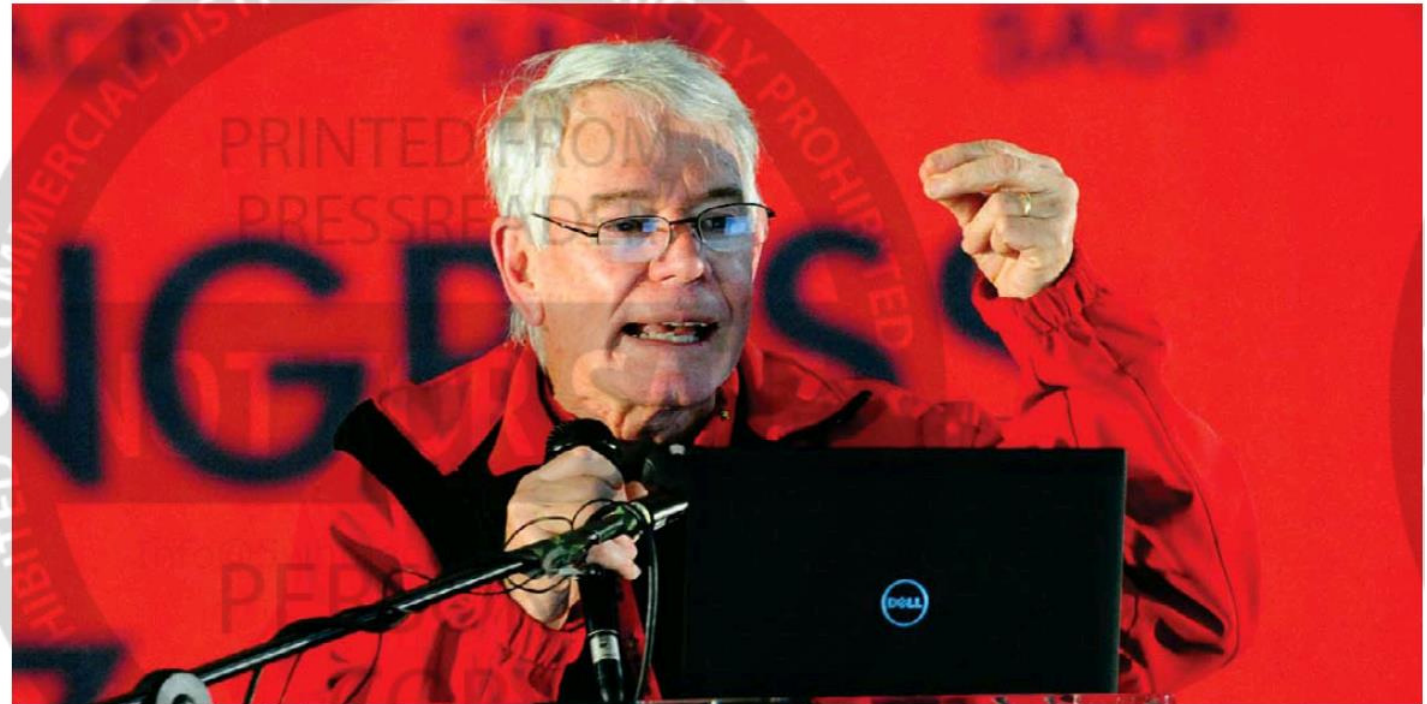
"Let us ensure that we get the ANC in good order ahead of its December national conference. It's going to be a very important moment for the SACP, for the ANC and for the country," Cronin said.

He said the party's newly-elected central committee would have to engage with alliance partners before making any decisions.

They would also have to deliberate on different modalities in terms of an electoral agreement, the election manifesto and the possibility of an independent face for the SACP.

He said the relationship with the ANC had been an abusive one.

"The alliance requires major reconfiguration if the national democratic revolution is to be advanced, deepened and defended, and if we are to achieve the SACP's vision of building working class hegemony in all



**DIALOGUE:** Former SACP 1st deputy general secretary Jeremy Cronin wants engagement with the ANC. PICTURE: THAPELO

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sites of power, including the state."

Cronin reiterated the need for political council representing the alliance.

"The most dramatic symptom of this weakness of the ANC is that it is unable to convene an alliance political council. The ANC keeps setting dates for the political alliance council but they're running away from it," he said.

Cronin believes a political alliance council is needed "now more than ever"

to address issues including the high levels of unemployment, poverty, inequality, violence and state capture.

"We need to unify the alliance to address these issues and mobilise in a relatively unified way around these issues," he said.

He said the SACP would not support any specific presidential candidate, but argued that it was clear that three out of the four components of the alliance led

by the ANC were calling for President Jacob Zuma to step down.

"Part of the ANC leadership don't want to come to a forum in which three out of four components of the alliance are saying to President Jacob Zuma, 'please step down'.

"President Zuma said only the ANC can advise him to step down and we are saying to the ANC, 'please advise'."

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