

■ NATION

Eskom plans expose union, ANC division

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THE cracks between Cosatu and ANC over Finance Minister Tito Mboweni's plans on Eskom were laid bare when the ruling party allegedly snubbed an invitation by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) to attend its special conference held in Durban.

NUM general secretary David Sepunzi and the union's president Joseph Montisetse blamed the ANC's failure to attend the two-day conference on the dispute over Eskom and independent power producers (IPPs).

"We know the main problem may be the issue of Eskom (unbundling) and independent power producers," said Montisetse.

Also invited to the conference to amend NUM's constitution, but failing to indicate whether or not they would attend, were Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe and the SACP.

Public Works Minister Patricia de Lille apologised as she had other engagements. Although President Cyril Ramaphosa, who was listed as keynote speaker, also apologised, Montisetse lashed out at him for failing to send a representative from the ANC.

"If Tito Mboweni can release a document, which is deemed to be progressive while saying power stations of coals are going to be closed, they expect us to be quiet, we cannot."

He said he hoped the SACP would attend before the conference concludes tomorrow.

Sepunzi maintained that the ANC was only interested in workers during the election seasons.

Repeated attempts to obtain comment from the ANC in response to Num's allegations failed as phones of its spokespersons Pule Mabe and Dakota Legoete were not answered.