

THABISO THAKALI

A PUBLIC spat between the ANC and SACP's youth wings over the governing party's succession debate and President Jacob Zuma is stroking tension in the tripartite alliance.

Yesterday, the Young Communist League (YCL) issued a statement accusing the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) of factionalism after the latter called for the suspension of SACP general secretary Blade Nzimande. The ANCYL had accused Nzimande of failing to play by the rules on succession talks after he apparently insinuated that the SACP was "tired" of defending Zuma.

The YCL said the ANCYL's call for Nzimande to be suspended was "factional and a piece of rubbish".

The open war of words, although nothing new, comes at a crucial time for the tripartite alliance heading into next year's local government elections, when the ANC will need to put up a united front.

It also comes at a time of unhappiness in Cosatu over government pension reforms that saw the union federation threaten not to campaign for

the ANC if the policy was not reversed.

YCL KwaZulu-Natal chairman Sandile Dayi likened the ANCYL's attack on Nzimande and the YCL to what had happened during EFF leader Julius Malema's time, which "ultimately divided both the ANC and the ANCYL".

He said the YCL was disturbed by the misrepresentation and distortion of statements he had made to the SACP provincial council.

The YCL reiterated that it

would be irresponsible to buy a R4 billion jet for Zuma when gross domestic product growth was just 1.2 percent, with high levels of income inequality, poverty and unemployment.

"This kind of spending resembles that of (military dictator) Mobutu Sese Seko, who lived a comfortable life at the expense of ordinary Congolese," said Dayi.

"Therefore... we are opposed to this senseless spending. We view this as a slap in the face of those who

languish in poverty, especially after the controversy relating to the R246 million spent in the name of Nkandla security upgrades."

Dayi said the YCL was threatened whenever it brought up key issues which affected the reputation of the movement.

"The YCL will continue to raise issues without fear or favour, and no factional declarations of 'defence' in the name of the president will ever threaten us," he added.

The YCL said that if there was any succession debate, it was opened by those who had said they were ready for a woman president – a veiled reference to the ANC Women's League, which has adopted this resolution.

The women and youth leagues have been accused of advancing the agenda of a powerful bloc made up of the premiers of Mpumalanga, Free State and North West, who want their candidates to take over the ANC in 2017.

Dayi said all Nzimande had said was "it is wrong that our movement must experience turmoil every time it enters into a period of leadership transition, as happened towards Polokwane".

He said the party stood by "this clear leadership content without fear or favour and in no uncertain terms".

It called on Zuma to come out against people who divided the alliance using his name.

"The president must not allow the movement to be div-

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YCL will continue to raise issues without fear
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ided in his name, for he has been renowned as a leader who defended the alliance and fought against the marginalisation of the communists and class-conscious workers.

"The president must remain true to these attributes, act consistently, oppose zig-zagging, and build and unite the ANC and the alliance."

Chasm between labour and business widens

There's no agreement in sight on basic minimum wage

AMY MUSGRAVE
Group Labour Editor

AN AGREEMENT on a national minimum wage is unlikely anytime soon, after a Cosatu document revealed that labour and business are at least R2 000 a month apart on what they want.

Cosatu says new evidence collected by labour showed a "more realistic" national poverty line of R4 014 for a household of four, while business had indicated it wanted the wage to be set close to the lowest current wage sectoral determination, which is for domestic workers. The amount domestic workers must earn according to the law is going up next month and ranges from R1 412.49 to R2 230.70 a month, depending on where and how long they work.

South Africa has the world's largest income gaps, and a minimum wage has been proposed as one way to deal with inequality. However, organised business has had to be dragged in kicking and screaming.

"Business were indicating at the time of writing (the Cosatu document) that they were not interested in a national minimum wage based on the evidence of poverty. They were

indicating that the rate should be set largely based on possible jobs and profit impacts.

"Labour's view was that while the potential for job impacts should not be ignored, the potential for job losses needed to be mitigated through putting in place appropriate industrial policies to protect and/or grow jobs in targeted areas."

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The potential for job losses needs to be mitigated
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The document, which is Cosatu's draft organisational report for its national congress next week, illuminates how big the chasm is between the social partners at the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac), which has been instructed to investigate what the minimum wage should be and how to implement it.

Nedlac and the government have been cagey on details of the talks. It is understood that Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa held bilateral meetings

with the council's partners this week to try to find consensus.

But this will be challenging. According to the Cosatu document, it is not only the amount of the minimum wage that is an issue.

The government, supported by business, wants Expanded Public Work Programme workers as well as employees on learnerships to be excluded, which is opposed by labour. Most jobs in this programme are temporary and considered job opportunities.

Unions are also unhappy that the government, again supported by business, wants a lower rate for young workers. Some countries, such as the Netherlands, have lower pay rates for youngsters to make it easier for them to enter the job market and gain experience.

"Labour was, however, arguing for consideration of a possible phase-in of sectors that currently have a significantly lower minimum wage, that is the domestic and farm sectors," the document reads.

Unions also want non-compliance to be criminalised and those who play ball to be incentivised through procurement and access to government loan schemes. But the government and business are opposed to these proposals.

Public sector 'growing in Cosatu'

SHANTI ABOOBAKER

COSATU has hit back at its critics, saying it has no intention of being dominated by public sector unions and wants to represent everyone, including blue-collar workers.

Acting general secretary Bheki Ntshahintshali said the federation was split in half between public and private sector workers in 2011, but that since then, the public sector had been growing while the private sector had shrunk.

"When we had Numsa here, it was almost 50/50. But in the services sector, for example the SA Transport and Allied Workers Union, employment is growing, so it may be 40/60 percent private to public sector," Ntshahintshali said.

He was speaking to journalists in Joburg on the eve of Cosatu's national congress, which begins on Monday.

Ntshahintshali said the federation would continue to encourage the formation of "super unions" following previous congress resolutions calling for "one sector, one union" – a founding principle of Cosatu.

"The question of mergers,

people take it with caution. In the public sector, there were about three unions organising in the health sector. We have tried to pull them into one union but it has not been easy," Ntshahintshali said.

"Not because people don't want to, but because workers are sometimes attached in their own locals.

"We merged Ceppwawu in 1999, but there have been differences. Almost all unions in the federation are the product of private sector had shrunk.

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We have tried to pull them into one union
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mergers. It is not an easy process but we have not given up."

Next week's Cosatu congress will also receive a report on the federation's finances as well as on its investment arm, Kopano ke Matla, which has been in financial dire straits for years. Cosatu announced this month it wanted to wind up the company.

Cosatu president S'dumo Dlamini said the declarations by breakaway unions, including Numsa, to form a new fed-

eration had come to naught.

"This matter of Numsa wanting to start a new federation, we've said the plan has always been there. The claim they wanted to reclaim Cosatu from a right-wing clique, to be an alternative to Cosatu, they also said they would be speaking to the other federations," Dlamini said.

Ntshahintshali said there were about 23 trade union federations in South Africa as well as over 100 unions which were unaffiliated to a federation.

"So the question of forming another federation, if that federation means dividing workers, it does not make workers stronger, it makes them weak. "It was the same thing that happened when Amcu started – it takes power from NUM but does not make workers stronger. So a new federation, if it divides workers, it will be worrisome. Our work is to recruit workers under the umbrella of Cosatu."

Cosatu second deputy president Zingiswa Losi said the congress would also discuss the federation's failure to reach its target of 4 million workers by this year. It currently has about 1.9 million members.



DRAWING THE LINE: Police, traffic police officers and members of their respective unions Popcru and Samwu marched to the Department of Justice and the Premier's Office in Joburg yesterday to hand over a memorandum demanding an end to police killings. PICTURE: BOXER NGWENYA

KATE MORRISSEY
AND KGOPI MABOTJA

POLICE officers have threatened to walk off the job if more of their peers are killed, skipping a day for every colleague who gets killed.

About 300 members of the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru), the SA Municipal Workers Union (Samwu) and Cosatu marched from Mary Fitzgerald Square in Newtown, Joburg, to the Department of Justice across from the high court and then to the office of the Gauteng premier to deliver memorandums concerning increased protections for police officers.

Naughty Magoai, Popcru's deputy chairman in Gauteng, told the marchers that, after tomorrow, police officers

Officers protest over cop killings

would skip a day of work for every officer killed.

"Currently it's almost business as usual if a police officer dies. We've stopped being horrified," Conel Mackay, the regional chairman of Samwu, said. "We want to raise public awareness."

The horde of taxis stuck behind the march were well aware. The march proceeded slowly, with members stopping and toying with at almost every intersection they passed through.

A few Joburg metro police officers whose job was to block traffic joined in the singing and toying.

"Gibela phezu kwendlu ubatshela umama uyajabula mang-

ishaya utsotsi," they sang. (My mother becomes happy when I beat up criminals.)

The SA Policing Union was noticeably absent after remarks at an officer's memorial service on Tuesday about the need to better protect cops. However, officers from across Gauteng participated, wearing T-shirts and carrying placards with slogans like "Protect our protectors".

"The way they're killing the police is putting our society backwards," said Nici Joubert, from Ekurhuleni, who dressed completely in camouflage.

At the Department of Justice offices, the memorandum demanded that the department prioritise police killing cases

and treat the killings as acts of treason.

It also demanded laws that empower police officers to defend themselves.

As the demands were read aloud, some in the crowd chanted, "Shoot to kill!"

"Your child can visit you in prison or visit you in (your) graves," said Zizamele Cebekhulu of Popcru.

"We have seen that the government is not protecting us," he said.

Mackay said the current laws give criminals more rights than police officers, which puts the police in danger.

He called on Gauteng Premier David Makhura to stand up for the police. He said Mak-

hura "should be the one who gets outraged the most when an officer dies".

One Joburg metro police department officer said it felt strange to escort his peers like he would other unions or political parties.

He, along with the other on-duty officers, performed drills outside the Department of Justice to the delight of the crowd.

The young officers held their chins high and smiled broadly as they turned, marched and saluted their comrades.

The unions said they had fired the first shot yesterday in their fight to end police killings. The organisations will fire their second shot tomorrow when a national march heads to the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

Makeover for police unveiled

MARIANNE MERTEN

A MAJOR restructuring of the police is in the making, splitting recently merged divisions, removing crime intelligence from direct accountability to the national commissioner and establishing a new management intervention structure to deal with problems at provincial and station levels.

This emerged yesterday before Parliament's police portfolio committee, where the IFP and Freedom Front Plus questioned whether these proposals meant suspended national police commissioner General Riah Phiyega was out of a job – regardless of what a pending inquiry into her fitness for office may find.

"Do you accept she's gone? What if she's found not guilty? She's back. What then?" asked FF+ MP Pieter Groenewald, with IFP MP Albert Mncwango adding: "Are you not jumping the gun (with these proposals)? The timing of this presentation is a bit problematic."

However, ANC MPs rallied around the police top brass and Police Minister Nkosinathi Nhleko and his deputy, with ANC MP Leonard Ramatlakane pointing out an acting national police commissioner had the same powers as a permanently appointed incumbent.

Nhleko told MPs there was no governance which relied on one individual. "The danger we face as government today is the



TOO EXPENSIVE: Lieutenant-General Khomoto Phahlane

question of personality cult," he said, adding that authority did not follow an individual.

"You can't then say that because there are pending and outstanding issues, everything has to be frozen."

Acting national police commissioner Lieutenant-General Khomoto Phahlane said the current structure was too expensive – the previously created divisions required a lieutenant-general in charge, plus two major-generals, as well as more officers.

The proposed structure was informed by the police's needs, overcame current "dysfunctionalities" and was effective and efficient.

"It was critical for us to split policing (into two divisions)," said Phahlane.

"The proposal is informed by our need to improve on our efficiency and effectiveness."

The proposals are effectively the third restructuring in five years from 2010 under then national police commissioner Bheki Cele and the 2014 changes introduced by Phiyega. The 2015 proposals include:

● Establish a new division

– national management intervention – under a deputy national commissioner to deal with challenges and priority areas, with three regional commissioners, who each will be responsible for three provinces. This new division would also include the police's inspectorate.

● Four other deputy national police commissioners for policing, including visible policing, operational response services, and protection and security services, crime detection – crime intelligence would be moved here alongside detectives and forensics – human resources, asset and legal management, including supply chain management, information technology and a centralised legal and policy division.

● Presidential protection services, internal audit and the crime registrar remain directly accountable to the national police commissioner.

Phahlane said this was a "flat" structure, which would enable police to make an impact. However, there are no deadlines for implementing the restructuring. Labour and others still needed to be "engaged. Whereafter we will be moving closer to implementation," he said.

Police committee chairman Francois Beukman said effective policing was key: "This structure deals with this very directly – back to basics."

KZN Hawks boss cleared of fraud

KWAZULU-Natal hawks boss Major-General Johan Booyesen's suspension has been overturned in the Durban High Court.

Yesterday, Judge Anton van Zyl ruled that national Hawks boss Bening Ntlemeza did not have a case against Booyesen, who he had accused of fraud.

"There is not even prima facie evidence that such fraud had been committed or, if it had, that the applicant is implicated therein," said Judge Van Zyl.

Not only did the judge say there was insufficient evidence to back up the allegations, he also ordered that Ntlemeza be barred from suspending Booyesen again, pending the outcome of a disciplinary process.

He ordered Ntlemeza, in his capacity as the national head of the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation – the Hawks – to pay Booyesen's legal expenses.

Shortly after Ntlemeza was appointed, he suspended Booyesen on September 14, amid allegations of fraud amounting to R15 384,62.

Ntlemeza's legal team argued that the court was not the proper forum to hear an application against the suspension, but Judge Van Zyl ruled that it was.

Ntlemeza, in his submission to the court, claimed Booyesen and the men tasked with investigating a police officer's assassination had fraudulently

received a monetary reward for falsely shooting six innocent men.

He claimed while the reward was for tracking down the men who assassinated Superintendent Zethembe Chonco in August 2008, the case numbers used to secure it were for unrelated cases in Howick of housebreaking and vehicle theft.

He accused Booyesen of supplying false case numbers in a bid to get the reward.

Booyesen denied authoring the document which resulted in him and his men receiving the reward for tracking down Chonco's killers. He denied he had anything to do with the granting of the reward.

In his ruling, Judge Van Zyl questioned why Ntlemeza had chosen to ignore Booyesen's representation and evidence. Ntlemeza could not simply suspend a person, and there had to be a rational basis for it.

Ntlemeza not only got the amount of the reward wrong, but the evidence clearly showed that Booyesen had no role in the awarding of the R10 000 reward.

"There is not a shred of evidence that the applicant (Booyesen) was in any way involved in formulating its content and the respondent's (Ntlemeza) conclusion to the contrary is, at best, entirely speculative," the judge said. – ANA

Corruption probe for Arts Department

GAUTENG Premier David Makhura has ordered a forensic investigation into allegations of misconduct, maladministration and corruption in the provincial Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, his office said yesterday.

Makhura had received complaints from officials within the department, detailing allegations of misconduct and maladministration during MEC Molebatsi Bopape's tenure in office. Bopape is now MEC for social development.

Similar allegations were made by the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union in a memorandum sent to the premier in August, his office said.

"Premier Makhura views the allegations seriously and has instructed the MEC for Finance and e-Government, Barbara Creedy, to institute a forensic investigation.

"The Gauteng provincial Treasury has appointed an independent forensic team to investigate the allegations of misconduct at the Department

of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation. The forensic team is mandated to investigate allegations of financial mismanagement, breach of regulations and human resources procedures as well as fraud and corruption."

Since the allegations involved the role and conduct of Bopape, Makhura has also referred the matter to the Integrity Commissioner for consideration.

A preliminary report into the investigation was expected next month. – ANA