

SACP is urged to go it alone in elections

LUNGANI ZUNGU

THE South African Communist Party in KZN has again urged its national executive to contest the coming local government elections.

Themba Mthembu, secretary of the SACP in KZN, said the tripartite alliance (with the ANC and Cosatu) was at a crossroads.

He told the Sunday Tribune: "There have always been pressures for the party to contest elections on its own. Recently, maybe because of what is happening in the ANC, we have even been getting pressure from ANC structures.

"We already have a programme to go to the people on the ground and consult them," he said.

The SACP has not contested elections, instead fielding candidates through the ANC. If the SACP stood on its own, its members would have to relinquish their government positions.

That includes Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande, who is also SACP general secretary, Senzeni Zokwana, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and SACP national chairman, and Jeremy Cronin, Deputy Minister of Public Works and SACP first deputy general secretary.

Mthembu claimed the communists were being pushed out of the alliance.

"We will ask the ANC, Cosatu, Sanco and others what they expect us to do in this situation. That is where we are going to get our marching orders if they decide to boot us out of the alliance."

Mthembu rejected ANC Youth League assertions that the communist party was "deadbeat" and added no value to the alliance.