



IN TALKS: President Jacob Zuma with Energy Minister David Mahlobo ahead of the Energy Indaba in Midrand yesterday

Picture: REUTERS/SIPHIWE SIBEKO

‘Radical transformation’ an ANC concept, says Zuma

Ernest Mabuza

PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma has commented for the first time about the origin of the term radical socioeconomic transformation, saying it was a policy of the ANC.

“We therefore reject the incorrect and patronising assumptions by some sections of society that radical economic transformation was developed by a company from London,” he said at the Energy Indaba at Midrand yesterday.

“The policy originated from the ANC.”

UK public relations firm Bell Pottinger fell from grace after the British PR regulatory body found that the firm had exploited racial divisions on behalf of the Gupta family.

However, Zuma said the ANC had defined the term radical socioeconomic transformation in the past five years.

He said the ANC had, at its national conference in Mangaung in 2012, formulated the policy of radical socioeconomic transformation.

Zuma told the more than 700 delegates at the indaba hosted by the Department of Energy that he was looking forward to receiving a report from the two-day meeting on an action plan detailing how the energy sector could be a catalyst to reignite the economy.

“The energy sector is an important engine for growth which makes this indaba opportune as we search for ways of reigniting economic growth in

our country.” He said the indaba took place as offshoots of economic recovery were being threatened by ever-increasing energy costs.

Zuma noted that the price of oil had nearly doubled in the past 24 months and said the government needed to intensify efforts to accelerate the exploration of oil and gas off-shore.

He also said he was happy his term as ANC president was coming to an end and he would work to ensure a seamless handover to the new leadership.

Addressing the indaba, Zuma remarked on the ANC’s 54th national conference to be held at Nasrec from December 16 to 20, describing it as one of the biggest stories of the year.

He said he knew there was a lot of anxiety from business about what would transpire at the party’s elective conference.

“In my capacity as the president of the ANC, let me assure you that everything possible is being done to ensure a smooth transition.”

Zuma said the ANC had held its last ordinary national executive committee (NEC) meeting on Monday with him as president.

“It was one of the warmest meetings we have ever held,” he said.

“The NEC was united in its resolve to ensure a successful and orderly conference.

“I will work with all comrades to ensure a successful and seamless handover to the new leadership.” – TimesLIVE

Civil society out in cold on talks

Ernest Mabuza

A NUMBER of civil society organisations have expressed concern about not being involved in the hastily convened Energy Indaba.

Greenpeace Africa, Groundwork, Earthlife Africa and the Centre for Environmental Rights said yesterday morning they did not regard the indaba as a legitimate process for the discussion of South Africa’s energy future.

They said the discussion should include members of civil society, particularly of communities most affected by the pollution and harmful effects of electricity generation and labour.

Life After Coal Campaign and Greenpeace Africa met Energy Minister David Mahlobo on Tuesday, when he indicated to them that there would be no further public participation on the contents of the integrated resource plan (IRP) for electricity, its approval by cabinet, and its subsequent publication.

The IRP is the country’s future roadmap for electricity planning.

Mahlobo also told the organisations that the Energy Indaba was not intended to address the IRP in any way, shape or form – instead it was for business, labour and the government to discuss ways to reinvigorate the energy sector to stimulate economic growth.

The organisations said they regarded the consultation around the IRP as inadequate and susceptible to legal challenge.