

## **De Klerk lambastes ANC 's Marxist-Leninist policies**

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Johannesburg - South Africa's last apartheid president F W de Klerk has blamed the ANC for the country's spiralling social and economic woes.

In a speech to business leaders late on Wednesday, the 76-year-old De Klerk lambasted the wealth redistribution policies of the ANC.

He said they would cause "social engineering in which people's prospects would once again be determined by race, rather than by individual merit and circumstances".

De Klerk hit out at what he called the Marxism-Leninism of some members of the ANC alliance, which he blamed for widespread unemployment and the failure to attract investment.

South Africa is experiencing one of its worst crises since apartheid, as a wave of violent strikes led by miners demanding huge wage increases has highlighted the country's huge social discrepancies.

De Klerk, co-winner of the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize with Nelson Mandela, acknowledged that some of the country's woes were inherited from the apartheid but argued that the party of President Jacob Zuma was failing to deal with them.

"The reality is that it has had to contend with enormous socioeconomic backlogs inherited from the past," he said.

"By the same token, it was also unfair to blame all the problems of the present on the past," he said, adding that "the ANC was primarily responsible for the current crisis".

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