



**MEDIA STATEMENT FROM THE SAVE SOUTH AFRICA CAMPAIGN / 1 APRIL 2017**

## **Save South Africa thanks supporters for helping to defend democracy**

Save South Africa salutes the thousands of people around the country who took to the streets yesterday to show their outrage at the new Cabinet of Gupta proxies, and to defend our democracy.

The protests in Pretoria and Cape Town – organised at less than 10 hours' notice – were a small but significant start to the people's push back against kleptocracy, patronage and state capture. And living proof that the people are not only disgusted at this Gupta coup -- they will take to the streets to show it.

**These are ordinary heroes – people who are prepared to take a stand and stop the rot. And they need your support. Join in and make a difference!**

Support for our campaign is growing, and we call for even greater participation as we plan more rolling mass action in coming days.

To intensify the pressure, we are participating in a national crisis coordinating committee that was convened this week to coordinate a series of protests and other activities across the country.

Details of these activities will be released as they are finalised.

But they already include another #OccupyTreasury protest in Pretoria on Monday, with even broader organizational involvement. We are also calling on people with vehicles to “hoot for Zuma to go” for 15 minutes between 13h00 and 14h00 on Monday, and are also organising a People's Protest in Port Elizabeth on 4 April.

We are encouraged by the active involvement yesterday of the new trade union federation, SAFTU, headed by Zwelinzima Vavi, and the support of our efforts by the Commander in Chief of the Economic Freedom Fighters, Julius Malema.

We encourage South Africans to continue to do whatever they can to express their outrage at Zuma's recklessness. If you were not able to join in on Friday, there is always Monday, Tuesday, the rest of the week, and the rest of the month – for as long as it takes to get rid of Zuma and reclaim our sovereignty.

Wherever you are, in Pholokwane or Pietermaritzburg, Reitz or Zeerust, East London or Jozini, a small town or a big city, a school or a church, talk with your friends about what state capture means for our future. Then plan a protest. Stand on a street corner with placards or take a petition to your nearest government office.

**We cannot stop now – we need to intensify our struggle.**

Slowly but surely, we are seeing a range of forces uniting around one objective: to remove Jacob Zuma from office and, in doing so, to begin to unravel the web of state capture that is destroying our democracy.

We are encouraged by the South African Communist Party decision to join many other voices in saying Zuma must resign.

We deplore Government's unilateral decision to cancel the memorial service for struggle hero Ahmed "Uncle Kathy" Kathrada, and commend the Kathrada and Nelson Mandela Foundations for seizing the initiative and arranging the memorial service so that we can pay tribute to a great leader.

We call on Gauteng residents to join the gathering at the Johannesburg City Hall from 2pm TODAY to say farewell to Uncle Kathy, and for those in Cape Town we have arranged a simulcast of the event to be broadcast at the Cape Town City Hall from 2pm.

These are turbulent times. These are concerning times. But they are critical times for all those who care about the future of our country, who want to defend the gains we have already made, and want to be part of the final push to get Zuma out of office – and begin to heal and restore our democracy.

**Join us. Get out on the streets. Play your part. Help Save South Africa!**