



MEDIA STATEMENT / 5 APRIL 2017

## **Civil society announces details of April 7 People's March**

Civil society organisations have announced details of the People's March on the Union Buildings in Pretoria on Friday 7 April.

The day will begin with a People's Rally in Church Square at 10am, with entertainment and speakers, and the march itself starts at 12 noon.

"All the necessary permissions have been granted – this is a legal march, and we are calling on all people who care about their country to join us on Friday and say one thing loudly and clearly: Zuma must go!", the organisers said at a media conference in Pretoria today. "It is going ahead, and we are showing Zuma how civil society really feels – that we insist that he goes, and goes now."

Several hundred marshalls have been arranged along the route from Church Square, up Madiba Street to the Union Buildings, and the organisers have stressed that this is a peaceful protest.

"If you come in peace, you are very welcome," the organisers said. "This is a non-sectarian protest, and we are encouraging people to wear and wave South African flags along the way."

The organisers called on all employers to give workers time off to participate in the protest – if not in Pretoria itself, then wherever they can. "And if your employers doesn't give you time off, take leave – do whatever it takes to get to Church Square for this historic protest. Join us in saying: Zuma Must Go!"

At the media conference, it was announced which organisations have already committed to participate.

These include the Save South Africa campaign, OUTA, the Forum 4 Service Delivery, the Progress Student Movement, Section27, Treatment Action Campaign, Johannesburg Against Injustice, Africa Rising, and Lawyers for Human Rights, the Federation of Unions of South Africa (Fedusa), the Kathrada Foundation, Corruption

Watch, the South Africa University Staff Association, COPAC and the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign.

The National Religious Leaders' Council has also supported the march – and the call for Zuma to go – in a statement signed by Council's Reverend Ray McCauley , Pundit Ashwin Trikamjee, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein and Moulana Ebrahim Bham, as well as Archbishop Thabo Makgoba (Anglican Church) , Bishop Zipho Siwa (South African Council of Churches (SACC) and President) Bishop Mosa Sono (IFCC)

In their statement, the faith-based leaders say: “For the past 18 months the President has continuously taken South Africa into a downward spiral and the cumulative effect of these and current events is that President Jacob Zuma has lost all moral legitimacy to govern and therefore should do the honourable thing and step down.

“The ANC and Parliament have now no reason to delay holding the President accountable and do everything in their power to remove him from office. Religious Leaders and Church Leaders are encouraging people to join the march on Friday 7 April in Pretoria city together with Civil Society and Save South Africa in protest against corruption and bad leadership.

“South Africans can no longer stand on the sidelines and watch President Jacob Zuma ruin our beloved country which we struggled so hard for.”