



**MEDIA STATEMENT / 9 APRIL 2017**

## **Save South Africa thanks People's Marchers**

The Save South Africa campaign thanks the tens of thousands of people who took to the streets on 7 April to say, loudly and clearly: Zuma Must Go! Our protests in Pretoria, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth drew massive crowds, and sent a clear message that civil society is sick and tired of his misrule, and that he must get out of office. We also pay tribute to those who organised their own protests, in cities and towns such as we Cradock, Prince Albert, King William's Town and Bloemfontein

We are particularly pleased that the protests took place peacefully, and that no one was hurt. This augurs well for the growing number of protests planned as we move towards 18 April, when Parliament will debate the ninth vote of no confidence in Zuma.

We would like to thank those who supported the camp, #VukaniMzansi1, in Church Square by providing toilets, security, food, tea and coffee and by visiting the camp, often from afar, to express their support. We salute those activists who gave up their time to stay at and manage the camp and are grateful for the volunteers who assisted us, as well as the many who made cash donations, and contributions in kind. We thank the law enforcement agencies for their efficient handling of the logistics around the protests, and for ensuring that South Africans were able to make their voices heard in safety.

Having said that, we are increasingly concerned at a trend of attacks and intimidation against those exercising their right to protest against Jacob Zuma's corrupt rule.

We are deeply concerned by the inflammatory language used by people professing to speak on behalf of the ANC Youth League and the MK Military Veterans Association, who say they are acting in defence of Zuma.

Their calls for violence, their attacks on protestors and their illegal wearing of military uniforms must be condemned, and there must be pressure on the ANC to ensure its supporters are able to show the same levels of discipline as those exercising their right to peaceful protest. It's a tragic irony that the ANC played such a leading role in fighting for the freedoms we enjoy today and in shaping the Constitution that protects the rights of South Africans to take part in peaceful protest -- and yet some of those who profess to act in its name show such a fundamental disregard for that same Constitution.