



MEDIA STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE RESIGNATION OF MDUDUZI MANANA  
21 AUGUST 2017

## **Manana must be barred from any public office**

It is a rare occasion for a South African Cabinet Minister to take accountability for their actions. The Save South Africa campaign therefore welcomes the decision by former Deputy Education Minister Mduuzi Manana to step down.

It is in line with our call two weeks ago for him to resign because of our firm belief that there is no place in leadership for men who assault women.

Manana has taken the first step in doing the right thing. But he must go further, and step down as a Member of Parliament. He cannot represent the people of South Africa in Parliament given that he is a self-confessed abuser of women, and his presence in the National Assembly – or any public position – will send the wrong signal to others who abuse women.

**We believe Manana should be barred from public office, of any form, until his legal process is concluded to ensure that there is no perception of a “reward” for his resignation. And he should not be treated lightly as he is processed by the criminal justice system.**

As we acknowledge the former deputy minister’s candour, we also call for reflection among his former Cabinet colleagues who acted as his cheerleaders over the past few days, or tried to divert attention away from the seriousness of his assault.

It is concerning that many of those who spoke in Manana’s defence are women, who live their lives surrounded by police protection, and are perhaps oblivious or dismissive of the level of fear that is the daily life of most South African women.

Manana’s resignation should act as a catalyst for a deeper conversation among our leaders about violence against women, and for a greater sense of accountability by leaders who commit wrongdoing. And if, as some Ministers have said, violence against women is common-place among our leaders, we urgently need a process to flush this out and hold all women abusers accountable.

**South Africa needs leaders of integrity, not leaders who are constantly in and out of trouble – or in and out of court – because of their actions.**

Until this happens, civil society formations such as the Save South Africa campaign will continue to push for a more responsive and responsive government, and a much greater sense of accountability among those elected to lead – starting at the top.