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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Save South Africa campaign to present 'Real State of the Nation Address'

The Save South Africa campaign is preparing to present the "Real State of the Nation" on the eve of the President's annual address to Parliament.

South Africa is tired of the repetitive, lacklustre nature of this event where pomp and ceremony override content and substance. It has become an occasion where the President meekly tries to evade accountability for the corruption, scandals, incompetence and failure to make good on promises that have become the hallmark of his time in office.

We are angry and gatvol! While our President giggles, the people cry.

Save South Africa will convene its second People's Assembly in the people's church, St George's Cathedral, in Cape Town on February 8. We will portray the true state of affairs in the country, but also offer a sense of hope of the better life all who live in South Africa deserve and can attain. It will be a dignified expression of anger, hope, laughter and some tears.

We believe the looming nuclear deal best epitomises the current phase of state capture, which seeks to facilitate Jacob Zuma and his cronies' biggest tender-grab. Part of the "Real State of the Nation" address will focus on the threat this deal poses to the nation, and we call on all South Africans to join us in opposing this rabid kleptocracy. Save South Africa will be working closely with the Climate Justice Campaign to stop the corrupt nuclear deal.

Save South Africa has extended an invitation to young people to write and tell us what they would tell the country in a State of the Nation address. The young authors of the two winning contributions will be brought to Cape Town where they will be President for the day and deliver extracts from their Real SONA in person.

We invite young people to send video clips or one-page written contributions to info@savesouthafrica.org by January 31. Those who do not have access to email can contact us on **0860 994 134**.

Beyond this, our People's Motion of No Confidence, www.thepeoplesmotion.org.za, will be taken to the streets with renewed energy and continues to be a key part of Save South Africa's campaign to include all of South Africa in our efforts to promote ethical and accountable leadership. It is another tool which will be used to ensure that political leaders hear the voices of those who live in our country who demand adherence to the Constitution and the basic tenets of a democratic society.

Save South Africa is heartened by the response to our campaign. We ended 2016 with people's assemblies in Botshabelo, Ficksburg, Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage, and since then urgent calls have come from the people of, among others, Tzaneen, Polokwane, Rustenburg, Henemann, and Wolmaranstad to bring our campaign to the people, many whom are victims of the so-called Premier League in the Free State, North-West and Mpumalanga.

We call on all South Africans to claim their rights as citizens and stand against corruption. Let us know what you would like to see in the Real State of the Nation address. Let us, as citizens, begin to craft the kind of South Africa we can be proud of. Let's articulate the attributes we want in our leaders.

Send us your suggestions at info@savesouthafrica.org, or on our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Further details regarding the February 8 assembly will be released in due course.

Issued by the Steering Committee of the Save South Africa campaign

Queries: info@savesouthafrica.org