



## **Save South Africa statement on the attack on the office of the Chief Justice**

**19 March 2017**

We are shocked at reports of the “burglary” at the office of the Chief Justice. It constitutes a brazen attack on the judiciary, and was clearly orchestrated.

It is now upon the highest political authority to prove this attack did not take place without explicit or implicit consent, and government must investigate this heinous act with great urgency lest elements within it be deemed to be complicit.

At the very least, the President needs to account for why state security services and the police were not aware of this attack, and did not prevent it from happening.

It is no coincidence that the “burglary” took place just a day after the courts dealt two embarrassing blows against those intent on undermining our democracy: the Constitutional Court judgment on SASSA, which reinforced the state’s obligation to pay social grants, and the North Gauteng High Court’s scathing judgment that the appointment of former Hawks head Berning Ntlemeza was irrational and invalid.

Factions in the Executive arm of government have been captured by forces intent on sabotaging our democracy and handing over public power and sovereignty to nefarious elements. We cannot allow the judicial system to be attacked and undermined in a similar way, and call on South Africans to voice their objection and demonstrate their support for an independent judiciary, in defence of our democracy.

We are in danger of becoming inured to crises in our polity as the state becomes increasingly rogue.

The Save South Africa campaign will be announcing plans to demonstrate our opposition to this latest crisis, and call on all freedom-loving South Africans to pledge their commitment to defend the independence of the judiciary, and save South Africa.