



Save South Africa

MEDIA STATEMENT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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People's Assembly Against State Capture continues regardless of any NPA backdown

The Save South Africa campaign will go ahead with the “People’s Assembly Against State Capture” in Pretoria this Wednesday 2 November even if the National Prosecuting Authority decides to drop charges against the Finance Minister and his two former SARS colleagues.

We are even more committed now to intensifying action to rescue the captured state.

We have noted speculation that the National Prosecuting Authority may drop the charges, which would vindicate what we and many other organisations have been saying all along: that they were politically motivated and have no basis in law.

Even if the charges are dropped, the People's Assembly Against State Capture will go ahead outside the Pretoria Magistrate's Court on Wednesday 2 November – except in this case, it will be a rally marking victory in this battle, and consolidating the campaign against state capture, to stop the looting and corruption, and to restore the integrity of the state.

It is a vindication of the effectiveness of civic activism.

We are in discussion with all the formations that have already committed to the People's Assembly, encouraging them to stay with us and to commemorate this achievement. These include civil society organisations, the major political parties, political stalwarts, organised labour, Business Unity (BUSA) and the CEO Initiative, and professionals.

There is already unprecedented support for this campaign against state capture and we are urging more South Africans to bring or wear their flags and join us on Wednesday 2 November.

We are focusing our immediate energy on:

- Making sure the former Public Protector's report on State Capture is made public, and its remedial action implemented – to the very highest levels of government.
- Ensuring decent and honest prosecutors, and other public servants, are supported in the fight against corruption, and not undermined and marginalised.
- Pursuing those who make up the real “Rogue Unit” in SARS, the NPA, the Hawks and other state agencies. They must be investigated, pursued and subject to the rule of law, and without any delays. Restoring the integrity and public confidence in these bodies remains a priority.
- Focusing increasing energy on state-owned entities – particularly SAA and Eskom -- as the facilitators of state corruption.

All people in SA who are committed to social justice, whatever their political or ideological beliefs, must rally to defend the Constitution, constitutional & statutory institutions, and the state as a whole from capture.

Once we have warded off this attack, it is our common intention that all South Africans, including the government and private sector, must embark on reviving the vision of the Constitution around equality, taking practical measures to ensuring quality basic services in education, health and other services, and addressing economic inequality.

We believe the challenge facing us right now is so consuming, and victory against state capture is so crucial to the survival and growth of South African democracy, that we should consolidate our collective energy and focus on the most immediate struggle – the struggle against state capture, and the rescue of the state.

As we do this, we appeal to all who are concerned about corruption to join us – not just on 2 November, but in the continued struggle that requires all our energies, and in particular requires all of us to participate in civic action for change.

We cannot afford to fail.

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