



Save South Africa

MEDIA STATEMENT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27 October 2016

The people unite against state capture!

The state's blunders in the case against Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan are increasingly stimulating a people's campaign to put an end to state capture and to rescue the democratic state.

A series of gaffes by the NPA, the Hawks and other parts of the criminal justice system are serving one purpose: to galvanise a growing number of groups and individuals towards the "People's Assembly Against State Capture" in Pretoria on 2 November.

The Save South Africa campaign has been inundated with responses since announcing the People's Assembly less than a week ago, and is now working actively with political parties and other civil society organisations to coordinate events. All political parties have been invited to be part of the People's Assembly, especially those that have already planned marches to show their opposition to state capture.

The campaign's steering committee is also liaising with organised labour, as well as Business Leadership South Africa and the CEO Initiative -- which represents the leaders of South Africa's top 100 companies.

Numerous marches and protests will be able to converge at the People's Assembly, on the corner of Bosman and Frances Baard streets, a few hundred metres from the Pretoria Magistrate's Court, from 8am on Wednesday. There, protestors from across the political spectrum will join struggle stalwarts, dozens of civil society organisations, business, labour and thousands of individual South Africans around a common cause: the need to stop state capture in its tracks.

As plans for the People's Assembly are being finalised, it is clear that this is going to be a significant show of collective national outrage.

People and formations are increasingly uniting under our great symbol of national pride, the South African flag, to say they're sick and tired of corruption, they want an end to state looting, and they want to play an active role in rescuing the state from further capture. People and civil society groups across the country are making preparations for similar protests in what will be a nationwide day of action against State Capture.

The Assembly is uniting people across class, race, gender, faith and party political lines and providing a sense of common purpose for executives, factory workers, public servants, the unemployed and the self-employed.

Under the umbrella of the Save South Africa campaign, the programme in Pretoria on 2 November will include speakers from political organisations, faith-based groups, organised business, labour, and civil society. It is the beginning of a counter-veiling movement focused on stopping the rot, restoring integrity and putting the democratic project back on track.

In this context, the Save South Africa campaign urges Shaun Abrahams to save himself from further embarrassment and to avoid more damage to the shrinking integrity of the NPA and the Hawks.

Every day that passes provides further confirmation that the charges against Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan and former SARS official Ivan Pillay and Oupa Magashule, are not just politically motivated, but are legally without any basis. They are an utter sham and without substance, and we believe the courts will find likewise.

The latest confirmation of this is the commendable action of SARS deputy director Vlok Symington and SARS attorney David Makapela, who have outlined in affidavits their refusal to become accomplices in the NPA's heavy-handed attempts to concoct a case against the Minister and his co-accused. We salute them for displaying integrity and courage, as well as the role of the Helen Suzman Foundation and Freedom Under Law in bringing the true facts of this case to light, and Corruption Watch's move today to charge SARS head Tom Moyane with corruption.

Because of their criminal collusion in manufacturing the charges against Minister Gordhan, we call for the immediate sacking of Shaun Abrahams and Tom Moyane.

There is a groundswell of action and outrage, and these organisations and individuals join a growing line of public officials who have blown the whistle on attempts at state capture -- including Deputy Finance Minister Mcebisi Jonas, former GCIS director-general Themba Maseko, former MP Vytjie

Mentor, former SARS advisor Yolisa Pikie and former SARS spokesperson Adrian Lackay. We urge others to stand up and speak out against the real Rogue Unit that exists in government.

This is the sort of civic action we need to stop state capture in its tracks.

Further details of the People's Assembly will be released as they are finalized, and updates will be provided on our digital media platforms:

Website: www.savesouthafrica.org

Twitter: @_SaveSA

Facebook: Save South Africa Now

Organisations and individuals who have endorsed the Save South Africa campaign include:

- Active Citizens' Movement
- Ahmed Kathrada
- Alexandra Civic Organisation
- Anglican Church
- Barbara Hogan
- Ben Turok
- Bishop Desmond Tutu
- Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein
- Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution
- Corruption Watch
- Denis Goldberg
- Equal Education
- Evangelical Alliance of South Africa
- Federation of Unions of South Africa (Fedusa)
- Johannesburg Against Injustice
- Lawyers for Human Rights
- Open Democracy Advice Centre
- South African Christian Leaders' Initiative
- South African NGO Coalition
- SECTION27
- Students for Law and Social Justice
- Treatment Action Campaign
- United Front of Civics

Queries: Ntsiki Mpulo 0827827143