



Media statement / 7 August 2017

SaveSA calls on MPs to put their country first – just like Mbete has

The Save South Africa campaign commends the Speaker of the National Assembly, Baleka Mbete, for enabling Members of Parliament to vote with their consciences during tomorrow's Vote of No Confidence in President Jacob Zuma.

In doing so, the Speaker has ensured MPs – and ANC MPs in particular – will put their country first, and save South Africa from any more of the destruction that has become the hallmark of Zuma's presidency.

It is encouraging that the Speaker has shown wisdom and leadership, and embraced the Constitutional Court's ruling. Now the ANC Caucus – which was in favour of a secret ballot – should similarly embrace the ruling, rise above its threats of disciplinary action and intimidation to Dr Makhosi Khoza, Mondli Gungubele and others, and allow its public representatives to vote with their consciences.

The Speaker has risen above party politics and acted in the best interests of South Africa. It is up to MPs to do the same, and put their country first.

This is an important moment for our democracy, and comes on the back of growing civil society protests against Zuma and his cronies. These protests have grown in numbers and significance, and we call on our supporters – and all South Africans – to take to the streets again tomorrow and take part in protests wherever they are, as part of civil society's national shutdown between 12h00 and 14h00.

We must show Zuma that South Africa has no confidence in him, whether inside Parliament or outside.

It is abundantly clear that South Africans are sick and tired of the sale of our sovereignty, the undermining of our Constitution, the looting of state assets and the undermining of key state institutions.

As representatives of all who live in South Africa, Members of Parliament must heed the voice of the people, and respect the will of the people. They should reflect on the sentiment of the people across our country, expressed in countless marches, protests and petitions, and do the right thing tomorrow.

Zuma is a liability, and MPs must seize this opportunity: tomorrow, they must consign him to the dustbin of history, where he belongs.

In the meantime, we shall continue our struggle against state capture, we shall fight to reclaim our country, and we shall do whatever we can to ensure South Africa has leaders who govern with respect and integrity.