



## NOVEMBER 2 STATEMENT

# The people's struggle continues: SaveSA commemorates its first anniversary

The Save South Africa campaign marks its first anniversary today more committed than ever to defending our democracy against corrupt carpet-baggers and rent-seekers, and to liberating South Africa from state capture.

The challenges we face today are similar to those we faced when we launched our campaign in Pretoria on November 2 2016 – the same day on which the Public Protector's report, *State of Capture*, was released to the public:

- Agents of state capture, in government and the corporate sector, continue to siphon off billions in public money that should be spent on improving the quality of life of the poor.
- Corporate South Africa and multinationals continue to collaborate with the Guptas' corrupt elements in state departments, institutions and companies such as Eskom, Transnet, Prasa and SAA -- destroying any semblance of good governance.
- Zuma, his son Duduzane and the Gupta family continue to be the kingpins who facilitate this disastrous situation – and remain immune from prosecution because of a neutered criminal justice system.

### **But the tide is turning.**

We are seeing a growing number of initiatives aimed at tackling state capture and the emergence of new like-minded civil society formations. These include FutureSA, with a support base of 130 civil society organisations, and #UniteBehind, who bravely occupied the offices of the National Prosecuting Authority this week in protest against its lack of action on state capture.

Virtually every one of the trade union federations FEDUSA, Saftu and Cosatu have pronounced themselves in support of efforts against state capture, as have the majority of faith-based groups.

This growth in activity has been accompanied by a more decisive voice from business through Business Leadership South Africa, the emergence of a growing number of whistleblowers inside and outside government, sustained exposes by the South African

media, and increasing international pressure against state capture collaborators such as KPMG, McKinsey and SAP.

We are greatly encouraged by this ongoing and significant growth in the collective defence of our constitutional democracy. Civil society, labour and business are now united around a common goal – to save South Africa from state capture.

Civil society has truly been awakened – to defend our democracy, to protest against excesses, and to remind our leaders that we are a nation that has experience with people’s power, and we are prepared to use it.

We intend to build on this momentum as the governing party approaches its December conference, and in the period beyond – regardless of who is elected into the ANC’s leadership. And we are determined to strengthen the countervailing force of people’s power into a formidable political centre that those in office will ignore at their peril.

**Whoever emerges victorious at the ANC’s elective conference must know: we will demand that those in leadership positions must govern with integrity and respect.**

We will demand that the new ANC leadership remove all corrupt cabinet ministers and undertake a comprehensive cleanout of corrupt government departments, state-owned companies and institutions. We will demand respect for the Constitution and insist that our sovereignty is protected. And we will repeat, again and again, that there must be accountability for wrongdoing, and that people must serve time in jail for breaking the law.

We thank all those who have helped to change the balance of forces between the state and civil society, and urge more and more South Africans to ensure that Save South Africa will not have to mark too many anniversaries before we can say:

- We have successfully defended our democracy.
- We have rolled back state capture and recaptured the institutions that make up our sovereign state.
- We have seen to it that all the crooks are locked up and the carpet-baggers have been chased away.
- We have begun to ensure that the state is led with integrity and respect.
- We have embraced a new socio-political agenda – across the political spectrum – that ensures deep-rooted problems such as inequality and poverty, and their impact on education, health care, land redistribution and the redistribution of wealth, are addressed with sincerity.
- We have built a deep-rooted sensitivity to the horrendous legacy of apartheid, and are able to find sustainable solutions to pressing social justice issues such as inequality, racism, sexism, patriarchy, and other forms of discrimination.

In summary, we look forward to the day when we, the people, can declare: **we have helped Save South Africa.**

- **Visit Save South Africa’s new refreshed website at [www.savesouthafrica.org](http://www.savesouthafrica.org)**