



## **Press Statement**

### **3 December 2021**

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#### **Anti-Corruption Week to proceed, though march called off**

The Defend Our Democracy Campaign today kicks off Anti-Corruption Week, which will run from December 3-10, with a series of activations planned in several provinces.

The campaign has, however, called off its anti-corruption march to the Union Buildings, which was planned for 5 December, the anniversary of former President Nelson Mandela's passing.

The march was meant to have been one of the key events taking place during the week. A series of smaller in-person, and online activations by a range of organisations will however, proceed as planned in a build up to International Anti-Corruption Day, marked annually on 9 December.

The march was initially scaled down to a picket, following reports of the new Covid-19 variant. The decision was taken in light of the rapidly increasing infection rate, and the serious risks involved in transporting large groups of people from around the province to march collectively to the Union Buildings.

The picket however, is now also called off due to a refusal by law enforcement to grant permission for any public activation by the campaign on the day at the Union Buildings and specifically, at the Mandela statue – where we were told protest action can no longer take place.

We believe that corruption is an issue that concerned Mandela deeply and that the site that memorialises his life should be a space in which social justice activists and members of the public should be free to demonstrate, and draw linkages with his legacy.

As we begin Anti-Corruption Week, we reiterate our commitment to responsible mobilisation and doing our part to stop the spread of the virus. We urge organisations, community forums,



religious institutions and individuals to follow all Covid-19 health protocols, to vaccinate and take extra precaution if organising in-person activations during the week.

To mark the start of the week, we will be hosting a hybrid book launch on “The Anatomy of State Capture” with editors Robyn Foley and Mark Swilling from the Centre for Sustainability Transitions on 3 December in Johannesburg. The event will also include inputs from SIU head, Andy Mothibi, and journalist Zukiswa Pikoli. The programme is dedicated to honouring the memory of Babita Deokaran and all slain whistleblowers and corruption fighters.

The campaign will also be supporting various activations by partner organisations, including, amongst others, the launch of the international ‘Bring back the Guptas’ campaign; the launch of a whistleblower perceptions survey report; a host of religious sector events against corruption; community pickets, small marches and bridge brigades, a demonstration outside Parliament, and webinars that will focus on issues related to the Zondo and Moerane Commissions.

The campaign remains resolute in its intention to #UniteAgainstCorruption. As conditions allow for broader in-person public mobilisation in future, we remain committed to taking our fight against corruption and capture to the streets.

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*Note to media:*

*Please see attached diary of events taking place during Anti-Corruption Week. The diary will be updated on a regular basis and these updates can be accessed [here](#).*

**For media enquiries, contact:**

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