



Press Statement

10 June 2022

Need for transparency around the reported Phala Phala robbery

The Defend our Democracy Campaign notes President Cyril Ramaphosa's comments on Friday at a media briefing in relation to the robbery that reportedly occurred at his Phala Phala game farm in 2020.

While the President intends to subject himself to the ANC's Integrity Committee, and has indicated that he will follow due process in relation to the investigation by the Hawks, we believe that transparency about what had occurred is within the public's interest.

The incident raises many unanswered questions and clarity is required about whether the law, at any point, may have been broken.

In assuming office, President Ramaphosa promised to restore public confidence in government through accountability, transparency and tackling corruption. We therefore call on the President to take the nation into his confidence and directly address the concerns that have been publicly raised about the reported theft.

The campaign is aware of the political context in which the story broke. We must question the timing and possible motives behind the opening of the case in relation to the incident, given that it comes on the eve of the final Zondo Commission report and several months before the ruling party's elective conference.

However, as described by the Constitutional Court's Nkandla ruling, the president of the country is considered a 'Constitutional being' and the 'personification of this nation's constitutional project'. As such, the campaign believes that the President should provide assurance to the public that he remains transparent about his affairs and accountable for his actions and income, without being further diverted from dealing with the pressing issues of governance.



Issued by Defend Our Democracy Campaign.

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