



## **Release of final state capture report is welcome, but orange overalls must follow**

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The Defend Our Democracy Campaign welcomes the release of the last volume of the Zondo Commission's report.

Over time five volumes of the Zondo Commission have painted a picture of the extent of corruption, financial mishandling and blatant theft of public money by certain officials in government departments, SOEs and leaders in some business entities.

The Campaign commends the Commission for the work it has done in revealing the nature and extent of the corruption networks, and the systemic manner in which it undermined our hard won democracy. It was indeed as indicated by the President, an attack on our democracy.

The reports pave the way for the criminal justice system to begin cracking down on these and other networks intent on destabilising the country further. While we are encouraged that the NPA is cooperating with the Zondo Commission, as well as with the UAE in ultimately getting the Guptas to account before a South African court of law, we want to see appropriate legal action taken against everyone involved in corruption and illegal activity.

We note that the government plans to table its response to the reports and the recommendations by October this year. We call on government to do this within the context of fundamental change to our systems of accountability and transparency from the electoral to procurement systems, including the appointment of a professional and ethical civil service.

Likewise we see no reason why Parliament should not start immediately deliberating on the report, and not wait for the Executive. It can evaluate the Executive's response on the basis of its ideas of what needs to be done. The immediate actions of prosecution should likewise be acted upon by the law enforcement agencies without delay. The sooner the South African public sees many of those implicated in state capture behind bars, the better it will be for the sense of hope that the worst might be behind us.

In keeping the government accountable to the report's recommendations, civil society, and all other sectors of society must deliberate on practical oversight mechanisms that can ensure that the recommendations of the State Capture report are implemented. The Defend our Democracy Campaign will on July 1<sup>st</sup>, as part of its conference, deliberate further with other members of civil society on its response and actions to the report of the commission.

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*Issued by Defend Our Democracy Campaign.*

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