



Whistleblowers Solidarity Day: 30 July 2022

Defend Our Democracy Campaign Message of Support

1. Defend our Democracy welcomes this initiative by the Active Citizens Movement to strengthen whistleblower protection in the country. We recently hosted the Conference for Democratic Renewal and Change where we indicated support for whistleblowers exposing corruption in government and the private sector and encouraged “research into crafting model law on whistleblowing”. We call on organisations and members of the public, as well as the legal fraternity, to comment on the draft model law and share their inputs.
2. We also welcome the collective manner in which the work has been done and encourage others who are similarly conducting anti-corruption work to bring together organisations in the process so that we maximise our capacity and have a collective voice on issues.
3. 23 August will mark one year since Gauteng Health whistleblower Babita Deokaran was gunned down outside her home. We call for this whistleblower protection policy to be named after Babita Deokaran. This week, a News24 investigative story reported that Babita had flagged millions of Rands potentially fraudulent deals being processed at Tembisa Hospital. The investigation alleges that an Ekurhuleni ANC leader scored money from these deals. This week, the ANC is hosting its policy conference where corruption and state capture is being spoken about. We call on the party to tell us what they are going to do about these serious allegations against yet another one of their members.
4. On the 23 August, there will be remembrance events for Babita Deokaran . But at the same time, we want to remember VBS whistleblowers Timson Tshililo and Ronald Mani, Noby Ngombane, Moss Phakoe and many more whistleblowers who have lost their lives. We also remember those who may not have killed, but who have suffered greatly as a result of their ethical stance. We call on people across the country, wherever they are, to do something: a picket, a candlelit vigil or a community meeting, to honour whistleblowers on the day.
5. We must rally behind those who are still fighting the good fight on different fronts, whether it be at Prasa or exposing the rot within the Public Protector’s office. Once again we how whistleblowers - Johann van Loggerenberg, Tebogo Kekana and Sphelo Samuel - are left

seemingly all alone to bear the brunt of attacks on their person and credibility, with little public support.

6. As we commemorate whistleblowers today, we must condemn the killings of Abahlali baseMjondolo activists Ayanda Ngila and Nokuthula Mabaso. We should similarly raise the alarm about recent threats made against DG in the Presidency, Phindile Baleni. These killings, and forms of intimidation, are symptomatic of an increasingly violent society where the rule of law becomes subverted to protect personal interests. It is indicative of the kind of society we can become if we don't have fundamental shifts in the destructive and toxic political culture that has taken root.
7. Whistleblower Mosilo Mothepu, in Mandy Wiener's book, says she doesn't like the term whistleblowers because it is shadowy, faceless and anonymous. She prefers the word 'heroes'. So today, we salute the many heroes, who have given their lives for the betterment of the people of this country.