



Press Statement
15 September 2022

Defend Our Democracy welcomes the establishment of an independent panel to investigate the Phala Phala farm matter

Defend Our Democracy welcomes the Speaker of Parliament - Nosiphiwe Mapisa-Nqakula's decision to establish an independent panel to probe the allegations of theft at President Cyril Ramaphosa's Phala Phala farm.

We believe that the decision to establish this independent panel is a step in the right direction in exercising oversight and establishing accountability. The panel will determine whether the President should face an impeachment inquiry.

Defend our Democracy believes that this matter is in the public interest, as the President himself vowed to restore public confidence in fostering better accountability and transparency when he assumed office.

As we previously stated, the seriousness of the Phala Phala matter raises many unanswered questions, and clarity is required about whether the law was, at any point, broken.

In light of the Parliamentary proceedings that took place on Tuesday in relation to the process to impeach Advocate Busisiwe Mkhwebane, we are concerned at the unbecoming remarks made by her legal counsel Advocate Dali Mpofu. His remarks threaten to undermine the integrity of Parliament as an arm of state and sought to impede a process that has been underway for months.

On International Day of Democracy, we call on Parliament to strengthen this arm of state, as it is at the heart of a functioning democracy.

Parliament must continue to exercise its oversight role on the executive as steadfastly as possible, and endeavor to foster values of transparency and accountability at all times.

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