



## **Press Statement**

**06 February 2023**

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### **A Country in Crisis: The Real State of the Nation**

Defend Our Democracy will be convening a public meeting in Cape Town on 8 February 2023 - the eve of the opening of Parliament and the presidential State of the Nation Address (SONA), at the St George's Cathedral, 5 Wale Street, Cape Town.

The rally is entitled “**A Country in Crisis – The Real State of the Nation**”. It has been prompted by concerned citizens that South Africa is spiralling into a deeper crisis, with a growing disconnect between those in power and the issues that the ordinary public face daily.

The meeting will see the coming together of several civil society organisations, activists, community networks, and concerned citizens come together to discuss what the real state of the nation is as they live it every day. The meeting will be addressing: Policing, Labour, Academia, Climate, Religious, Rail, Energy, Civil Society, Community Based, Humanitarian, Business

#### **Confirmed speakers include:**

Solly Mapaila: South African Communist Party (SACP)

Tessa Doods: Rivonia Circle

Axolile Notywala

Kholwani Simelane: The Green Connection

Shaykh Ighsaan Taliep

Pamela Silwana: Gugulethu CAN

Zackie Achmat: #UniteBehind

The full programme will be sent to you as soon as it is confirmed.

#### **Event details are as follows:**

Date: 8 February 2023

Time: 5 pm to 8 pm

Venue: St George's Cathedral, 5 Wale Street, Cape Town

**Registration is essential. Click here to register:** <https://forms.gle/D12mGUqSXSZQ2he16>

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*Issued by Defend our Democracy*

**For media enquiries and interviews please contact:**

Defend Our Democracy

Nonkululeko Mntambo

Mobile: +27817403838

Email: [Mntambo.DoD@gmail.com](mailto:Mntambo.DoD@gmail.com)