



## **STATEMENT ON FORMER MINISTER PRAVIN GORDHAN'S PASSING**

Former Minister Pravin Gordhan was an outstanding revolutionary and leading intellectual in the South African liberation movement.

His sterling service to the cause of our people's freedom saw him as a student and civic activist; a leader in the Natal Indian Congress and United Democratic Front, a courageous and dedicated cadre in the ANC underground, and finally, a public representative and Minister of the highest quality in the democratic government over the past three decades.

Two aspects stand out in his remarkable life in struggle: developing the theory and practice of mass mobilisation and organisation against apartheid and taking a principled and steely stance against corruption and state capture in our country.

Pravin Gordhan stood as towering inspiration to the popular movement against corruption and state capture. Together with the late Ahmed Kathrada, former Minister Derek Hanekom and former Deputy Minister Mcebisi Jonas among a few other leaders, Gordhan provided stimulus and resolve to civil society organisations to combat rampant corruption and the capture of the state so apparent under the rule of former President Jacob Zuma.

In taking a bold stance against corruption within an ANC government, Gordhan earned the wrath of some of his former comrades, including Zuma, resulting in his removal from high office. This however did not diminish his stand against corruption in the public service and government.

Defend our Democracy expresses its heartfelt condolences to his family, comrades and friends on the loss of their loved one. South Africa is the poorer without a leader of the calibre of Pravin Gordhan. May his soul rest in peace.

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