



7 November 2024

Anti-Corruption Week: Call to Action

Connect the Dots: Fight the State Capture Fightback

As South Africa's 30 years of democracy draws to a close, Defend our Democracy calls on organisations across the country to recommit to confronting state capture and corruption.

Various sectors are encouraged to mark Anti-Corruption Week from 3-10 December 2024.

Anti-Corruption Week is in its fourth year, and includes International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December, and International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

The theme for this year is, *Connect the Dots: Confront the State Capture Fightback*.

While we acknowledge the work that has been done to try and change policy, strengthen state institutions and investigate and uncover corruption, the efforts being made do not meet the scale of the problem.

Two years after the handover of the Zondo Commission report, South Africans are yet to see the many who were implicated in it pages being brought to book.

What we do see, however, are a number of those implicated serving in Parliament, sitting on portfolio committees and conducting "oversight" work, ironically over the very institutions that they had destroyed.

Others implicated in the Commission, serve in top positions in political parties or continue to work in public and private institutions, without any shame. In the absence of being prosecuted, arrested and tried, they find new currency.

While South Africa has come a long way from having to deal with the Guptas and their greed on a daily basis, the modus operandi that was used to undermine SOEs, has simply been repurposed and refined by others though.

The VBS scandal, PPE related corruption, the wholesale looting taking place at Tembisa Hospital, the continued attacks on whistleblowers and the litany of other municipal level corruption cases, is indicative of how entrenched the problem has become, and how ordinary people continue to bear the brunt of it.

Studies by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime have now also worryingly pointed to the growing nexus between organised crime, and capture and corruption. Extortion networks, construction mafia operators, gangs, and assassins are increasingly finding common cause with the corrupt in positions of power.

In this context, government's inability to swiftly implement many of the Zondo Commission recommendations leaves our country vulnerable.



Defend our Democracy therefore appeals to all who live in South Africa to use Anti-Corruption Week to:

- *Learn about* how state capture and corruption continues to undermine and erode democracy;
- *Speak out* against state capture and corruption, and those implicated in it; and
- *Act against* corruption and state capture wherever it manifests itself.

Host a lunchtime picket, organise a community workshop, or screen a film about how state capture and corruption impacts people. Tie an orange ribbon, cloth, or 'danger tape' at sites of alleged crime, corruption and capture. We will kick off this 'tie the tape' campaign at Tembisa Hospital, where slain whistleblower Babita Deokaran flagged R850 million of questionable deals.

In taking forward the fight against state capture, we must:

- Call on government to implement the Zondo Commission recommendations;
- Give priority to finalising policy reforms to better protect whistleblowers;
- Continue voicing our dissatisfaction with compromised individuals holding positions within government, political parties and state institutions;
- Call on the National Prosecuting Authority to buck up and charge those implicated in the Zondo Commission reports;
- Demand that the Department of Justice gives the NPA full access to the Zondo Commission records;
- Shine the spotlight on provincial and municipal level corruption;
- Call on Parliament to implement the Zondo recommendations in relation to strengthening its oversight role;
- Call for electoral reform that allows for greater direct public accountability of members of Parliament;
- Call for transparent and open mechanisms to be put in place in appointing key public servants within the state and in Chapter 9 Institutions; and
- Demand continued transparency around political party funding.

As we mark Anti-Corruption Week 2024, we must revive and strengthen the broad fronts which helped us 'connect the dots' and achieve key victories in the fight against state capture and corruption over the last few years. It is time to unite in confronting the 'state capture fightback'.

Issued by Defend our Democracy



For media inquiries contact;
Andries Sibanyoni
Communication Officer
Defend our Democracy
071 037 6138