



Defend Our Democracy Statement on the arrest of 12 Senior SAPS Officials

26 March 2026

Defend Our Democracy welcomes the arrest of twelve senior officials of the South African Police Service, who stand accused of fraud, corruption, and violations of the Public Finance Management Act in connection with a R360 million tender awarded to Medicare 24, a company linked to attempted murder accused and director, Vusimuzi 'CAT' Matlala.

These allegations strike at the very heart of public trust in our law enforcement agencies, further eroding confidence in institutions tasked with upholding justice and protecting citizens. We expect the men and women in blue to enforce the law, not to become part of crime syndicates that loot the country's resources.

We commend the Independent Directorate Against Corruption (IDAC) for its diligent investigations and decisive action in effecting these arrests. Their work sends a clear and powerful message to all South Africans: no individual, regardless of position or influence, is above the law.

The integrity of law-enforcement institutions is fundamental to public trust, and it is therefore critical that such matters are investigated thoroughly and prosecuted without fear or favour.

The arrests serve as a firm reminder across the public sector that ethical leadership, transparent procurement practices, and strict compliance with policies, such as the Public Finance Management Act, are non-negotiable obligations.

The 12 police officials appeared in court and were granted bail.

Defend Our Democracy calls for transparency, accountability, and swift judicial processes to ensure that justice is served. The fight against corruption must remain relentless, as it is essential to safeguarding our democracy and restoring faith in the institutions that serve the people.

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