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Press Release

6 March 2026

## **Defend Our Democracy Welcomes Sentencing in Bosasa Corruption Case**

Defend Our Democracy welcomes the sentencing of former Member of Parliament Vincent Smith to seven years in prison for his role in the Bosasa's corruption scandal linked to state capture.

Smith was convicted of accepting R600,000 in bribes from Bosasa, failing to declare his business interests in Parliament, and evading taxes amounting to R28 million. These crimes represent a betrayal of public trust and a direct attack on the integrity of South Africa's democratic institutions.

This ruling is a significant step forward in the fight against corruption and a clear indication that the wheels of justice are beginning to turn. For too long, those implicated in state capture have evaded accountability, undermining public trust in governance.

Defend Our Democracy applauds the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) for a job well done in pursuing this case and ensuring that justice is served. The organization believes that this sentence sends a strong message: corruption will not be tolerated, and those who betray the public's trust must face the consequences.

Statement from Defend Our Democracy:

*"This sentencing is a reminder that no one is above the law. We commend the NPA for its determination and professionalism in bringing this case to a conclusion. We want to see all those involved in state capture corruption prosecuted, sentenced, and wearing prisoners' orange overalls. Only then can South Africa begin to restore integrity in governance and defend our democracy."*

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