

JOIN THE PEOPLE'S MARCH AGAINST CORRUPTION, AUGUST 19 2015

Let Us UNITE Against Corruption!

**WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!
STOP CORRUPTION!
SAVE OUR COUNTRY!**

We are organisations and individuals – from all walks of life, all ages, all religions and beliefs - who have joined together to take a stand against all forms and all sources of corruption. We do so because corruption is a cancer that infects and impacts negatively on all people and institutions throughout the country – but more so, it hampers the prosperity of the people of South Africa, especially those from the poorest and most vulnerable communities across our country.

Corruption is not an isolated issue. It is found in government, business, trade unions, civil society and even churches. It is being made acceptable. Yet everywhere it occurs, it eats away at all of our dreams and insinuates its way into every aspect of our society. It is the greed that is ingrained in our economic system that makes corruption so difficult to tackle. It is ultimately the selfishness of the few that allows it to continue.

The contemptuous response of those in government to the Nkandla scandal shows the extreme level of denial in respect of corruption. This flippant response to corruption is a symptom of a refusal to accept accountability. It is part of a dangerous pattern of abuse of power.

If corruption is not stopped, it will turn South Africa into a failed state, and rob us of our future. It will turn our collective dream of a better life for all into a living nightmare.

We believe that corruption is our problem, and the onus is on every honest person in South Africa to tackle it. It is an assault on our Constitution's promise of equality and dignity.

It is *our* collective problem to address because:

- Corruption steals resources from the poor and most needy. For example in public health alone the Auditor General uncovered

R28 billion in “irregular expenditure” over 4 years. Has anyone been prosecuted? No.

- Corruption denies learners textbooks through fraudulent tenders in a number of our provinces. Has anyone been prosecuted? No.
- Corruption breeds intimidation of individuals and workers, violence and assassination as the corrupters try to cover their tracks. There is no better evidence of this than the report of the Farlam commission, whose findings are, at the very least, wholly inadequate.
- Corruption sees honest whistleblowers are marginalised, fired and even killed. Has anyone been prosecuted? No.
- Corruption results in the daily intimidation and harassing of immigrants, thereby perpetuating a culture of afrophobia.
- Corruption has become a part of doing business. We see it in fixing of bread prices, construction of stadiums, rigging of tenders. We see it in illegal capital flight estimated at billions of Rands each year, tax dodging and the refusal to invest profits back into the communities that made them. We see it in the Pricewaterhouse Coopers survey on global economic crime last year, which found that eight out of ten senior managers in South Africa have engaged in corrupt business practices.
- Corruption increases the cost of doing business, which is ultimately passed on to the consumer. It makes us an uncompetitive nation.
- Corruption undermines crucial institutions and principles of our democracy. It thrives in a climate of secrecy - the Secrecy Act (Protection of State Information Act) would have stopped the media from exposing corruption.
- Corruption attacks the very state institutions that have been set up to fight corruption. We have already seen how effective, courageous institutions like the Public Protector are attacked. But it has also infected and paralysed the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), SAPS and the Hawks.
- Corruption – like that alleged in relation to our hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup – undermines our international credibility and global investor confidence at a time when we are so desperate for decent jobs to help eliminate poverty and growing inequalities.

While millions of South Africans live below the poverty line, face permanent unemployment and go to bed hungry every night, the

scourge of corruption is growing daily, with some economists estimating the cost to the South African public at between R50 - R80 billion per annum. Imagine if this money was spent on public services! Imagine if it was spent on things the government says we cannot afford, such as braille textbooks for blind learners. It would help to restore hope.

When people have no hope, when they are desperate, when they see only a few benefiting from the fruits of our democracy, when state violence is turned on protestors in the way we saw in Marikana, that poses potential threats to the stability of our society.

That makes corruption *our* problem.

CORRUPTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The big problem is that corruption has no consequences in our country. While we have good laws to fight corruption, there is very little political will to arrest the problem. Those who speak out face intimidatory assaults from those in power and their allies. Wrongdoers are not held to account.

We spend billions investigating corruption through organisations like the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) and the Hawks, yet very few people are prosecuted and in prison for corruption. When they occur, disciplinary hearings, prosecutions and court cases get drawn out over years at huge additional costs, dockets are lost, people are intimidated or murdered. Senior officials, politicians and CEOs keep their office. Far too often, senior public officials enjoy years of suspension on full pay whilst their corrupt practices are “investigated”. Those found guilty of corruption are soon re-deployed elsewhere.

Where we have good institutions to investigate corruption, like the Office of the Public Protector, we don't give them the resources and support to do their jobs.

Corruption is a common thread that afflicts E-tolls, Eskom and other para-statals. It contributes to electricity load shedding, to xenophobia. It has also infected the construction of football stadiums and toll roads.

The result is a failing state where a handful of people get extremely rich while millions are hungry and homeless.

To this situation, we say enough is enough. We love our country. We will not let the corrupt rob us of our dreams and hopes! Young people, have a right to a future. The time has come for us to once again unite and demand a future free from corruption.

**WE CALL FOR PEACEFUL, DIGNIFIED DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST
CORRUPTION ON 19th AUGUST 2015**

We appeal to all people of all backgrounds, classes, nationalities, faiths and ages. We appeal to people who can provide moral leadership, to those in the arts, in business, sport, and education and even in government. Come out of your hiding places! Speak out!

If you are fed up, angry and if you value our future – Speak out! If you want to create hope for the young and unemployed – Speak out! If you want to restore hope for quality education, health and security and decent employment, then make your voice heard now, for tomorrow will be too late. Speak out now!

We know that other important events will take place in July and August, including commemoration of the Marikana massacre on August 16th. As we undertake those other events let us also encourage others to get involved in the campaign against corruption.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD! VOTE WITH YOUR FEET!

- 7th August 2015, Cape Town: Join our picket of the National Assembly in Cape Town during parliamentary debate on the 'Nhleko report', which found that President Zuma does not need to pay back any money for Nkandla upgrades despite the findings of the Public Protector that the President had unduly benefited by using our hard earned taxes on his private residence in Nkandla. If you are not in Cape Town, follow the action online and support through social media.
- 19th August, Everywhere: Join a planned action on this day, or organise your own:

- Pretoria: The “People’s March Against Corruption” will start from multiple locations to converge on the Union Buildings.
- Cape Town: A mass march to Parliament will take place in solidarity with the main march.
- Other Cities and Towns: Wherever you are, start now to organise a march or demonstration. You know who is corrupt in your school, community or workplace. Organise against it!

In the build-up to these events, recruit participants, carry out creative forms of protest, educate yourselves and others about the issues through meetings in your homes, offices, places of worship, schools and other places of learning, and places of entertainment. Become corruption literate! Become an anti-corruption activist!

Follow the campaign and share your plans with us:

- **Web:** www.uniteagainstcorruption.co.za
- **Email:** media@uniteagainstcorruption.co.za
- **Facebook:** fb.com/UACNow
- **Twitter:** [@UAC_Now](https://twitter.com/UAC_Now)

To make a financial or in-kind contribution, please contact us at the email address above.

A MASSIVE MARCH WILL HELP US RECLAIM THE CONSTITUTION’S VISION OF DIGNITY, EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR OUR FUTURE

What will this march achieve?

- It signifies peoples’ and civic empowerment and solidarity against corruption and why we must stand together and fight it. The march will empower us as citizens as we begin take action, making our voices heard and forcing politicians to respond and listen, not only every five years when they want our vote.
- By marching in mass we will send the message that corruption is unacceptable. Politicians will know that they will be held accountable and lose votes if they don’t act against corruption. We want business to know that they will be exposed and lose business if their business model benefits from corruption.

The march will help to UNITE South African society against those who deny the existence of corruption, in order to save billions of rand and countless lives lost through the plundering of public and private resources.

The march will set the tone to develop a new culture in South Africa, whereby the people will demand action from public officials on the matter, and ensure that no one insults our intelligence or laughs in our faces by allowing corrupt practices to continue without action. We demand accountable, open and responsive Government.

The organisers, in consultation with partners across the civil society spectrum, are in the process of developing a memorandum that will be handed over to government on August 19.

After the march, we will continue this campaign in many diverse ways. This will, amongst others, include:

- Doing more to protect whistleblowers from victimisation and intimidation, and to broaden the scope of protection.
- Lobby for lifestyle audits especially on those seeking public office.
- Supporting the office of the Public Protector.
- Stepping up the campaign for regulation and transparency of party political funding.

August 19th will be the day that marks the beginning of concerted, organised public opposition to corruption. It will be the day when we ask the people of South Africa, to take to the streets, and vote with their feet. It will be a day when we revive hope. It's your country. It's your Constitution. It's your future. Seize it.

ENDS