

## **Media statement**

**Embargoed until 12h00, Friday 7 August 2015**

### **Why we are picketing today at Parliament in Cape Town and the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg**

Today's pickets, in Cape Town and Johannesburg, which coincide with the deadline for the submission to Parliament of the Ad Hoc Committee on Nkandla, are part of the build-up to the mass marches against corruption on 23 September 2015 in Pretoria, Cape Town and other towns.

More and more organisations - trade unions, community groups and churches - and thousands of individual South Africans are pledging to join the marches and showing their determination to take a stand against corruption and the looting of our country's wealth, which is spreading into all corners of our society in both the public and private sectors.

Corruption is threatening to turn South Africa into a kleptocracy in which millions of ands worth of resources which should be used to build schools, provide healthcare and improve public infrastructure are being hijacked by greedy, criminal tenderpreneurs and shaking the foundations of our constitutional democracy.

Today's pickets are focussing on four specific themes:

- Defence of the Constitution and its Chapter Nine institutions, in particular the Office of the Public Protector; hence the human chain around the Constitutional Court;
- Rejection of the report on Nkandla by Police Minister Nathi Nhleko;
- Support for the demand that President Zuma pay back part of the money squandered on his Nkandla homestead;
- Building up support for the 23 September marches.

Supporters include over 600 of South Africa's most prominent artists, and individuals such as Rev. Mpho Tutu, Jay Naidoo, Francois Pienaar, Prof. Adam Habib, Anglican Bishop of Pretoria Joe Seoka and Zelda la Grange.

The Cape Town picket features a major involvement of the creative/artistic community, who will perform a drama focussing on the lack of integrity and the whitewashing of the gross over-spending on Nkandla in Nathi Nhleko's report and the attack on Chapter 9 in this report.

Today's events form part of a sustained campaign to ensure that the marches on 23 September 2015 truly reflect the voice of all people around corruption. Over the next few weeks we shall be building momentum by mobilising a mass movement around this vital issue.

Other build-up activities will include meetings and consultations in communities, workplaces, churches, mosques, union locals, train stations and taxi ranks. The social media campaign will ramp up to hear the demands and stories of people from across the nation.

We urge all South Africans to unite and mobilize against the corruption, to come to the pickets on Friday, and join the united march on 23 September.

We invite media to follow the campaign online and pledge their support and that of their organisations at:

- Web: [uniteagainstcorruption.co.za](http://uniteagainstcorruption.co.za)
- Email: [media@uniteagainstcorruption.co.za](mailto:media@uniteagainstcorruption.co.za)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/uacnow](https://facebook.com/uacnow)
- Twitter: @UAC\_Now
- Instagram: uac\_now

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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