

3 April 2017

The National Executive Committee
African National Congress

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Ladies and gentlemen of the NEC,

Action against President Jacob Zuma

Our country finds itself at crucial crossroads today. With a population growth of around 1% per annum, an economic growth rate of around 0.3% per annum, around 9 million jobless people, more than 17 million people dependant on social grants, and a continued pattern of skilled South Africans and their young families emigrating, it is constantly becoming more and more difficult to provide opportunities for ordinary South Africans to make a decent living in our beloved country. Under such circumstances it is no wonder that crime is part of the everyday life experience of our citizens.

Although churches have no intention to get involved in the government of a country, we have a moral responsibility. All people are created in the image of God, and the Bible teaches us that we *are* in fact our brothers' keepers. And like the prophets of old, we are also called to testify to those in power, be they king or president or cabinet. Every person holding power does so in the face of God Almighty, and will be accountable to Him for the way in which they exercise their power to the benefit or detriment of God's people.

You will recall that we had a meeting with representatives of the NEC of the ANC in Luthuli House during August 2015. On that occasion we have already pointed out to the senior ANC members present, amongst others Mr Gwede Mantashe, Mrs Jessie Duarte, and Mr Zizi Kodwa:

Mr Zuma's integrity has been widely questioned before his first term as President of South Africa, and his controversial conduct since 2009 has only served to heighten the local and international reservations about his suitability to serve as an inspiring example to the citizens of this country.

...

Unfortunately this goes hand in hand with the appointment of questionable members of the ANC in government at the various levels, with appointees who have been shown to lie in public and even in court. ... A number of individuals with a dubious track record have been appointed as ambassadors, diplomats, or as senior advisors or heads of government departments.

...

These ill-fated appointments, individuals intent on furthering their own interests, as well as faction fighting have led to the gross mismanagement of government departments, municipalities, and (semi-) state enterprises such as the SAPS and newly founded Hawks (the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI), SAA, the SABC, Eskom, Prasa, PetroSA,. It should therefore not surprise anyone that these vitally important institutions have been characterised by instability, poor service delivery, corruption and massive losses of tax money that could have been used for health, education, housing and job creation.

The senior leadership of the ANC have not heeded our earnest warning. They responded by telling us how popular Mr Zuma was amongst ordinary South Africans, as if that should negate the negative effects of bad executive actions.

In April 2016, after the unanimous judgment of the Constitutional Court on the Nkandla scandal, we once more wrote a letter to the leadership of the ruling party, in which we wrote *inter alia*:

Mr Zuma failed to heed the [Public Protector's] report, leading to the unanimous judgement of the Constitutional Court that found him guilty, not only of abusing state funds, but also of not fulfilling his sworn constitutional duty to uphold the constitution of this country. We fear that Mr Zuma's half-hearted apology on the 1st of April 2016 does not undo his flouting of the constitution or inspire confidence that he will uphold the constitution without being dragged before court. On the contrary, his behaviour is destroying the moral fibre of our society and is a major cause for conflict and polarisation amongst our people.

Once more the senior leadership of the ANC have not heeded our earnest warning. Moreover, they have not even responded to our letter in any way whatsoever.

Just after midnight, early on Friday 31 March 2017, Mr Zuma has once again acted recklessly by axing the Minister of Finance and other cabinet ministers whilst retaining some cabinet ministers who have performed dismally and who have even been reprimanded for their negligence by our courts. This has once more led to a depreciation of our currency, an outflow of money from South Africa, and uncertainty about the country's international credit rating. It seems that Mr Zuma either does not understand the implications this might have for the government's ability to provide services to the citizens of this country, or that he simply does not care.

We therefore have to appeal to the National Executive Committee of the ANC to hold your leader responsible and to now act decisively in the interests of the country as a whole. Your actions now will determine the view of ordinary South Africans about your own morality and integrity.

We will continue to pray for the government and all the people of this country. We would welcome another opportunity to engage with you personally.



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