



FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

We, the people of South Africa,

- Recognise the injustices of our past;
- Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;
- Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and
- Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

South Africa took its place as a democratic sovereign state after a struggle against racist oppression and exploitation that inspired the world. Ours was a just struggle, executed with courage, discipline and ethical leadership. It offered the world a beacon of hope – a vision of a truly united, non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society.

These hopes and dreams are, however, now being dashed and trodden on by a rapacious predatory elite which is undermining the gains of our struggle and destroying the legacy of all those who fought so valiantly.

The dignity that has briefly been bestowed on those most marginalized by apartheid is being ripped away as state resources are misappropriated with impunity by this criminal enterprise. Corruption consumes billions each year, crime escalates and yet the political elite remain secure in their comfort.

In the meantime, inequality deepens, poverty flourishes and unemployment thrives. Another generation is becoming “lost”.

Institutions of governance – such as the National Prosecuting Authority, the Hawks, SARS and the Independent Police Investigations Directorate – have been weakened and compromised before us. This undermines the rule of law and the state’s ability to fight crime and corruption. Although a few functional state institutions remain intact – we have an independent judiciary, there is a vibrant civil society and vigilant media – they cannot make up for these major institutional deficiencies.

We have the infrastructure for a constitutional state, but one that is stagnant in practice.

The key ingredients of the democracy that our Constitution promises – openness, accountability, responsiveness, equality and social justice – are routinely ignored.

Our call to action

There is no doubt that we need to inject new energy and urgency into our body politic. As South Africans, citizens and residents, women and men as equals, we should come together to reclaim our freedom – black and white, of any faith and no faith, rich and poor, urban and rural, young and old, unemployed and employed, all sexual orientations.

We must recommit ourselves to realize the vision of our Constitution: “To heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights.”

We demand principled, ethical leadership, based on integrity and respect for the Constitution.

Save South Africa calls on all people in South Africa to come together in this campaign to highlight our common values and demand open, accountable and responsive government.