

Press Release

## Step Up Mr Deputy President

Pretoria, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017**

The Quaker Peace Centre (QPC) as First Applicant and the FW de Klerk Foundation (FWF) and AfriForum (AF) as the Second and Third Applicants respectively have applied to the Constitutional Court to confirm that Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa has both the **authority** and the **obligation** to urgently commission a Judicial Inquiry into state capture.

The claim that the Deputy President has the **authority** to do so is based on section 90(1)(a) of the Constitution, due to the President being unable to act by reason of his conflict.

His **obligation** to do so lies in the series of shocking revelations about state capture which started with the release of the Public Protector's *State of Capture* report in October 2016, followed by, in quick succession:

- The publication of Pieter-Louis Myburgh's *The Republic of Gupta: A Story of State Capture* in April 2017;
- The South African Council of Churches' *Unburdening Panel Report* on 18th May; and
- The release of the Report by a stellar array of academics based at four of South Africa's most respected universities: *Betrayal of the Promise: How the Nation is Being Stolen* on 23rd May.

The above evidence in support of the claim of state capture prompted the QOC to commence this application. Its veracity was subsequently further confirmed by the explosive exposé published on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 by the Daily Maverick's Scorpio Unit in partnership with amaBhungane, on hundreds of leaked emails between the Gupta family, their agents, the President and members of his close family, certain ministers and various State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

Carol Bower, Chairperson of the Quaker Peace Centre Board said: "The evidence of state capture is now overwhelming. From the Arms Deal, to Eskom, to the firing of first Nene and then Gordhan and Mcebisi, to the shenanigans at SARS, SAA, the SABC and the Hawks, and the SASSA/CPS/DSD debacle, it is shockingly clear that our democracy is in grave danger. Each act of corruption, each lining of the pockets of the corrupt, each diversion of money to nefarious purposes robs children in South Africa of their basic rights and feeds discontent and the endemic violence we see all around us. It must stop. A Commission of Inquiry convened by the Deputy President as the only credible and constitutionally permitted person to do so, is an urgent priority

The Quaker Peace Centre, Cape Town, was founded in 1987 by the Cape Western Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in response to the

repressive policies of apartheid and the need for developing non-violent methods of problem-solving, interaction and conflict resolution in South African society.

In the development of participatory democratic life in South Africa today, these founding Quaker values, peace testimony and principles remain central to the Centre's programme, as it broadens its base of membership and governance and responds to emerging needs in society.

QPC's experience on working against violence in communities informs our concern that the level of corruption and nepotism are approaching proportions which impact directly on our national fiscus and thus our ability to provide for the rights guaranteed in our landmark Constitution. Corruption is literally robbing our children of their health and their future.

End

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***For more information please contact:***

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**AfriForum**

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