

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South African Council of Churches

17 March 2016

SACC ON THE JONAS GUPTA REVELATIONS: MARCH 16, 2016.

The South African Council of Churches (SACC) is dismayed, appalled and horrified at the prospect that there may be in government, *proxy cabinet ministers* who have been so recruited to serve, not the public interests set out by the Constitution, but private business interests that may well be opposed to the common good of South African citizens.

The startling confirmation by Deputy Minister Mcebisi Jonas, of what appears to be an attempt to capture and use the State Treasury, is a chilling thought. It calls to question a lot about the process of cabinet appointments and dismissals. The leadership of the South African Churches in the SACC are urgently consulting on the appropriate action to take in the light of these developments, and will publicise this in the next couple of days.

The fact that Mr Jonas was approached by the Gupta family a couple of weeks before the shock dismissal of Minister Nhlanhla Nene brings into sharp focus the goings on and the reasons for the dismissal of Mr Nene which bled the country of billions of rand. The reported agenda for which the Gupta family was recruiting Mr Jonas, presents an uncomfortable poser to the reasons solemnly given by the President of South Africa to an SACC delegation in December 2015, for Mr Nene's removal – which was that he had been nominated for an appointment at the BRICS bank.

We are dismayed, appalled, and horrified at the thought that a key constitutional function of the hallowed Office of the President may have thus been outsourced for private benefit, to a point that the critical portfolio of Finance and the management of the State's Treasury, could be so nearly highjacked in broad daylight. We applaud the courage displayed by Mr Jonas and Ms. Vytjie Mentor. "The truth will set you free!" (John 8:32).

The bold report made by Ms Vytjie Mentor, of her also being recruited in 2010, to be a *proxy cabinet minister* for the Gupta business interests, in the Department of Public Enterprises in place of Ms Barbara Hogan, deepens the crisis. It tells us that this practice of seeking *proxy cabinet ministers* – serving for the benefit of the Gupta family, may have been going on for at least six years.

How many other people have been approached in that time, at what level of government and its entities? How many are in office and delivering for the Guptas without the principled values and healthy public conscience of Vytjie Mentor and Mcebisi Jonas?



How many others are quietly languishing in misery, having lost their jobs in this frightening game, and fearing for their lives, may have gone into silence? Is this the South Africa of our dreams? There are many questions to ask!

We call on all who have stories to tell on this phenomenon, and even involving any other business or political interests so inappropriately presented, to come forward and speak out for the sake of the nation, for the sake of good governance and the essential public trust in the Organs of State and the Levers of Government. That is *The South Africa We Pray For!*

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

For more information and interviews:

Khuthalani Khumalo

khuthalani@khaliphani.co.za

084 074 1285

