



Liberty Fighters Network

Est. 2016 - A voluntary association without gain
(Universitas)

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VERY URGENT

TO: PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, MR. MC RAMAPHOSA

C/O Personal Assistant to the President, Ms. M Sibiya

Union Buildings, Government Avenue, Arcadia, PRETORIA

Email(1): [REDACTED]

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**cc. MINISTER OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS, DR. NC
DLAMINI ZUMA**

C/O Personal Assistant to the Minister, Ms. M Mbele

Union Buildings, Government Avenue, East Wing, 1st Floor, Arcadia, PRETORIA

Email(1): [REDACTED]

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cc. **STATE ATTORNEY**

C/O Mr. [REDACTED]

19th Floor SALU Building, Room 1922, 316 Thabo Sehume Street, PRETORIA

Email: [REDACTED]

cc. **AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS**

C/O National Secretary General, Mr. ES Magashule

Luthuli House, 54 Pixley Seme Street, JOHANNESBURG

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Dear Mr President

URGENT REQUEST TO ESTABLISH A JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE RUPERT AND OPPENHEIMER FAMILIES *ET AL* IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, CABINET AND THE PRESIDENCY OF SOUTH AFRICA IN PARTICULAR

Introduction

- 1 Liberty Fighters Network (LFN) and writer hereof obtained a Court order on 2 June 2020 in the High Court Gauteng Division Pretoria, which declared the promulgated Disaster Management Regulations (DMA Regulations) unconstitutional and invalid.
- 2 As a direct result of the 14 political parties forming our Parliament, all of which parties having found it opportune to support the declaration of the National State of Disaster (NSD) and, in doing so, relied on unconfirmed reports about an allegedly "novel" virus and thereby, without exception, likely having violated their duties as elected representatives of the People — literally thousands of South Africans have accepted LFN as their mouthpiece during this dreadful time. This unofficial role LFN have accepted with pride and we shall uphold our non-negotiable commitment to the country's People, the *Constitution*, our continent's *African Charter* and the, often forgotten, *Freedom Charter*.
- 3 LFN believes that you, Mr President, as the Head of State, must now show true leadership and transparency; in particular since your questionable executive decisions have brought severe hardship and economic ruin to a great many of our People.
- 4 You, Mr. President, have shown your commitment to eradicate corruption within the ranks of your own party, the African National Congress (ANC), by having addressed a letter of concern to all its structures on or about 23 August 2020 in which you have requested all its members to support all efforts to bring to book corrupt officials and exploitative behaviour and you have confirmed that the anger of the People in relation to such is "understandable and justified". We salute you for having done that.

5 Your letter further states that

“the lack of integrity perceived by the public has seriously damaged the ANC’s image, the People’s trust in the ANC, our ability to occupy the moral high ground and our position as leader of society.”

Due to the fact the ANC is the leading political structure within the Government, your same sentiment not only applies to the ANC but also Government as a whole – as well to all structures it controls, owns or manages; for instance, by way of funding or by way of appointing directors. You are fully aware, we presume, that all funds Government disburses are public funds, regardless of their origin.

6 With this in mind, the ANC Conference accordingly declared:

“The ANC commits to the People of South Africa that we shall isolate and root out corrupt tendencies in the public and private sectors.”

This quote was also taken directly from your very letter referred to above.

Liberty Fighters' Network Concern

7 However, the time has come to address the “Elephant in the Room.” We refer to the involvement of what has come to be nicknamed “Stellenbosch Mafia” in public and, in this

very instance, the Rupert and Oppenheimer families specifically, in the affairs of our Government.

8 By mentioning these two familial structures by name, LFN does not accuse them, nor anyone else, at this stage of committing any form of crime or illegality. As we will highlight hereunder, they – and others – have allowed themselves and / or have been allowed to be involved in activities solely reserved to be executed by structures and persons duly elected to do so. On confirmation, same will require further explanation, clarity and proper investigation.

9 On 23 March 2020, in your announcement of the imminent decisions to be enforced; allegedly designed to save the lives of a large number of South Africans from the dangers posed by a virus, which measures you claimed to have arrived at by your own executive decision, albeit in consultation with experienced and independent medical experts, you made the following remark. We quote:

“We will be spending money to save lives and to support the economy. In this regard, we must applaud the commitment made in this time of crisis by the Rupert and Oppenheimer families of R1 billion each to assist small businesses and their employees affected by the coronavirus pandemic.”

10 The establishment of the Solidarity Fund was also announced during that speech. You have stated in this respect that: -

“Following consultation with social partners, we have set up a Solidarity Fund, which South African businesses, organisations and individuals, and members of the international community, can contribute to.”

- 11 Although you did not define the term “*social partners*” and who you may regard as such, we presume that both the Rupert and Oppenheimer families are falling under this definition: both are, in general terms, groupings that cooperate in working relationships to achieve a mutually agreed upon goal between themselves and, in this case, the Government.
- 12 On behalf of its supporters and the South African populace in general, LFN requests full disclosure about such “mutually agreed upon goals” and further, full disclosure on what basis Cabinet and / or yourself felt empowered to enter into such agreements with, for instance, the Rupert and Oppenheimer structures, in relation to the NSD and the subsequent anti-virus measures to be imposed.
- 13 From your above statement it appears further evident that, particularly in the absence of general public requests to that effect, for instance in the Government Gazette or print media, that only certain entities had been invited, in relative or absolute secrecy, to structure such fund or funds, thereby excluding from such important decisions the general citizenry and other entities who might have been able to contribute in a meaningful way as well. We believe that full disclosure to the South African public – without who's commitment to share their powers your position, we remind you, would not amount to much more than a political nullity – was not an option open to you, Mr President. In particular, if you believed then that the People of this country, rich or poor, civilians as well as military and police, men and women, young and old were indeed in the extreme danger posed by the Sars-Cov2 virus, you had the absolute duty to fully disclose such dangers to everyone, right there and then. We pause to remind you of the Presidential Oath you took on May 25, 2019. You swore:

[...] I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa, and will obey, observe, uphold and maintain the Constitution and all other law of the Republic; and I solemnly and sincerely promise that I will always —

- promote all that will advance the Republic, and oppose all that may harm it;*
- protect and promote the rights of all South Africans;*
- discharge my duties with all my strength and talents to the best of my knowledge and ability and true to the dictates of my conscience;*
- do justice to all; and*
- devote myself to the well-being of the Republic and all of its People.*

14 Instead, and by your own admission, you disclosed your thoughts to few selected entities and individuals only. You did this, well in advance, and then you simply informed the People of the Country in your speech that this new fund would now be chaired by two individuals, a certain Mrs Serobe and a Mr. Enthoven. How this can possibly congruent with your upholding of our *Constitution*, you must explain.

15 As you are surely aware, the initial reason LFN and the writer hereof lodging their Court applications was triggered by the overwhelming increase in complaints by tenants (mostly families falling under the HSDA classification); now even more unable to pay their rental fees under the measures imposed following your decision, and suddenly being forced to helplessly observe landlords and their agents taking illegal measures against them.

16 At the time of writing LFN are handling several dozen applications, necessitated by unlawful actions of landlords and banks; for instance eviction and foreclosure proceedings. In this context, it might be prudent to mention that we, from our own experiences, are aware

that repossession attempts of residential homes, by ABSA Bank in particular, heavy increased during the last two weeks to levels previously unexperienced by us. Clearly, this new form of victimisation of primarily innocent and mostly poor People was brought about by your executive decisions.

17 Respectfully, your lack of meaningful action as President in resolving such unlawful uprooting of the most vulnerable of our People – more often than not resulting in the loss of the little hard-earned property they may have called their own – not only displays your complete ignorance in that respect; it also shows your sympathy towards the rich; lessors and land owners in particular; at the expense of the poor. At the very time, those you ignore are losing most, sometimes all, of their income due to your Cabinet's and your own irrational behaviour. Mr. President, we note that our observations, as well as your actions, tie in with your and your families' own commercial ambitions, current and past; ranging from mining interests to banking to telecommunication and, of course, to the property industry. It does not tie in, however, with the Presidential oath you took just 481 days ago.

18 Any reasonable person can easily conclude that the establishment of the Solidarity Fund and the pledges made by these families (and perhaps others) may well have put the Cabinet at ease with the executive decision to "lockdown" the country; in that safeguard measures had been put into effect and, thereby, possibly and unduly influenced their decision as none of those 3rd party entities was elected to do so. This must be questioned in a meaningful way. In this context, we would like to draw your attention to the clear distinction between a public-private partnership and what we have come to know as "State Capture". We are surely not the first one's to mention this to you.

19 After now almost six months of extreme COVID-19 measures, the devastation to our economy and our People are immense and in absence of sufficient studies, actual damages have yet to be established in detail. Everyone on grassroots level, however, can clearly feel and experience what these measures did to him, to her and to their children.

20 From ongoing and concluded legal matters in a multitude of High Courts throughout the country it becomes apparent that none of the political parties represented in Parliament had sufficient evidence before them when supporting the declaration of the NSD. Hence, the question arises on what basis such decisions were made. We obviously presume that you, Mr President, informed all of them to the largest extent possible about what you had learned in relation to the upcoming, threatening pandemic. LFN's question though is: was this before or after you consulted with the "Stellenbosch Mafia" and the international entities how wished to contribute?

21 We quote again from your letter dated 23 August 2020:-

“Apartheid was both morally and materially corrupt. Even as its laws enabled the theft of resources that rightly belonged to the People of South Africa, there were many in the administration, in state companies, in bantustans and in business who flouted even those corrupt laws to enrich themselves.”

22 By having mentioned these two billionaire families in your speech, you Mr. President have opened the well-matured can of worms and we, in the interest of the People of South Africa, request that provide us with proper answers, through a well-founded Judicial Commission of Inquiry, what political and economic roles, *inter alia*, these families fulfilled in the events leading up to the NSD.

23 Further: if the Board of Directors of Richemont includes or included representatives of the Queen Elizabeth II in the form of Lord Robin Renwick of Clifton and the Duke of Wellington, concerns must be raised in the possibility of direct involvement of the Royal Family in our country's affairs, be that *via* the Rupert family or otherwise: In fact, you yourself bemoaned

in 2019 that the EFF (Economic Freedom Fighters) would have been a creation by MI6, the British Foreign Intelligence. Factually right or wrong, the concern is there and, in our view, needs to be addressed, once and for all.

24 As the current National Chairperson (then still the Secretary General), Mr. Gwede Mantashe, said on the Movement's 54th National Conference: *"When our People protest against the unethical behaviour of our leadership, they do so not out of hatred but from feeling betrayed as they expect better and higher standards from revolutionaries."*

25 It is precisely this standard which LFN find sorely lacking in the way you, Mr President, made executive decisions on behalf of all of us. Taking into consideration that the People of South Africa only became aware that our country would be going into what you termed "lockdown" at the time you made that speech, the obvious questions that arise from your very speech and other related issues we have touched on above are these:

25.1) What was the actual reason for these two named families (and possibly others unnamed) to have been consulted by Government in private before the People of South Africa even got to know about your decision to implement certain measures in response to the alleged occurrence of a novel virus?

25.2) What was the reason to select those entities – as opposed to others – and on what basis were the selections effected?

25.3) When and how and under who's instructions and authority, did these consultations, as well as other consultations with other entities on the very subject matter, happen?

25.4) At which point in time exactly did you invent the term "lockdown" and if you did not, who did this for you, and when and on what basis did you decide to accede to this terminology?

25.5) Which "members of the international community" did you have in mind when announcing that same could contribute to the Solidarity Fund and what was promised to them in return, be that directly or indirectly?

25.6) On which day precisely did the Government start working on what you would later term lockdown and which Department implemented who's instructions first?

25.7) Which benefit or economical advantage, if any, did the following individuals and entities derive from the NSD and in which way, if any, did any of the following individuals unduly influence our South African Government:

Adrian Enthoven, ABSA Bank, Angela Merkel, Astra Zeneca, Bill Gates, BMGF, Fahrie Hassan, GAVI, Gloria Serobe, Lord Renwick, Jacob Zuma, Junior Mhlongo, Julius Malema, Kerrigan McCarthy, Martin Kingston, Oppenheimer Family, Patrice Motsepe, Poonawalla Family, Rainprop, Rupert Family, SAA, SARB, Salim Abdul Karrim, Shabir Madhi, Ursula vd Leyen, Wits University

26 It is common knowledge that our erstwhile President, Mr. J Zuma, was suspected of State Capture dealings with the Gupta family. In the interest of our democracy and, most

importantly, in the interest of all the values you promised to uphold as the President of South Africa, we believe that you must do the honourable thing and subject yourself to the very procedure.

27 Therefore, we are humbly requesting you to consider using your powers to establish a Judicial Commission of Inquiry, to essentially investigate the dealings with Government of these two families, and effectively, yourself. The above questions and entities can, at this point, only serve as a general and initial guideline and we expect to be requested to lend substantial support to this Inquiry in order to establish what may have been done right, what was perhaps suboptimal and who may deserve to get fired, so to speak.

28 In the result, all South Africans will, following the proposed Commission concluding its work, possess the same and full knowledge as to how the "lockdown" came about and what to expect from the country's current political leadership in future in this context.

29 Mr President, we again appeal to you to not only establish the Commission we propose but also to lend your fullest support to same in order to fully unravel the goings-on in the Governmental decision making processes from 8 February 2020 on. We are more than ready to follow in your footsteps.

30 Therefore, we would like you to, within 10 (ten) business days, consider our request and to provide us with your answer thereto. Should you choose not to respond, we shall legally accept that you have made an Executive Decision not to do so or, alternatively, that you will not accede to this, our request. In such event we shall reserve our right to proceed with this matter in the appropriate forum.

31 The rights of LFN and the People are strictly reserved.

Yours Faithfully,

Reyno De Beer

LFN President