

**IN THE ELECTORAL COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Case No.:

In the matter between:

**DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE**

Applicant

and

**CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

First Respondent

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Second Respondent

**AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS**

Third Respondent

**ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

Fourth Respondent

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**FOUNDING AFFIDAVIT**

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I, the undersigned

**HELEN ZILLE**

Do hereby state under oath:

**I INTRODUCTION**

1. I am the Chairperson of the Applicant's (**the DA**) Federal Council.



2. The contents of this affidavit are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct. Where I make legal submissions, I do so on the basis of advice from the DA's legal representatives.
3. This is an application to hold a candidate and a party competing in the upcoming election accountable for flagrant and severe breaches of the Electoral Act 73 of 1998 and the Electoral Code of Conduct.
4. On 26 May 2024, the First Respondent (**Mr Ramaphosa**), purporting to act in his capacity as President of the Republic of South Africa, abused his position and used public funds, to campaign for his party, the African National Congress.
5. At 18:00, Mr Ramaphosa gave a nationally televised broadcast as President. The address was nothing more than a thinly veiled stump speech. He sought to use his public position as head of state and head of government to encourage the public to vote for the ANC. The speech mirrored in several respects the speech he delivered at an ANC rally just the previous day.
6. The speech is reproduced on the Presidency's website at <https://www.thepresidency.gov.za/address-president-cyril-ramaphosa-ahead-2024-elections>. I attach a copy of the speech marked **HZ1**.
7. The speech was broadcast live on a government-owned Youtube channel. It was promoted on a government-owned X account for the Presidency. It was broadcast live on the public broadcaster, and multiple other broadcasters holding broadcast licences.



8. This conduct of Mr Ramaphosa, who is the ANC's number candidate for President in the upcoming election, violated multiple provisions of the Electoral Act, in particular:

8.1. Section 94, read with item 9(2)(e) of the Electoral Code of Conduct, which prohibits the abuse of positions of power to influence the outcome of an election; and

8.2. Section 87(1)(g) which prohibits the use of public funds for the purposes of a political campaign.

9. This Court has jurisdiction over this application by virtue of s 96(1) of the Electoral Act, which reads: "*The Electoral Court has final jurisdiction in respect of all electoral disputes and complaints about infringements of the Code, and no decision or order of the Electoral Court is subject to appeal or review.*"

10. This affidavit is structured as follows:

10.1. **Part II** describes the parties;

10.2. **Part III** outlines Mr Ramaphosa's unlawful address;

10.3. **Part IV** explains why the address breached the Code and s 87(1)(g); and

10.4. **Part V** justifies the relief sought.

## **II THE PARTIES**

11. The Applicant is the Democratic Alliance, a registered political party competing in the upcoming national and provincial elections. The DA is currently the official



opposition, and is predicted by the most recent polling to obtain the second most votes in the upcoming election.

12. The DA brings this application in its own interest, as a party competing in the election, and in the interest of its members who are candidates in the election. It also brings the application in the public interest.
13. The First Respondent is **CYRIL MATAMELA RAMAPHOSA**, currently the President of the Republic of South Africa. He is cited in his personal capacity, his capacity as President of the ANC, and his capacity as a candidate for election in the upcoming national and provincial elections. He is served electronically at [robert@presidency.gov.za](mailto:robert@presidency.gov.za); [mike@presidency.gov.za](mailto:mike@presidency.gov.za) and [PresidentRSA@presidency.gov.za](mailto:PresidentRSA@presidency.gov.za) and at his place of employment, at the Union Buildings, Pretoria.
14. The Second Respondent is the **PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**. The President is cited separately in his official capacity because that is the office that Mr Ramaphosa abused. The President is served electronically at [robert@presidency.gov.za](mailto:robert@presidency.gov.za); [mike@presidency.gov.za](mailto:mike@presidency.gov.za) and [PresidentRSA@presidency.gov.za](mailto:PresidentRSA@presidency.gov.za) at the Union Buildings, Pretoria and a courtesy copy will be served electronically at [ichowe@justice.gov.za](mailto:ichowe@justice.gov.za) and on the office of the State Attorney, Pretoria
15. The Third Respondent is the **AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS**, a registered political party. The ANC is cited because Mr Ramaphosa acted as its mouthpiece when abusing his position of power, privilege and influence, and using public funds. It is served electronically at [info@anc1912.org.za](mailto:info@anc1912.org.za) and at Luthuli House, Johannesburg.



16. The Fourth Respondent is the **ELECTORAL COMMISSION**. No relief is sought against the Commission. It is cited because it is the Commission's task to ensure a free and fair election, and to enforce compliance with the Electoral Act and the Code. It is served electronically at [mamabolos@elections.org.za](mailto:mamabolos@elections.org.za); [raathr@elections.org.za](mailto:raathr@elections.org.za) and at its head office in Centurion.

### III THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

17. The address is carefully crafted to never mention the ANC by name, nor to ever directly call on any person to vote for the ANC. But despite its superficial neutrality, it is a transparent attempt to trumpet the supposed "achievements" of the ANC's last five years in power, and a call to vote the ANC into power again.
18. The address begins with thanks to the Commission and calls for a peaceful election. The DA has no problem with that portion of the speech. It is entirely appropriate for the President to defend the independence and integrity of the Commission, and to call for a free and fair election.
19. But the address quickly veers off presidential terrain to naked campaigning. Mr Ramaphosa spends most of the speech extolling the supposed achievements of his administration. His claimed credit for his administration on the following issues:
20. "[T]ackling crime and corruption".

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- 20.1. He claimed his administration "brought state capture to an end" and "dislodged the criminal networks that had stolen billions from our people".
- 20.2. Mr Ramaphosa stated that *"[t]hrough the work of institutions like the NPA's Investigating Directorate, the Hawks and the SIU, several state capture and corruption cases have been brought to court and billions of rands in stolen funds have been recovered."*
- 20.3. And finally: *"On Friday, I signed into law legislation that will establish the NPA's Investigating Directorate against Corruption as a permanent entity."*
21. Addressing *"the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide"*. In particular, he made the following claims:
- 21.1. *"A National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence was developed, together with civil society, as a whole-of-society response to this national emergency";* and
- 21.2. *"On Friday, I signed into law the establishment of a National Council on GBV and Femicide, which will lead and coordinate our national response."*
22. Reducing load-shedding. This includes the following claims:
- 22.1. *"we supported Eskom's efforts to improve the performance of its power stations";*



22.2. We enabled investment in new electricity generation capacity on a scale that is unprecedented in our history.”

23. To be clear, the DA disputes the validity of these claims. But that is not the point. The point is that they are claims designed to garner votes for the ANC.

24. We know that because Mr Ramaphosa made many of the same claims in an address he gave at the ANC’s final election rally the previous day. A copy of that address is available on the ANC’s website at <https://www.anc1912.org.za/address-by-president-cyril-ramaphosa-at-the-anc-siyangoba-rally-2024/>. I attach a copy marked HZ2. The table below reflects the claims made in both speeches:

TOPICS RASIED	ANC Siyangoba Address 25 May 2024	“Presidential” Address 26 May 2024
Employment	<p>We have a plan to get more South Africans working.</p> <p>It was particularly painful to meet young people who are struggling to find employment. I was extremely touched by their determination to carry on even after being disappointed time and again.</p> <p>Our jobs plan aims to address their needs.</p>	<p>We came together to tackle the challenge of youth unemployment.</p>
	<p>For these young people, and for the many unemployed</p>	<p>Working with private sector partners, we established the</p>



	<p>people in the country, we will create and sustain work opportunities delivering public goods and services in communities.</p>	<p>Youth Employment Service, which has created over 144,000 work experiences for young people.</p> <p>We have worked across government and with NGOs to implement the Presidential Employment Stimulus, which has created more than 1.9 million work and livelihood opportunities for unemployed South Africans.</p>
	<p>To create quality jobs, we will build local industry.</p> <p>We will support and protect those industries that employ many people by creating a conducive environment for businesses to invest. These include industries like mining, agriculture, tourism, clothing, food and beverages, and steel. We will also support new industries like new energy vehicles, renewable energy and information and technology.</p>	<p>Together, we mobilised more than R1.5 trillion in new investment commitments. This has led to the opening of new factories, mines, data centres and production lines.</p> <p>Master plans have been finalised in eight industries, including clothing, poultry, sugar, automotive, furniture, steel, tourism and forestry.</p>
	<p>As part of the work we must do to make our economy more inclusive and more dynamic, we will expand our black industrialist programme.</p>	<p>We have provided support to more than 1,000 black industrialists over the last five years. And today, more than half a million workers own shares in the companies they work for.</p>



Infrastructure	Throughout the country we met community members, business people and industrialists who stressed how important it is for economic recovery that we repair our railways and end load shedding.	The value of projects currently in construction is over R230 billion, including energy, water infrastructure and rural roads projects
Electricity	We have seen how Eskom's power stations are being better maintained and breaking down less often.	Together, we supported Eskom's efforts to improve the performance of its power stations.
	We have opened the doors to much more investment in electricity generation, especially in solar and wind power.	<p>We enabled investment in new electricity generation capacity on a scale that is unprecedented in our history.</p> <p>Together, we supported Eskom's efforts to improve the performance of its power stations. We enabled investment in new electricity generation capacity on a scale that is unprecedented in our history.</p> <p>Working with financial institutions, development agencies, business and professional associations, we revitalised investment in infrastructure.</p>
Minimum Wage	The ANC will staunchly defend the National Minimum Wage, ensure that it continues to	We worked together to implement the National Minimum Wage, which has increased the



	increase in line with inflation, and work to ensure that all employers comply with it.	wages of more than 6 million workers, including farm workers and domestic workers.
SRD Grant	At the same time, we will progressively implement a basic income support grant for unemployed people based on the SRD grant.	Through the introduction of the special SRD grant, we provided relief to more than 11 million unemployed people at the height of the pandemic.
NHI	We will implement the National Health Insurance, which will provide health care in both the public and private sectors that is free for all at the point of care.	[By] introducing the National Health Insurance, this Parliament has drawn on the views and the wishes of the people of South Africa.
Gender Based Violence	<p>Yesterday, I signed into law an Act that facilitates the establishment of a National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. This statutory body will coordinate and provide strategic leadership to the fight against GBV and femicide.</p> <p>The National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence was developed, together with civil society, as a society-wide response to this national emergency.</p>	<p>On Friday, I signed into law the establishment of a National Council on GBV and Femicide, which will lead and coordinate our national response.</p> <p>A National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence was developed, together with civil society, as a whole-of-society response to this national emergency.</p>
	We will use the new laws that we have introduced to better protect women at risk of domestic abuse, impose	New laws were introduced to strengthen the response of the criminal justice system and centres established to provide

	<p>harsher sentences on perpetrators and make it harder for people arrested for violence against women to get bail.</p> <p>As a society, we must continue to work together to end violence against women.</p> <p>Together, we will take the necessary steps to ramp up the war on gender-based violence and crime and make our communities safe.</p>	support to survivors of gender-based violence
Crime	<p>We will strengthen the police, the courts, the NPA and other bodies that fight crime.</p> <p>As part of this, we have set up specialised teams to tackle infrastructure theft, illegal mining and the construction mafia.</p> <p>We will continue our drive to recruit and train more police personnel.</p>	<p>We have worked together to rebuild community policing forums and to provide them with the resources they need to be more effective in the fight against crime.</p> <p>We have increased the number of police on the street by 20,000 over the last two years and established specialised task teams in the police to tackle illegal mining, cable theft, cash-in-transit heists, gangsterism and other economic crimes.</p>
Corruption	<p>Just as we stood together to end state capture, we must now work together to end all forms of corruption.</p>	<p>We had endured a decade of corruption and state capture, of weak economic growth and the erosion of our public institutions</p>



	<p>Corruption is a crime against the people. As a people's movement we will continue to fight corruption. We will ensure there is accountability and consequences.</p>	<p>Together, as a nation, we brought state capture to an end.</p>
	<p>The money stolen through state capture is being recovered and used for the benefit of its legitimate owners, the people of South Africa, while those who stole the money are being prosecuted and sent to jail.</p> <p>Yesterday, I signed into law of the National Prosecuting Authority Amendment Bill, which will establish an Investigating Directorate against Corruption as a permanent entity within the NPA.</p>	<p>We have placed South Africa on a new trajectory of recovery and laid a strong foundation for future growth.</p> <p>We have taken significant steps to reform our economy by implementing a number of reforms that affect various sectors of the economy.</p> <p>In tackling crime and corruption we have introduced a number of initiatives and measures to reposition our criminal justice system.</p> <p>On Friday, I signed into law legislation that will establish the NPA's Investigating Directorate against Corruption as a permanent entity.</p>
	<p>The NPA's Investigating Directorate has already charged over 200 persons accused of state capture. The SIU Special Tribunal has</p>	<p>Through the work of institutions like the NPA's Investigating Directorate, the Hawks and the SIU, several state capture and corruption cases have been</p>



	<p>issued orders freezing R14 billion of assets suspected to come from state capture. Almost R9 billion in proceeds of corruption have been returned to the state.</p>	<p>brought to court and billions of rands in stolen funds have been recovered.</p>
	<p>The ANC will continue to root out corruption through a social compact between government, labour, business and communities to encourage public awareness, reporting and protection of whistle blowers.</p> <p>The people have told us that the ANC is their organisation. They have told us that they love the ANC. They have told us that they will not allow their organisation to be stolen by criminals and counter-revolutionaries.</p>	<p>We dislodged the criminal networks that had stolen billions from our people, that had eroded our public institutions and that had undermined the rule of law. Together, we worked to rebuild our law enforcement agencies, our security services, our state-owned companies and a number of other public bodies.</p>

25. The speeches are not identical. Much of the ANC speech is aspirational, not based on lauding the government's supposed achievements. But when it comes to what the government *has done*, there is a substantial overlap. Many of the same exact claims appear in both speeches. One is a transparent (and legitimate) attempt by a political party leader to rally support and persuade



voters. The other – making the same claims – is an unlawful abuse of power and public money by a President to shore up support for his party.

26. The conclusion of the speech reveals its purpose. It is appropriate to quote it in full:

*Fellow South Africans,*

*The last five years have been a time of rebuilding and recovery.*

*It has been about working together not only to meet the challenges of the moment, but to put in place firm foundations for a better future.*

*As this sixth administration draws to a close, and as we prepare for the seventh administration, let us build on the progress that we have made.*

*At this moment in our path to renewal, we cannot afford to turn back.*

*There is more work to be done.*

*Let us draw strength and encouragement from the difficulties we have overcome together.*

27. These statements reveal that the purpose of the address was solely to solicit votes for the ANC. Mr Ramaphosa is saying that voting for a different party – and therefore a different administration – will undermine the supposed “progress” his administration has made. The language of “renewal” is exactly the same language the ANC has repeatedly used in its electioneering. In his ANC speech, Mr Ramaphosa said: “we are asking that on the 29th of May, you vote for the democratic renewal”.

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28. It is unclear why the President would feel the need to talk about the work of his government four days before an election other than to seek to persuade voters. That is the only plausible explanation for the address.

#### IV THE ADDRESS WAS UNLAWFUL

29. Mr Ramaphosa's address violated two cardinal prohibitions in the Electoral Act. It was an abuse of a position of power to influence the outcome of an election. And it was an abuse of public funds for the purpose of a political campaign.
30. To understand the insidious nature of Mr Ramaphosa's conduct, it is important to understand how election broadcasts are regulated. The issue is regulated by the Independent Communication Authority of South Africa's National and Provincial Party Elections Broadcasts and Political Advertisements Regulations (as amended) published in GenN 101 in GG 37350 of 17 February 2014 (**the Broadcast Regulations**).
31. It regulates how licensed broadcasters – including all of those that broadcast the President's address – are required to treat political parties' speech during elections. It defines a "*political election broadcast*" (**PEBs**) as "*a direct address or message broadcast free of charge on a broadcasting service during an election period and which is intended or calculated to advance the interests of any particular political party or an independent candidate*". Regulation 5 regulates how air-time for PEBs is allocated. It reads: "*Air-time in respect of PEB(s) shall be allocated by the Authority to the registered political parties or independent candidates contesting the national and provincial elections on the basis of the respective principles set out in Annexure A of these Regulations.*"

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Annexure A regulates according to existing representation and candidates fielded in the election.

32. All other parties therefore have limited access to broadcast their political message. Mr Ramaphosa sought to circumvent that limitation by dressing up a political election broadcast as a presidential address. That is why – as I explain in more detail below – his address was abusive and unlawful.

33. Importantly, the prohibitions on abusing public power and public funds exist to protect the rights to vote, to stand for public office, and to a free and fair election.

33.1. Elections cannot be free and fair if a party that holds public power can use those positions, and the funds that come with it, to compete in an election. Other parties who are not in government cannot use those same resources. And public positions and public funds should never be used to promote a political party – especially just days before an election. Doing so limits the right to a free and fair election. That is why the Electoral Act prohibits both forms of abuse.

33.2. The right to stand for public office is also limited if an incumbent can use taxpayers' money to compete. Other candidates for President cannot use Presidential resources to write political speeches, and will not be given access to the public broadcaster or other broadcasters for election speech beyond what their party is entitled to.

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**ITEM 9(2)(E) – ABUSING A POSITION OF POWER**

34. Section 94 of the Electoral Act provides: *"No person, registered party, or independent candidate bound by the Code may contravene or fail to comply with a provision of that Code."* Item 9(2)(e) of the Code reads: *"No person may ... abuse a position of power, privilege or influence, including parental, patriarchal, traditional or employment authority to influence the conduct or outcome of an election."*
35. Item 9(2)(e) is violated if three requirements are met:
- 35.1. The person holds *"a position of power, privilege or influence"*;
- 35.2. They abused that position *"to influence the conduct or outcome of an election."*
36. Both requirements are met.
37. First, the position of President is *"a position of power, privilege or influence"*. Mr Ramaphosa did not give his address in his personal capacity, or as President of the ANC. He was, supposedly, acting as the President. The address was made by "the Presidency". The text is available on the Presidency's website. It was broadcast on national television, including the public broadcaster, as a Presidential address, not a political party address.
38. Second, Mr Ramaphosa, in truth acting as a candidate of the ANC, abused the position of President to attempt to convince people watching his address to vote for his political party. As I have set out above, the majority of the address was designed to convince voters to vote the ANC into power for another term by extolling his administrations supposed achievements.



39. There can be no difficulty in a person holding public office campaigning for his political party. But then he must do so clearly. Mr Ramaphosa appeared the previous day as the president of the ANC at the ANC's rally. He campaigned vigorously for his party. He was fully entitled to do so.
40. What he is not entitled to do is to use the Presidential soapbox, and Presidential resources to campaign for his political party. But that is exactly what he did. He used Presidential staff, the Presidential website, the Presidential logo, and the President's ability to command live airtime on television, to campaign for his political party.
41. Mr Ramaphosa abused his position to obtain for his party an advantage that no other party had. No other party is given free airtime for its leader to seek to convince voters to support them. Mr Ramaphosa would not have been entitled to the time he was given if he was wearing his hat as president of the ANC. He was given broadcast time just four days before an election only because he was supposed to be speaking as the President, on behalf of all South Africans. Instead, he abused his position and that opportunity to shill for votes for his party.

#### **SECTION 87(1)(G) – USING PUBLIC FUNDS TO CAMPAIGN**

42. Mr Ramaphosa's conduct also violated s 87(1)(g) of the Electoral Act. The provision reads: *"No person may ... use public funds, except for the funds allocated to a party in terms of section 5 of the Public Funding of Represented Political Parties Act, 1997 (Act 103 of 1997), for the purpose of a political campaign."* Yet that is precisely what Mr Ramaphosa did:
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43. The section has two requirements:

43.1. The use of public funds (other than funds allocated to a political party);  
and

43.2. For the purposes of a political campaign.

44. First, Mr Ramaphosa used public funds for his address. It was funded by public funds. The Presidency's staff wrote the speech. The Presidency placed it on its website and social media accounts. Mr Ramaphosa was purporting to act as President, for which he is paid a handsome salary and receives extensive benefits. Unlike his address at the ANC rally the previous day, this address was not funded by his party, but by the taxpayers.

45. Second, as I have already explained, the address was a thinly-veiled political campaign. It sought to use the conduct of government to convince voters to vote for the ANC. The ANC is entitled to do that when it uses its funds, and speaks as the ANC. The DA does the same; it relies on its record in the Western Cape and municipalities it governs to convince voters to give it their support.

46. The speech also used another public resource – airtime during an election. That airtime is limited, and tightly regulated. Mr Ramaphosa unlawfully sought to circumvent those regulations by masquerading his political election broadcast as a Presidential address to the nation. The DA is considering whether to also lodge a complaint with ICASA about the President's and the broadcasters' conduct. That will turn on whether the broadcast licensees knew that Mr Ramaphosa did not intend to give a Presidential address. That issue need not concern this Court.

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47. In short, Mr Ramaphosa did not use his party's resources to spread the word of his government's achievements; he used public resources to seek to gain votes for his party. That was unlawful.

## VI RELIEF

48. Section 96(2) of the Electoral Act affords this Court a range of powers if it concludes that Mr Ramaphosa and the ANC have breached the Code or s 87(1)(g).
49. By the time this Court is able to adjudicate the dispute, the election will already have occurred. The relief – which must be effective relief – must take that into account. It must punish the wrongdoing, seek to undo as much as possible the impact of the abuse of public power and public funds, and deter future wrongdoing.
50. In that light, the DA seeks three forms of relief.
51. First, a declaration that the conduct breached item 9(2)(e) and s 87(1)(g). The declaration is necessary to vindicate the rule of law, and the violation of the DA's, all other parties and independent candidates, and all voters' right to a free and fair election. The power to grant a declaration is not expressly mentioned in s 96(2), but it flows from this Court's powers under s 38 and 172(1)(b) of the Constitution.
52. Second, a fine of R200 000 in terms of s 96(2)(a). That is the maximum fine that can be imposed. The DA submits that the seriousness of the offence, and

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the fact that it was committed by the President, justifies the fine. It should be paid by Mr Ramaphosa personally.

53. Third, in terms of s 96(2)(g), an order reducing the number of votes cast in favour of the ANC. The purpose of the unlawful conduct was to increase the number of votes the ANC received. Given how close it occurred prior to the election, it is impossible to unscramble the egg and remedy the unlawfulness by, for example, affording all other parties a similar opportunity. The proper remedy to redress the wrong is to reduce the number of votes.
54. It is of course impossible to determine with any degree of certainty how many votes the ANC may have gained as a result of Mr Ramaphosa's abuse of power. The DA submits that a reduction of 1% of the total votes the ANC received would be a fair reduction. If the ANC receives 10 000 000 votes, it will lose 100 000 votes. Once the reduction is made, the Commission will have to recalculate the number of seats awarded in the National Assembly.
55. Finally, I note that Mr Ramaphosa's conduct also constituted a criminal offence in terms of s 98(a), rendering him liable to a fine or imprisonment of up to 10 years. The DA intends to lay a criminal complaint against Mr Ramaphosa.

## **VII CONCLUSION AND COSTS**

56. Mr Ramaphosa breached the Code and the Electoral Act. In doing so, he also violated the rights in s 19 of the Constitution. That conduct cannot go unpunished. It must be declared invalid, and Mr Ramaphosa and his party must pay the price for their abuse. If incumbents are allowed to abuse their office and



public money with impunity, South Africa cannot have free and fair elections. It is vital that this Court stamp out this abuse, and send a clear message that similar abuse will not be tolerated in the future.

57. The DA therefore seeks the relief in its notice of motion, as well as a punitive costs order against Mr Ramaphosa, and any other respondent that opposes this application.



**HELEN ZILLE**

I certify that-

- (a) the deponent-
- (i) acknowledged that she knows and understands the contents of this declaration;
  - (ii) informed me that she does not have any objection to taking the prescribed oath;
  - (iii) informed me that she considers the prescribed oath to be binding on his conscience;
- (b) the deponent then uttered the words, 'I swear that the contents of this declaration are true, so help me God'; and

- (c) the deponent signed this declaration in my presence at

Vredhoeck on the 27 day of May 2024.



**COMMISSIONER OF OATHS**

**INGRID BROODRYK**  
COMMISSIONER OF OATHS  
PRACTISING ATTORNEY R.S.A  
35 EXNER AVENUE, VREDEHOEK  
CAPE TOWN 8001



THE PRESIDENCY  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

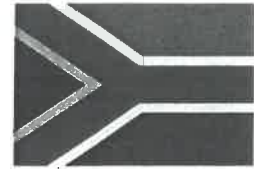
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THE PRESIDENCY

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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HOME (/) - ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA AHEAD OF THE 2024 ELECTIONS

# ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA AHEAD OF THE 2024 ELECTIONS



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Sunday, 26 May 2024

Fellow South Africans,

I wish to address you on two matters this evening.

Firstly, I wish to speak to you about the country's readiness for the forthcoming elections.

Secondly, as this sixth democratic administration draws to a close, I wish to speak to you about the path we have travelled together over the last 5 years.

Tomorrow morning at 9am, in voting stations and homes across the country, South Africans who have registered for special votes will begin to cast their ballots.

Thousands of South Africans living abroad have already voted.

And this Wednesday, the 29th of May, millions more South Africans will exercise this most important of democratic rights.



This will be the seventh time that South Africans of all races, from all walks of life, from all corners of our country, will go to vote for national and provincial government.

We will once again assert the fundamental principle, articulated in the Freedom Charter, that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people.

In the days to come, we will be doing much more than exercising our Constitutional right to vote.

We will be determining the direction that our country takes. We will be taking responsibility for our future, the future of our families, our communities, and our nation.



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As we cast our votes, we will be vindicating the struggles and sacrifices of the generations before us who fought for this democracy.



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As in every election that we have held since 1994, we expect this election to be held in conditions of peace and stability, to be free and to be fair.



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We commend the Independent Electoral Commission for the impressive work they have undertaken in preparation for these elections.



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As a country, we have once again witnessed the capabilities of the IEC – in the successful voter registration weekends, in the registration of parties and candidates, in the preparation of ballot papers, in the organisation of overseas voting, and in the diligent application of our electoral laws.



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We convey our thanks and best wishes to the IEC commissioners, to the IEC staff and to the thousands of election workers as they deliver on this most important responsibility in the coming days.

One of the defining features of all our elections since 1994 has been their integrity.

This has been made possible not only by the work and conduct of the IEC, but also by the presence of party agents and independent observers.

The involvement of party agents gives people confidence that there is effective oversight of all aspects of the electoral process.

Through the presence of local and international observers we are able to satisfy ourselves that our elections conform not only to our own laws, but also to internationally-accepted standards of freeness and fairness.

We thank all the party agents and the election observers for the work they are doing, and reiterate that they must be allowed to do their work without any hindrance.

As in previous elections, our law enforcement agencies and security services have made extensive preparations to ensure that these elections are peaceful and that all South Africans can freely exercise their right to vote.

They have been deployed throughout the country to ensure that there are no disturbances or disruptions to the election process.

We thank them for their professionalism, their dedication and their vigilance.

Over the course of the last few months, many different parties and candidates have vigorously and enthusiastically campaigned for votes.

While the contestation has been robust and has, at times, become heated, campaigning has been peaceful and free of intimidation.

We commend all parties that have upheld the Electoral Code of Conduct and that have ensured that their supporters adhere to the democratic principles that have long characterised our elections.

We should all be concerned at reports that came out today about the obstruction of election activities, including unlawful entry at IEC storage sites in KwaZulu-Natal.

We once again call upon all parties, candidates, supporters and every South African to refrain from any action that could interfere with the due electoral process.

Regardless of the outcome, let this election further entrench our democracy and strengthen our commitment to uphold it.

My Fellow South Africans,

This election brings to a close the sixth administration of our democracy.

When this administration took office in 2019, our country stood at a turning point.

We had endured a decade of corruption and state capture, of weak economic growth and the erosion of our public institutions.

Today, we have put that era behind us.

We have placed South Africa on a new trajectory of recovery and laid a strong foundation for future growth.



We have taken significant steps to reform our economy by implementing a number of reforms that affect various sectors of the economy.

In tackling crime and corruption we have introduced a number of initiatives and measures to reposition our criminal justice system.

We have faced many challenges along the way, which have tested our resilience and our resolve.

Yet, in each instance, we have confronted these challenges together. We have remained united. We have worked in partnership and in solidarity.

Together, as a nation, we brought state capture to an end.

We dislodged the criminal networks that had stolen billions from our people, that had eroded our public institutions and that had undermined the rule of law.

Together, we worked to rebuild our law enforcement agencies, our security services, our state-owned companies and a number of other public bodies.

Through the work of institutions like the NPA's Investigating Directorate, the Hawks and the SIU, several state capture and corruption cases have been brought to court and billions of rands in stolen funds have been recovered.

On Friday, I signed into law legislation that will establish the NPA's Investigating Directorate against Corruption as a permanent entity.

There is still much that we need to do to end corruption.

However, as a country, we have sent a clear message to the corrupt that they can no longer expect to get away with their crimes with impunity and without consequence.

One of the developments that defined the last five years was the COVID pandemic, which was the worst global health crisis in over a century.

Our country and our people were not spared the devastation of the pandemic.

More than 100,000 South Africans lost their lives to the illness. More than 2 million jobs were lost, and many businesses were forced to close.

And yet, the damage could have been far, far worse.

As a country, we came together when it was most needed.

We took extraordinary measures to keep ourselves and each other safe.



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We lowered the rate of infection, and ensured that every person received the care that they needed.

We introduced a massive package of social and economic support to protect vulnerable businesses, workers and households from the destructive effects of the pandemic.

More than 5.7 million workers received wage support through the special UIF scheme.

Through the introduction of the special SRD grant, we provided relief to more than 11 million unemployed people at the height of the pandemic.

Working together, we succeeded in administering more than 39 million COVID vaccine doses.

Even during the worst moments of the pandemic, we endured and we overcame.

This is how we are as South Africans. We confront even the greatest of challenges with determination and courage.

When, in July 2021, it looked like our country would go up in flames, the people of South Africa stood firm against those who wanted to incite an insurrection.

We proved that our democracy remains strong, and our commitment to the Constitution and the rule of law resolute.

When, in April 2022, catastrophic flooding struck parts of KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and North West, South Africans came together to provide material assistance to those affected and to rebuild what was destroyed.

And as we worked to rebuild our economy, South Africans came together in social partnerships to drive investment, to build infrastructure and to remove the obstacles to inclusive growth.

Our economy has returned to pre-COVID levels and we have recovered the jobs lost to the pandemic.

As we confronted a debilitating electricity crisis, we came together as social partners.

Through a concerted and focused effort, we achieved a sustained reduction in the severity of load shedding.





Together, we supported Eskom's efforts to improve the performance of its power stations. We enabled investment in new electricity generation capacity on a scale that is unprecedented in our history.

Working with financial institutions, development agencies, business and professional associations, we revitalised investment in infrastructure.

The value of projects currently in construction is over R230 billion, including energy, water infrastructure and rural roads projects.

Together, we mobilised more than R1.5 trillion in new investment commitments. This has led to the opening of new factories, mines, data centres and production lines.

Master plans have been finalised in eight industries, including clothing, poultry, (https://  
sugar, automotive, furniture, steel, tourism and forestry. ref=mf)

We have provided support to more than 1,000 black industrialists over the last five years. And today, more than half a million workers own shares in the companies (https://  
they work for.  

We have made this progress by working in partnership and building consensus. (https://  


We came together to tackle the challenge of youth unemployment. (https://  


Working with private sector partners, we established the Youth Employment Service, which has created over 144,000 work experiences for young people. (https://

We have worked across government and with NGOs to implement the Presidential Employment Stimulus, which has created more than 1.9 million work and livelihood opportunities for unemployed South Africans.

And as the country confronted the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide, South Africans rallied together in defence of the lives and the safety of the women of this country.

A National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence was developed, together with civil society, as a whole-of-society response to this national emergency.

New laws were introduced to strengthen the response of the criminal justice system and centres established to provide support to survivors of gender-based violence.



On Friday, I signed into law the establishment of a National Council on GBV and Femicide, which will lead and coordinate our national response.

We have worked together to rebuild community policing forums and to provide them with the resources they need to be more effective in the fight against crime.

We have increased the number of police on the street by 20,000 over the last two years and established specialised task teams in the police to tackle illegal mining, cable theft, cash-in-transit heists, gangsterism and other economic crimes.

This work is producing results. Arrests are being made. Perpetrators are being sent to jail. And in many areas, the incidence of such crimes is being reduced.

Even under difficult conditions, over the last five years we have made progress together in tackling poverty and improving people's lives.

We worked together to implement the National Minimum Wage, which has increased the wages of more than 6 million workers, including farm workers and domestic workers.

Last year, South Africa achieved its highest matric pass rate ever.

Significantly, learners from no-fee paying schools accounted for around two-thirds of the total bachelor passes obtained.

These achievements are the result of a collective effort by the learners, their teachers, education officials, parents and communities.

They are also the result of programmes to support children from poor families, including the child support grant, the school feeding programme and the increase in no-fee schools.

Working together, we have substantially increased financial support for students from poor and working class families.

We have doubled the number of students receiving support from NSFAS over the last five years to well over a million in the last academic year.

And we have reasserted our country's presence on the global stage, providing a strong voice for the developing world and for the oppressed and powerless everywhere.

We have worked towards silencing the guns throughout our continent, including through diplomacy and the deployment of SANDF personnel as peace keepers.

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Just a few days ago, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces concluded the work of the sixth Parliament.

Over the course of five years, Members of Parliament from all parties represented in Parliament have worked diligently to implement a clear electoral mandate to transform our country.

They have worked alongside South Africans to consider and pass several transformative laws. They have convened public hearings in every part of the country, received thousands of submissions on every bill and conducted their proceedings in an open and transparent manner.

From strengthening the laws against gender-based violence to making South African Sign Language our twelfth official language, from ensuring transparency and accountability in political party funding to introducing the National Health Insurance, this Parliament has drawn on the views and the wishes of the people of South Africa.

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As the work of Parliament has come to an end, we thank all the Members of this Sixth Parliament for their hard work and dedication over the last five years.

  
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We thank the Presiding Officers, the leaders of all the political parties, the Committee Chairs, the Whips and all the Parliamentary staff.

  
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Fellow South Africans,

  
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The last five years have been a time of rebuilding and recovery.

It has been about working together not only to meet the challenges of the moment, but to put in place firm foundations for a better future.

As this sixth administration draws to a close, and as we prepare for the seventh administration, let us build on the progress that we have made.

At this moment in our path to renewal, we cannot afford to turn back.

There is more work to be done.

Let us draw strength and encouragement from the difficulties we have overcome together.

I call upon all South Africans to go cast their votes.

We are a diverse people, but a united nation.



Let us be united in our commitment to our democracy.

Let us work together to build a better country.

May God bless South Africa and protect its people.

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.

God seen Suid-Afrika.

God bless South Africa.

Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika.

Hosi katekisa Afrika.

I thank you.



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## Media Statement

### STATE OF READINESS FOR SIYANQOBA RALLY 2024

 23 May 2024

When the African National Congress holds its Siyanqoba Rally on Saturday, 25 May 2024 at FNB Stadium, it will be the culmination of a vibrant election campaign that has reached every corner of the country.

Over the course of the last three months, every ANC leader, veteran, volunteer, and candidate has been on the ground, speaking to ordinary South Africans about their concerns and hopes, about the achievements of democracy, and about the work that we need to do together to continue to improve the lives of all our people.

Our campaign has reached every community, from large cities to small towns, from villages to townships and from farms to suburbs. We have been to churches, mosques, and temples. We have met workers, businesspeople, teachers, young people, traditional leaders, the creative sector, and many, many other organisations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, followed by a blue checkmark or 'X' mark.

At the centre of this campaign are the volunteers of the ANC, who have worked tirelessly and selflessly to achieve an ANC victory. They have done so without any expectation of reward, but because they committed to the transformation of our country.

Over the course of the last three months, we have seen a clear shift in the mood of the country. People are increasingly expressing their confidence in the ANC, under the leadership of President Cyril Ramaphosa, to build the economy and create jobs, to improve service delivery, to crack down on corruption and to unite the people of South Africa.

People have welcomed the progress the ANC has made in renewing itself and are reaffirming their trust in the ANC to continue to lead the transformation of our society.

While the support for the ANC has been steadily increasing, while we are confident of a decisive mandate, we know that this election is not won until the voting stations close on Wednesday 29 May.

That is why we will be intensifying our campaign over the next few days. As we speak, the entire leadership of the ANC, COSATU, the SACP and other formations of the broader democratic movement are out in communities across the country.

We are putting all our energy, resources, and effort into a final push to get out every vote on election day.

The tens of thousands of people who will fill up the FNB Stadium on Saturday for the Siyanqoba rally will be sending a message of confidence and hope.

The symbolic handover of the FNB stadium will be held on Friday, the 24th of May 2024 at 15h00. Media are requested to converge at the media compound parking area.

Media accreditation tags can be collected from Thursday, 23 May 2024 until Friday, 24 May 2024, at Hall 10, Nasrec, between 9am and 6pm.

As part of the build-up to the rally, President Cyril Ramaphosa will be hosting a gathering in Sandton on Friday evening for the ANC Siyanqoba Endorsement Event, where comrades, dignitaries and guests from various sectors will endorse and pledge their vote for the ANC.

Since capacity is limited for the Siyanqoba Endorsement Event, interested media are requested to submit their names by Thursday at 4pm.



As we enter the final days of this election campaign, we wish to express the appreciation of the ANC leadership to the many thousands of volunteers who have walked the streets of this country and visited the homes of our people. We again extend our thanks to the millions of South Africans with whom we have spoken over the last few months, who have shown that they want to be part of building a better South Africa and that they intend to vote for the ANC on 29 May.

Once again, they have demonstrated the true meaning of democracy, the true meaning of people's power, and the true meaning of freedom.

Across the country, people have said to us: **Let's do more, together.**

**END//**

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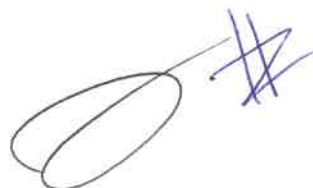
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- › Media Advisory
- › January 8 Statement

## [ DOCUMENTS ]

- › Resolutions
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