

MINISTERS, MPS SIGN PETITION TO PUBLIC PROTECTOR TO INVESTIGATE ROLE OF CARTELS, BANKS

# Widen 'capture' probe

KALDEN ONGMU AND DENNIS CRUYWAGEN

NINETY members of Parliament, including ministers, have demanded that the public protector widen the state capture investigation to look beyond the Gupta family and at "real state capture" by cartels.

The group says the Ruperts, Oppenheims and other business elites, in particular, need to be probed.

In two petitions to advocate Busisive Mkhwebane, the group, which includes Minister of Finance Malusi Gigaba, Communications Minister Faith Muthambi, Small Business Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu, State Security Minister David Mahlobo and Minister for Public Works Nathi Nhleko, said the narrative in the state capture report was that espoused by "white-controlled media".

It demands that the public protector investigate the conduct, collusion and corruption of the financial services sector, in particular the Treasury, SA Reserve Bank, Financial Intelligence Centre, Public Investment Corporation and the Financial Services Board.

Deputy public protector Kevin Malunga confirmed receiving the petition from the members of Parliament on behalf of Mkhwebane.

"I signed for it on behalf of the public protector. We also held a meeting with them for an hour and listened to the contents of their grievances," Malunga said.

He said the documents would be handed over to the public protector to decide whether to pursue the case.

Speaker of Parliament Baleka Mbete yesterday also declared that a commission of inquiry could eventually be appointed to investigate allegations of state capture.

"I believe it's desirable to have a commission of inquiry into all matters of state capture broadly," Mbete said.

"It will probe whatever you understand by state capture in its broadest meaning and what effect it has on South African society."

Baleka said when that structure is in place "we will all sleep well when we know some people are paying attention to this monster".

However, Mbete said such a commission would not be appointed by Parliament.

The members of Parliament accuse the institutions of working to the benefit of big business, in particular the Treasury which it accuses of "protecting its friends in the business elite".

While inflation has remained high, social grants have not kept pace but businesses, according to the International Monetary Fund last year, enjoyed "very high profit margins, often 50% higher than other countries". This was unacceptable, the group claims.

They said banks were a "closed shop" with little competition. The group said three new banking licences were approved in the past 11 years "yet a small, straightforward acquisition to create a new black-owned challenger bank was blocked. We ask why?"

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**SIGNATURE LIST:** ANC members of Parliament Loyiso Mpumlwana, Stan Maila, Sheila Shope, Celiwe Madlopha and Lemias Mashile presented a petition to the public protector in Tshwane yesterday calling for a wider probe into state capture.

**Malusi Gigaba**, Minister of Finance  
**Sfiso Buthelezi**, Deputy Minister of Finance  
**Faith Muthambi**, Minister of Public Service and Administration  
**Lynne Brown**, Minister of Public Enterprises  
**Nomvula Mokonyane**, Minister of Water & Sanitation  
**Mildred Oliphant**, Minister of Labour  
**Lindiwe Zulu**, Minister of Small

## Cabinet members on petition list

Business Development  
**David Mahlobo**, Minister of State Security  
**Nathi Nhleko**, Minister of Public Works  
**Thoko Xasa**, Minister of Tourism  
**Senzeni Zokwana**, Minister of Agriculture  
**Bathabile Dlamini**, Minister of Social Development  
**Siyabonga Cwele**, Minister of

Telecommunications  
**Des van Rooyen**, Minister of COGTA  
**Thandi Mahabehlala**, Deputy Minister of Communications  
**Mduduzi Manana**, Deputy Minister of Higher Education  
**Mosebenzi Zwane**, Minister of Mineral Resources

**Godfrey Oliphant**, Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources  
**Nathi Mthethwa**, Minister of Arts and Culture  
**Gugile Nkwinti**, Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform  
**Nomathemba November**, Deputy Minister of Small Business Development  
**Nkhensani Kubayi**, Minister of Energy  
**Joe Maswanganyi**, Minister of Transport

# DA wants 'captured' committee

DENNIS CRUYWAGEN

THE DA has approached Speaker of Parliament Baleka Mbete to appoint an ad hoc committee to probe "captured" ministers, President Jacob Zuma and the Gupta family.

This was announced yesterday by DA leader Mmusi Maimane. Mbete however said she was not in receipt of the letter.

Maimane accused the ANC's national executive committee of committing a serious crime against the people of South Africa on Sunday when it chose to keep Zuma in power as president.

"This once again illustrates that the ANC cannot self-correct. The ANC still supports Zuma. Jacob Zuma is the ANC and the ANC is Jacob Zuma," Maimane said.

The DA believes Zuma's ANC government has given over con-

trol of the South African state to the Gupta family. "No one has ever voted for a Gupta in South Africa but the ANC has allowed them full control of our nation and as such, they have violated the integrity of South Africa."

Maimane said the DA, in the wake of Sunday newspaper allegations, consulted its lawyers with a view to taking legal action against Zuma, the Gupta family, implicated Cabinet ministers, public officials and executive and board members of state-owned entities who acted to undermine the state.

"I am satisfied that sufficient criminal elements exist for the laying of charges, including grand corruption, undermining of state sovereignty and various statutory crimes carrying serious prison terms."

Today, Maimane said, he would lay these charges with the South African

Police Service.

"I expect that a thorough investigation will follow."

Maimane said Sunday's allegations and the existing evidence of state capture revealed that at least five ministers were in the pockets of the Guptas.

"Allegations of Gupta capture against ministers Des van Rooyen, Mosebenzi Zwane, Malusi Gigaba, Lynne Brown and Faith Muthambi and the executive as a whole, demand a full investigation by Parliament through an ad hoc committee. Parliament is mandated by the Constitution to hold the executive accountable."

Maimane said the DA's request for an inquiry would necessitate a debate in the National Assembly, "in which we expect members of Parliament to put South Africa first and agree to establish this committee".

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