



22 July 2019

Dear President Cyril Ramaphosa
President of the ANC and the Republic of South Africa

This letter is the second addressed to you this year by My Vote Counts (MVC) on the matter of private funding of political parties. Last night, South Africa watched your Excellency respond to the Office of the Public Protector's "Report on an Investigation Into Allegations of a Violation of the Executive Ethics Code through an improper relationship between the President and African Global Operations (AGO), formerly known as Bosasa." MVC acknowledges the President's decision to take the report on judicial review. However, in the interest of transparency, MVC firmly believes that your Excellency set a poor example to leaders when stating that,

"[...]and it so happens that everyone who campaigned would have raised quite a bit of money and it so happens that we may never really know [how much funds were raised]. The only one that we know of now is the CR17 one[...]"

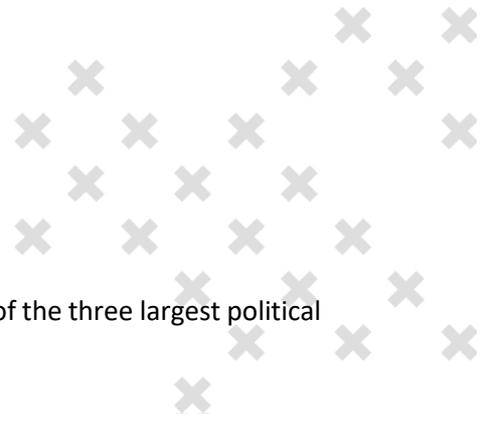
Although the outcome of the judicial review will determine whether your Excellency should disclose the donations in question, the need for political parties, political party candidates and incumbent party leaders to disclose private funding must not be undermined and ignored. In the Constitutional Court judgement between *MVC & the Minister of Justice*, the Court referred to the following in Paragraph 3:

"The sources of a candidate's financial support also alert the voter to the interests to which a candidate is most likely to be responsive and thus facilitate predictions of future performance in office."

In your Excellency's speech, the importance of strengthening institutions and the role of Commissions of Inquiry in tackling corruption was highlighted. However, civil society and the public at large, cannot confide in your Excellency's intentions to tackle corruption if information on political parties private funding remains shrouded in secrecy. Transparency regulation of political parties, senior political party officials and public office holders private funding is at the core of tackling corruption in any democracy. Your Excellency should lead by example and break the tradition of closed-door fundraising. To uphold the constitutional principles of accountability, transparency, fairness, openness and the right to access information, MVC is requesting that your Excellency discloses the following:

1. The sources and amounts of private funding allocated by each source to the CR17 campaign;
2. The sources and amounts of private funding allocated to the African National Congress's 2019 election campaign.

The danger of withholding information on political parties' private funding is that the wealthy elite has the privilege of having access to senior political party officials and public officials, at the expense of the largely poor and marginalised population in our country. It is therefore a constitutional obligation that political parties and especially senior party officials who hold public office positions to disclose of any received private funding.



Take note that MVC is requesting the above information from the leaders of the three largest political parties. For any questions of clarity, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Zd', is positioned above the typed name.

Zahira Grimwood
Political Systems Researcher
My Vote Counts
zahira@myvotecounts.org.za
021 447 2950