



## PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Parliament must scrap current Electoral Bill and implement the recommendations of the Zondo Commission without delay

The One South Africa Movement (OSA) welcomes the release of Part VI Vol. 4 of the Zondo Commission's report, which has made recommendations to change the way in which South Africans elect their President and their Members of Parliament.

The report recommends a constituency-based system whereby MPs are directly elected by their constituency. This would greatly enhance clean governance and accountability as MPs would derive their power and mandate from the people, not a political party. OSA has been advocating for this since our inception and it has been the recommendations of countless commissions and reports over the last two decades.

Secondly, the report recommends the direct election of the President – as like in many other developed countries. This would mean voters can elect and remove the President – this would ensure the most competent person is elected to lead South Africa. They would not need to be part of political party and therefore not be subject to party orders.

In particular, such a system would see an impartial Speaker of the National Assembly that can run the affairs of Parliament in a fair and dutiful manner. This would end the protection of the President and Cabinet Ministers by a Speaker deployed by a political party to execute a political party mandate.

To end State Capture for good, we must introduce a new system of direct elections. The good news is Parliament has been ordered to do so already. However, despite being granted a six-month extension by the Constitutional Court, it is proposing a new law that would not achieve this – and is thus unconstitutional.

We wish to urge Parliament today to cease from its attempts to avoid the inevitable and to pass a law that implements these recommendations.

The vast majority of South Africa's problems, from a failing economy and joblessness, to substandard education and endemic corruption, boil down to an ineffective political system that props up political parties and career politicians at the expense of the people of South Africa.

To fix this, we need to take power away from failing political parties and return it to where it belongs: in the hands of the people of South Africa. This is what the Zondo Commission recommends and this is what Parliament needs to urgently do in this six month grace period handed to it by the Constitutional Court.

