



# **THE CENTRE FOR PUBLIC WITNESS DEFENDS THE POOR BUT REJECTS LAWLESSNESS**

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**13 July 2021**

**The Centre for Public Witness has taken notice, with great concern, of the violence and looting in KZN and Gauteng. We want to state the following categorically.**

1. We continue to stand in full solidarity with the poor and the hopeless.
2. At the same time, we also want to defend the rule of law, our institutions, and our democracy at large. We therefore strongly condemn the acts of looting, lawlessness, and anarchy.
3. The lack of consistent and strong political leadership that transcends party-political interests has contributed to our deepening crisis and has led to a lack of service delivery and improvement in the living conditions of millions of South Africans.
4. We condemn the actions of Mr Zuma and his supporters in the strongest possible terms. We want to remind people not only of the damage done to SA during the last few days but also the misery caused to millions of South Africans as the result of his presidency.
5. We will continue to work relentlessly for the eradication of poverty and unemployment with all role players and stakeholders. Populistic jargon and knee-jerk reactions will not solve the problems. The root causes of the socio-economic crisis in SA must be addressed to find long-term solutions.

These include:

- Bad and unsustainable policies
- A failing education system
- A moral implosion of the nation
- A traumatised and broken mindset
- Incompetency and the drainage of skills in SA
- A lack of reconciliation and social cohesion.

We will continue to work and pray for our beloved country and commit ourselves anew to South Africa.

**Braam Hanekom (083 302 8639) and Llewellyn MacMaster (083 413 0400)  
on behalf of the board of the Centre for Public Witness**