
SACC RESPONDS TO CONSTITUTIONAL COURT RULING ON THE PHALA PHALA MATTER

1 message

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8 May 2026 at 16:27



South African Council of Churches

08 MAY 2026**MEDIA STATEMENT****FROM THE OFFICE OF REV MZWANDILE MOLO, GENERAL SECRETARY**

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The South African Council of Churches (SACC) notes the judgement handed down by the Constitutional Court in *Economic Freedom Fighters and Another v Speaker of the National Assembly and Others*, relating to the Section 89

parliamentary process concerning the Phala Phala matter. The Court found that the National Assembly acted inconsistently with the Constitution when it rejected the recommendation to proceed with an impeachment inquiry process, and consequently set aside that decision.

As the SACC, we respect the authority and independence of the Constitutional Court as the highest guardian of constitutional democracy in South Africa. We believe that this judgement reaffirms the supremacy of the Constitution over parliamentary majoritarianism.

This further cements the principle of accountability, which must remain the cornerstone of democratic governance. This is especially important for South Africa at this time.

We are encouraged by the judgement's enhancement of the principle of transparency; the ruling affirms the importance of a public impeachment inquiry process that will allow South Africans to witness and understand the evidence, deliberations, and findings that ultimately inform the votes of Members of Parliament. As elected representatives sworn to act in the best interests of the people, Members of the National Assembly must exercise this responsibility through processes that are accessible, credible, and accountable to the public. When Parliament acts as a place of accountability, it strengthens the people's confidence in the institutional make-up of our nation.

In a country that is struggling to free itself from the ravages of the cancer of corruption, this judgement is another important step away from the grip of impunity. All our institutions of governance, including the Office of the President and the National Assembly, are not insulated from constitutional scrutiny and accountability. This is a welcome development against the culture of impunity. As the SACC, we view this as consistent with the commitment made by national church leaders through the Anti-Corruption Covenant signed last month, which calls on both public and private leaders to foster accountability, transparency, and moral integrity in society.

We are aware that the judgement is not a reflection of the guilt or otherwise of President Cyril Ramaphosa. We trust that the President will respond to this judgement and the whole Phala Phala matter with the sacredness that is demanded by the high office he occupies, mindful of the esteem with which the Constitution and the people of South Africa regard the Presidency. It must be remembered that the President, like every citizen, remains entitled to the full constitutional protections and due process afforded by our democracy. It is precisely this balance between accountability and constitutional protection that would strengthen public confidence.

We pray that this judgement will give us a firm foundation to move forward as we seek to cleanse ourselves of the general cancer of corruption and the stench of the Phala Phala revelations.

It is our hope that political parties and members of the National Assembly will treat this matter with the solemnity and seriousness it deserves. May this be a moment of deep reflection for this country and its political parties, beyond narrow political interests. The journey from this point warrants humility and wisdom, as the outcome of this prescribed parliamentary scrutiny holds serious consequences for the people of South Africa.

As leaders of the Christian faith, we continue to pray for a country where we defeat corruption, enhance accountability and deepen scrutiny, guided by the Biblical instruction to “learn to do right; seek justice” (Isaiah 1:17).

ENDS

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About the SACC

The South African Council of Churches (SACC) is an instrument and servant of its members and is committed to expressing, through proclamation and programmes, the united witness of the church in South Africa, especially in matters of national debate.

With its enviable track record of advocacy, care and empowerment, the SACC aims to be the moral compass of South Africa, advocating for social and economic justice, national reconciliation, the integrity of the natural environment, eradication of poverty, and contributing towards the empowerment of all those who are spiritually, socially and economically marginalised.

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