



23 August 2019

Dear Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma

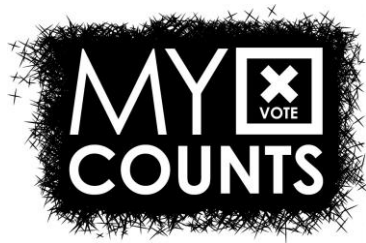
My Vote Counts (MVC) addresses this letter to you, Minister Dlamini-Zuma, in your role as a candidate to be the African National Congress (ANC) President in the ANC's 2017 Nasrec National Conference.

MVC has always maintained that political parties and party candidates are in need of funding for their election campaigns, but that South Africa's electorate cannot exercise their political right to vote in the absence of knowing where private funding circulates in our political system and to what end. Therefore, information on the private funding of political parties, political party officials in public office positions and/or in party structures, and the private funding of party candidates in intra-party elections, is information the public is entitled to in order to evaluate if and how private funding has influenced organisations and individuals who compete to represent and govern over the public.

MVC acknowledges that whether the President will be compelled to disclose of private funds that were allocated to his CR17 campaign, will be determined as per the judicial review. Nonetheless, MVC feels that in the interest of the constitutional principles of transparency, accountability and openness, any candidate (successful or not) for any position in any political party, incumbent party officials and public officer holders, and the political party as a whole should disclose private funding information.

In the June 2018 Constitutional Court judgement between *MVC & the Minister of Justice*, the judgment referred to the following:

“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
[Paragraph 3].”



The Court also acknowledged that “the proper exercise of the right to vote is largely dependent on information” [Paragraph 38] and that “All information necessary to enlighten the electorate about the capabilities and dependability or otherwise of those seeking public office must not only be compulsorily captured and preserved but also made reasonably accessible” [Paragraph 39].

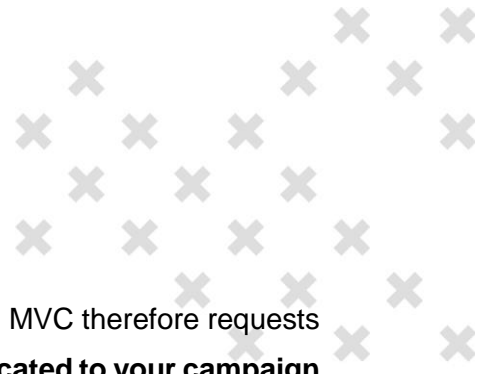
The danger of withholding information on the private funding of political parties and party members is that the wealthy elite not only has the privilege of having access to senior political party officials and public officials, but that the secrecy of such access encourages the wealthy elite to seek undue influence.

The private funding of internal political party campaigns has been elevated in the public debate at the national level and there is immense public interest in knowing who funds not only political parties, but the private funding of individuals who contest intra-party elections and/or any high-ranking party members. MVC feels that the commitment of party candidates (whether unsuccessful or not in their party leadership pursuits) to the constitutional principles of accountability, transparency, openness and the right to access information, is openly and increasingly being tested.

On 22 July 2019, MVC wrote to President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Economic Freedom Fighter’s (EFF) Commander in Chief Julius Malema and the Democratic Alliances’ (DA) Federal Leader Mmusi Maimane where we requested funding information to their last intra-party campaigns and/or the election campaign funds of each leader’s party in the lead up to the 2019 general elections.

We note reports in the media that no details of the funding of your campaign will be revealed to the public. However, on behalf of the public, MVC is asking you to take the people of the country into your confidence and to illustrate that as a member of Cabinet, you uphold the principles of accountability and transparency and recognise the value of all private funding of political parties, including internal campaigns, being disclosed.

While we recognise that your bid to become the President of the ANC was unsuccessful, it is clear that intra-party elections are also highly contested spaces in which immense amounts of money are at play. The very nature of intra-party electoral competition provides opportunities



for the undue influence of private money and interests in our politics. MVC therefore requests that you disclose **the sources and amounts of private funding allocated to your campaign to be elected President of the ANC at the 2017 Nasrec National Conference.**

We also recognise that the ANC is already exploring ways internally to regulate and monitor campaigning within the party. However, on 22 August President Ramaphosa also posed a question to the National Assembly of their interest in regulating intra-party election campaign funding. Therefore, uncertainty remains as to whether concrete steps will be taken to ensure that each represented political parties' intra-party campaign funds will be regulated. As a Minister and a senior leader of the governing party, you have the opportunity to lead by example, take a principled stand against such secrecy which has allowed corruption to fester, and break the tradition of closed-door fundraising towards upholding the constitutional principles of accountability, transparency, fairness, openness and the right to access information.

For any questions of clarity, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please respond to this letter with the required information no later than Friday 20 September 2019.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Zd'.

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