

TEASA on the Zuma judgment and the call for calm

Date 2 June 2021

The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa welcomes the recent Constitutional Court Judgment sentencing former President Mr Jacob Zuma to a 15 month jail term for contempt of court. This is a milestone judgement that signals the end of impunity for the politically connected. TEASA believes it is the inability to act firmly against breaches of our country's laws that has caused the country billions of rands due to corruption.

The judgment communicates an important message that all are equal before the law. We therefore commend it to all South Africans. We appeal to all political parties, civil society, Churches and community leaders to promote the message of respect for the rule of law.

It is therefore sad, though not unexpected, that this judgement is being undermined in some quarters by those who did not expect the courts to demand accountability and the end of impunity from the former President Jacob Zuma. Indeed this tendency to attack the judiciary has been a recurring problem in South Africa for some time now, and is most unhelpful in our young democracy.

The display of lawlessness by those loyal to the former president introduce the possibility of unnecessary loss of life, such as was last seen in Marikana. Such an eventuality should be avoided at all costs. This is aside from the fact that the mass rallies organised to show support to the former president, have floated the regulations of the Disaster Management Act governing Lockdown level 4.

We call upon the Law enforcement agencies to act decisively and responsibly to stem the tide of illegality.

We wish to exhort our member denominations and churches to pray for calm during this period, and to uphold those in governmental authority in prayer, that they will act wisely and without fear or favour.

Lastly, we call upon all our member churches to take seriously the task of Christian citizenship in a Constitutional Democracy such as ours, and to promote the rule of law.