



EFF STATEMENT ON HIGH COURT DISMISSAL OF THE EFF APPLICATION FOR THE UNSEALING OF CR17 BANK STATEMENTS

Tuesday, 20 July 2021

The EFF notes with concern the ruling by the North Gauteng High Court, to dismiss with costs the application by the EFF to unseal the controversial “CR17” documents. These documents contain information that reveals the sitting State President received undeclared amounts of money while he was Deputy President, in order to ascend to the Presidency of the ruling party.

We note with particular concern that this application was dismissed with costs and are of the considered view, that it is part of the correct diagnosis made by Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, which is that the judiciary is beginning to utilise cost orders to dissuade entities from pursuing matters that ensure transparency and accountability in our society, as seen with the numerous adverse cost orders given against the Public Protector in matters relating to the President.

The EFF maintains that it is in the public interest that the CR17 bank statements are unsealed. The fact that the money was raised in a political party contest does not take away the fact that Cyril Ramaphosa was a Deputy President when he used the money he raised for his personal benefit. To argue that he did not benefit from CR17 funds is naïve and to suggest that it is not in the interest of the public to know who made these donations, considering the capture and corruption that characterises our society is unfortunate.

The EFF believes that those who funded the CR17 campaign are now beneficiaries of state-tenders and contracts, as a means of compensating them for their efforts to place Cyril Ramaphosa as the President of the ruling party, with the intention of him securing the Presidency of the state.

Public interest therefore lies in that very possibility, and if Ramaphosa is so committed to transparency and accountability, a ticket he based his entire campaign on into office, he should not be so averse to these documents being released.

The EFF will directly approach the Constitutional Court on the matter of unsealing the CR17 documents in the interests of ensuring that our state is not captured by people who made an investment in an individual, in order to secure their economic and political interests.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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