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UCT supports calls to express our anger at state capture

Please cite Dr Max Price, Vice-Chancellor: UCT

The University of Cape Town calls on members of the campus community to join the public protests planned for today and the next few days to express the nation's call for President Jacob Zuma to restore transparency and accountability to the office of the National President and to abide by the Constitution.

A number of organisations including Save South Africa are planning to gather today in protest. UCT will, where operations allow, release staff members and students to attend these important gatherings. We encourage staff members to seek permission from their line managers if they plan to participate in these expressions of our support for our constitutional democracy.

UCT believes, along with these organisations, that reshuffling of Cabinet, including the dismissal of Pravin Gordhan as Minister of Finance without explanation, presents a crisis for good governance in South Africa.

The President's actions yesterday are simply the most recent in a string of activities that demonstrate contempt for the South Africans he is sworn to serve. UCT's Chair of Council, Mr Sipho Pityana, speaking for the Save South-Africa campaign, told the Cape Town Press Club on 2 February 2017: "Corruption, under Zuma's hand, has its hand at the throat of government service delivery. And it is getting tighter. It is getting tighter as the grip of state capture rips the soul out of state-owned companies, encourages gross financial mismanagement, and promotes unfettered looting. It is getting tighter as Zuma and his cronies line up the biggest tender-grab ever: the nuclear energy deal, which best epitomises the current phase of state capture."

State capture must be stopped. South Africans can stop it by demanding an accountable government who abides by the Constitution.

ENDS

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