

The **PEOPLE'S MARCH**

21 MARCH 2026

SOUTH AFRICA

BELONGS TO US, THE CITIZENS

WE WILL NOT BE **BULLIED!**

Join **The People's March** in defence of our
Sovereignty and Democratic Gains



Dear Fellow Citizens,

We live in a constitutional democracy that is a product of many sacrifices - the blood, sweat and tears of many generations of South Africans and patriots who laid down their lives so that our country can be free.

South Africa is governed through a democratic and transformative Constitution that guarantees its citizens fundamental freedoms, human rights and liberties, as well as redress for the past, that cannot be taken away by any government or tempered with by any foreign force. We are a sovereign country that enjoys sovereign equality with other nations.

As the current generations of patriots – men and women, young and old, regardless of the race and class - we have a historic responsibility and generational duty to fully realise the ideals of freedom and a better life espoused in the Freedom Charter and the Constitution of our Republic. We have a duty to build a country wherein all citizens live in dignity, peace and harmony as equals. We have a duty to redress and correct all historical injustices that millions of our people have suffered and heal all the divisions of the past.

One of the foundational principles of our Constitution is that South Africa is a sovereign state that has the right to determine its own future. No force on earth, however powerful, can interfere with the sovereign authority of the people of South Africa to govern their own affairs.

And yet, the world is experiencing rising geopolitical conflicts and wars of aggression that pose an existential threat to humanity as a whole. Countries are being targeted, their leadership eliminated or removed and punished for adopting independent domestic and foreign policies in the interest of for their own national development and the use of their natural resources.

The principle of national sovereignty is under attack from foreign and domestic forces that are opposed to the fundamental tenets of our Constitution. In particular, the policies that are aimed at correcting the injustices of apartheid, colonialism and patriarchy have come under severe attack. Lies are being told about countries in order to justify punitive economic measures and direct foreign interference in domestic politics.

What is sovereignty and why does it matter?

Fellow Citizens,

The idea of “sovereignty” is based on the fundamental principle that every state has the right to govern its own territory and decide on its internal affairs without any foreign interference.

“Democratic sovereignty” or “popular sovereignty” goes further to assert the right of citizens of a country, to decide how the country is governed and who governs them, without any foreign interference. The legitimacy of any state derives from its people.



History is replete with examples where expansionist empires, kingdoms and states launched wars of aggression, enslavement of entire peoples and dispossession seeking to conquer, subjugate and exploit other territories. The Peace of Westphalia is an example of a set of treaties that were signed in 1648 to end wars among European empires and countries that were engulfed in wars of aggression against one another.

Sadly, some of the countries that fought to defend their sovereignty went on a colonisation spree, invading and completely disregarding the sovereignty of the countries and peoples they colonised. This practice of “selective sovereignty” continues up to this day.

National sovereignty and the self-determination of oppressed nations assumed the status of international law after the UN adopted a Charter in 1945, as part of the post-World War II international system. The Charter became a new international treaty that guaranteed peace, human rights and sovereign equality to all nations and peoples.

Despite all the principles and ideals contained in the UN Charter, some countries continue to repeatedly violate the UN Charter by totally disregarding the principle of national sovereignty. They use military and economic power to dictate how and who must govern. Democratically elected governments are destabilised and removed through regime change, leaders deposed or eliminated for transformative policies that seek to empower and uplift the standard of living of local populations.

We have returned to an era where there is total disregard of international law. The UN is being undermined by those who want to maintain unilateral dominance over the institutions of global governance. We reject the profoundly undemocratic idea that a few countries that have more economic, technological and military might have the right to bully the rest of the world. We, the people of the Global South, know fully well that our

people, our economies and our natural resources were exploited to build the economies and sustain the standard of living, overconsumption and economic development of the Global North.

South Africa's national sovereignty is under pressure. Lies are repeated and blatant falsehoods spread to smear countries in the crosshairs for foreign intervention and regime change, to justify acts of aggression. These lies include falsehoods such as "the white genocide" in South Africa. The underlying goal of foreign intervention is to have unfettered control over the natural resources of targeted countries.

Sovereign equality and self-determination were always an integral to the objectives of anti-colonial and national liberation movement in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Independence has always meant, among others, that a liberated country has the sole and sovereign right to decide its future and its relationship with the world and that no country has the right to bully others.

All self-respecting nations and patriotic citizens – irrespective of the size of the country - are constantly called upon to defend their right to decide their future without any foreign interference and intervention.

What is to be done?



Fellow Citizens,

What can we do as citizens to defend the hard-won freedoms of freedom and democracy?

In the end, any country's enduring national sovereignty and socioeconomic success arise from the combined actions of both an effective state and active citizenry.

The democratic state needs to ensure our national sovereignty is premised on restoring the dignity, safety and capabilities of every citizen of our republic.

Sovereignty becomes strong when it is in the hands of people, empowered to share in the wealth of the country. Everything must be done to demonstrate that the resources of the country are for the collective benefit of the people as a whole.

Sovereignty becomes resilient when it is rooted in the dignity and national pride among all South African citizens. We must continue to build a country in which no one is left behind; no one goes to bed hungry; no child is left without education; no citizen is left without access to healthy.

Sovereignty has greater meaning when it is undergirded by an effective, capable and ethical state institutions that deliver quality public services, drive economic development and provide safety and security, including securing our borders.

As citizens, we have a lot to do too. Sovereignty becomes if we expect the government to do everything, while we sit back and complain. We must take back citizen agency.

We, the people, are the ultimate source of political legitimacy and national sovereignty. Without us, there can be no democratic governance and legitimate authority of the state.

Sovereignty is effective when we as citizens participate not only in elections but by holding elected leaders and our public servants accountable.

We must all contribute actively in the daily actions of better and safer communities.

Sovereignty will be enhanced if as citizens we speak out and expose acts of corruption and malfeasance whenever these rear their ugly heads.

If we as citizens lose interest in public life and in making a difference in our communities and sectors, then sovereignty and national development becomes the exclusive domain of the political and economic elite.

As citizens, we must defend the rule of law, the independence of courts to ensure justice and redress in our motherland.

Sovereignty is standing on a strong foundation if there is a growing, thriving, inclusive and transformed economy that offers opportunities to all citizens. Countries become stronger when they build their own industries, infrastructure, food and businesses.



Our national sovereignty is stronger when it is rooted in Pan-African unity and international solidarity. This is precisely because

we don't believe in the vulgar idea of "survival of the fittest" as the highest ethical ideal. As Africans we believe in the African humanist philosophy of Ubuntu (I am because you are!) as opposed to crass individualism.

Our national sovereignty and national interest will not be at the expense of other nations or other human beings. Our quest for national development and national pride will never be at the expense of other countries. our national security is not a threat to other nations.

We want to live in peace and collaborate freely with all humanity and nations of the world, based on mutual respect and mutual benefit.

A Call to Action

Join the People's March on 21st March 2026

We call on you to join the People's March to advance and defend our country's national sovereignty.

We call on the workers and their trade unions to come out in full force to advance and defend a national sovereignty that promotes local industrialisation, control of our mineral resources and jobs. An attack on our national sovereignty can undermine all the rights of workers protected by our transformative laws.

We call on women and their organisations to join the march in defence of the many rights women of South Africa enjoy today. Their gains can easily be reversed if the policy direction of our country is changed through foreign interference.

We call on progressive professionals and businesspeople to come in support of the transformative laws of our country that are about an inclusive, growing economy and empowerment to redress the imbalances of the past. These laws are under threat if we allow foreign interference in the affairs of our country.

We call on the youth and the students to come out in their full strength in defence of the democratic gains. Without

national sovereignty, the national wealth and natural endowments of our country will be expropriated by the bullies and aggressors. Transformation will be halted and reversed. The future belongs to children and youth, Defend it today.

National sovereignty is not a slogan. It is about dignity. It is about self-respect. It is about a people deciding their own future. It is about peace and friendship with all, in a spirit of respect of sovereign choices and commitments.

Every generation must protect this right. Our forebears fought for political freedom.

Our responsibility today is to protect the economic, political, and democratic independence of our country.

- Let us stand together.**
- Let us strengthen our democracy.**
- Let us build ethical and capable state institutions.**
- Let us build a growing, inclusive and transformed economy.**
- Let us build a safe and secure South Africa.**
- Let us secure our borders.**

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