



KPMG, GUPTA AND ALL

By Ben Turok

It seems that the central objective was to capture the Treasury, one of the remaining bastions of integrity in the country. And Pravin Gordhan was in control so he had to be removed.

Elements in government colluded with SARS which used KPMG to draw up a fake report to remove Gordhan and then the road to the capture of the Treasury was open. Des van Rooyen was a bit player in the scheme but the Guptas were the principal actors and well connected to the Presidency.

The result, in the words of Judge Hans Fabricius: “the subversion of the integrity of the financial system, to put it gently”.

He went on to say “I could not help but wonder whether democracy and the rule of law had somehow been suspended. Could it be that the future, so bright in 1994, was now only history? Do the constitutional obligations imposed on the NPA and police still exist?”

KPMG say there was an error of judgement. But the association with Gupta was for 18 years. Now that they have removed the top management it is clear that they were part of a conspiracy to steal a major state institution which would set the stage for attacks on the PIC, perhaps even the Reserve Bank and much else. Eskom shows how it is done.

This scandal is now world news and South Africa has never had more critical coverage.

What is so shocking is that KPMG, like all the large auditing firms, earn more from their advisory services than from auditing. Government has come to rely on them for a great deal of research and policy formulation. So



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if any are tempted by corrupt elements they can have a massive impact.

COSATU and the SACP are now alert to the dangers of state capture which is a close relation to regime change.

But where is the necessary public outrage? Are we too far down the road

of defeat by our crooks for a strong moral response from all our public institutions?

New Agenda will play its part in exposing the rot that has infested the whole system. We trust that some new momentum will emerge out of the crisis.

WELCOME TO NEW IFAA BOARD MEMBERS

As the Director of the Institute for African Alternatives I wish to welcome the following members to the board, and thank them in advance for the contribution I am confident they will make:

TONY EHRENREICH, Western Cape Provincial Secretary, Cosatu

PALLO JORDAN, ANC veteran and former Cabinet Minister

STEVEN ROBINS, Professor of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Stellenbosch University

ARI SITAS, Professor of Sociology, Cape Town University