



4 July 2021

ZUMA'S APPEAL TO CONCOURT

No sooner has the ink dried – to coin a phrase – on my comments regarding the Concourt ruling in the Zuma contempt of Concourt case, when the news hit the media that the Concourt had decided to delay Zuma's arrest and sentence, of 15 months' imprisonment and to "give Zuma another chance", to waste the Court's valuable time. I say waste because as I listened intensely to the ruling read by the acting Deputy-Chief Justice it seemed to me that slippery Jacob had met his Moses, and at last justice will have been seen to be done.

In the judgement, read by Justice Khampepe, she stated that she did not think the courts should be so naïve as to hope for Zuma's compliance, and that it defies logic to believe that a suspended sentence would have any effect other than to prolong his defiance, and to signal dangerously that impunity is to be enjoyed by those who defy court orders. With that in mind we await – with bated breath – the outcome of Zuma's appeal. Will this once again, as has happened so often in the past, be a matter of there being one law for the elite and the politically connected, and another for us ordinary people.

One wonders if you and I had openly defied an order of the Concord and had been tried in absentia and found guilty, if the Court would have been so magnanimous towards us. So much for being equal before the law.

After the Concord made the ruling to deal decisively with a defiant Zuma, many commentators lauded the court's decision for letting justice be seen to be done, and mentioned how this had the effect of restoring some trust in the judicial system. Let's hope that this was not a misplaced trust. By the way, the emotional rendering of the majority verdict by Justice Khampepe – mentioned by Zuma – had nothing to do with the Court's decision to confirmed his guilt by a majority decision based on law. For now, all we can do is to sit back and wait to see how this Court drama plays out.

We can but hope that our Courts are not of the same ilk as the ruling Party when listening to the words of the ANC Treasurer – General Paul Mashatile: "The ANC will follow in the steps of the Chinese Communist Party in building an ethical organisation that deals with corruption without fear or favour." Does this mean without a trial and in front of a firing squad? This should cause every discerning citizen in the country to tremble in fear as we hear him say: "We share deep bones of friendship and solidarity with the people of China (by this he means the Chinese Communist Party not the ordinary people of Tainanmen Square) ... there is much we have in common we too will constantly improve our movements (ANC) capacity and capability to lead a united (NWO) society."

The CDP is a Party based on Biblical ethics and values and will not follow any man made ideas.

Rev Theunis Botha DD

Party Leader – Christian Democratic Party (CDP)