

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**GENERAL NOTICE 3821 OF 2026****MS DE JAMES, MP****NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE A PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL AND INVITATION FOR COMMENT THEREON, NAMELY THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF CORRUPT ACTIVITIES AMENDMENT BILL, 2026**

Ms Dereleen Elana James, MP, acting in accordance with section 73(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, intends to introduce the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Amendment Bill, 2026, in Parliament. An explanatory summary of the Bill is hereby published in accordance with Rule 276(1)(c) of the Rules of the National Assembly (9th Edition).

ActionSA has identified corruption as Public Enemy Number One. South Africa is estimated to lose approximately R27 billion annually to corruption, at a cost of an estimated 66 000 jobs. On Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, South Africa ranks 82nd out of 180 countries, lagging behind peer nations such as Ghana, Botswana and Senegal. Corruption causes severe and disproportionate harm to service delivery, the economy, and democratic governance, while steadily eroding public trust in state institutions.

Despite the legal framework established by the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 2004 (Act No. 12 of 2004) ("PRECCA"), and the hard lessons arising from the era of State Capture, accountability for corruption remains inadequate. Deterrence is weak, public confidence in institutions continues to decline, and individuals implicated in serious acts of corruption too often evade meaningful consequences and return swiftly to public life.

Although PRECCA criminalises a wide range of corrupt conduct, it does not provide for mandatory minimum sentences linked to the monetary value or aggravating impact of the corruption concerned. This legislative gap contributes to inconsistent sentencing outcomes and undermines the deterrent effect of anti-corruption enforcement.

To address these shortcomings, ActionSA proposes amendments to PRECCA to introduce mandatory minimum sentences ranging from five to eighteen years' imprisonment for offences under the Act, calibrated according to the monetary scale of the corrupt conduct involved. These reforms seek to ensure that penalties for corruption are effective, proportionate, and dissuasive, in line with international best practice and a clear principle of zero tolerance for corruption.

The draft Bill seeks to:

- introduce mandatory minimum sentences for offences relating to corrupt activities, linked to the monetary value of the corruption involved ranging from five to eighteen years. This is to ensure consistent, proportionate, and deterrent penalties;
- lower the threshold for the mandatory reporting of corruption to strengthen accountability and transparency in both public and private institutions from R100 000 to R30 000.

Members of the public, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders are invited to submit written comments on the proposed content of the draft Bill within 30 days of this notice's publication. Submissions can be delivered to the Speaker of the National Assembly, New Assembly Building, Parliament Street, Cape Town, 8001; mailed to the Speaker, P O Box 15, Cape Town, 8000 or emailed to speaker@parliament.gov.za and copied to parliament@actionsa.org.za.

A copy of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Amendment Bill, 2026, may be accessed at the following website: <https://www.actionsa.org.za/bills/>.