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 **Inquiry The Perfect Opportunity (Part 1)**

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Inquiry the perfect opportunity

Growing optimism suggests South Africa is changing course to a positive trajectory of growth. The state capture inquiry, now gazetted but without clear rules, provides a perfect opportunity to demonstrate the significance of integrity and responsibility required from our leaders.

Corrupt, fraudulent and captured individuals in state-owned enterprises, the public sector and the executive will finally be called to account for their ethical, financial and legal failures. But if the right checks and balances had been in place upfront, these flagrant abuses could have been flagged and dispensed with years ago – and the untold billions bled from the fiscus channelled to education and job creation.

The dogged efforts of our auditor-general to overhaul the Public Audit Act – clamping down on continued financial mismanagement of public funds – make perfect sense. Clean, transparent and effective governance, as well as liability for corruption, fraud and mismanagement, are just the combustion needed to kick our

growth engine into gear.

Business confidence is on the rise and the rand has seen an upswing, which could only improve investor sentiment. These are vital stimulators for economic growth.

But without a determined, sustained focus on accountability when it comes to

public funds, our woes are far from over

There's never been a better time in South Africa to do the right thing.

Adam Craker, Johannesburg