



EFF VIRTUAL YOUTH DAY RALLY

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Tuesday, 16 June 2020

Revolutionary Greetings To The Special generation of 1976 and the People of South Africa

To our Comrades Across the Continent and in the Diaspora
Members of the War Council and the Central Command Team
Provincial, Regional and Branch Leaders of the EFF
Fellow Fighters and Fearless Ground Forces of the Revolution

I greet you all in the name of economic freedom and in the fighting spirit of the fearless 1976 class.

The people of the rich continent of Africa, we address you in a time of uncertainty and in a time when the South African society is leaderless. Like the 1976 generation, we have only ourselves to rely on because the President of South Africa and his factional cabinet have abandoned the ship and the poor black communities are feeling the impact of a deadly virus while those who own the economy continue to make profits at the expense of lives.

As COVID-19 takes its toll on the country, the masses of our people, in particular, the youth are left to fend for themselves, against a deadly virus and the painful reality of poverty. There is a retrenchment bloodbath as our people lose jobs despite guarantees that jobs will be protected.

The leadership of this country has made reckless decisions that jeopardise lives, such as the relaxing of lockdown regulations and the sale of alcohol which is devastating our fragile health infrastructure. As a nation, we must accept the fact that we have been left on our own to determine the fate of our children and the lives in our communities. On this historic day, the brave youth of 1976 must inspire us to act decisively, and lead ourselves in the efforts of protecting lives and defending the dignity of African people.

Most painfully, we have seen the re-emergence of the brutal war against the women of this country, in the cruel murder and hanging of Tshegofatso Pule and butchering of Naledi Phangindawo. We take this opportunity to extend our deepest condolences to the families of these two young women who had their lives taken from them by cowards who have no place in our society. Our communities must take a leaf from the 1976 generation and organise themselves in defence of the lives of women and children and report perpetrators of abuse before there is a loss of life. It is from those brave combatants that we can learn collective solidarity and defeat the evil of Gender-Based-Violence.

Fellow Fighters June 16 is a day that represents courage and determination. It is a day on which young people in South Africa resolved to risk their lives in battle, taking the baton in the anti-colonial struggle in against colonial education and a racist system.

Today we take an opportunity to honour this generation that took a stand when it was not fashionable to do so. We choose to remember the fearless uprising of young people who confronted the brutal Apartheid regime of machine guns and dogs, with stones in their hands and the idea that black children deserve to determine their lives in the land of their ancestors.

We remember the likes of Tsietsi Mashinini, Onkgopotse Tiro, Sibongile Sithole, Antionette Sithole, Steven Bantu Biko, Khotso Seatlholo and Hector Peterson, who sacrificed their lives fighting for the liberation of a black child.

The Character and Role of 1976 Youth in Defying A Brutal Apartheid System

Fellow Fighters, the memory of the 1976 generation is one that is defined by defiance and bravery. It is a memory of young people who fought at a time when all liberation movements were banned, and freedom fighters were in exile, imprisoned, underground, or crippled by fear.

The apartheid regime, which legislated the exploitation and dehumanisation of African people was a regime that survived on fear and violence meted against black bodies.

It was a racist regime that embarrassed black fathers, abused black mothers, and separated black families through migrant labour and a deliberate agenda to collapse and under-develop black communities. It was a system that declared old black women girls and old men boys.

It was a regime that survived on miseducation, and the undermining of black people to a point where it declared that all that a black person is good for is to cut wood and carry water.

It is for this reason that we must understand that the student uprising of 1976 was led by a generation that was conscious of how unjust Apartheid society was in its totality. Those young people fought not only against Bantu Education, which imposed Afrikaans on them as a language of instruction; they also fought to develop their communities and free themselves from Apartheid domination.

They were young people who understood that the education they receive must have them at the centre and that there was no education without a liberated society.

The 1976 generation, fought against the destruction of black communities, they fought against the destruction of black life. It is that youth when the elderly people had succumbed to the regime and was drowning their sorrows in alcohol, who demanded a boycott of alcohol taking it from the mouths of their parents and leading them into revolution. It is that youth that forced cowards into the picket lines singing the songs like JOINA MZABALAZO, wa rata gao rate.

It is the youth of 1976 that said to hell with the narrative that white people are superior and that it was the destiny of black people to serve them. They stood up at a time when our people had given up and said we demand to be taught in our languages and we demand equal development of the schools of black people.

It is a youth that drew inspiration from Anton Lembede, Sol Plaatjie, Robert Sobukwe Charlotte Maxeke, Winnie Mandela. A youth that did not hide in the face of injustice, it is a youth that stood when it was not fashionable to do so and demanded a radical confrontation with the brutal murders regime armed with stones, ideas, and a deep desire for freedom.

Comrades without the youth of 1976, a youth that was rejected by the liberation movement whose history is defined by opposing young people, the struggle against Apartheid would not have intensified.

The 1960 anti-pass campaign, led by Robert Sobukwe resulted in the increased suppression of all liberation movements. After the arrest of Rivonia Trialists, the exiling of revolutionary forces, and forcing of our leaders to operate underground, the abuse of black South Africans intensified.

During the 1960s, activists and leaders were either imprisoned or in exile. The anti-Apartheid struggle entered what can be called a political lull, as activists were buried on a frequent basis and intimidated into submission.

It is the revolutionary ideas and work of Steve Biko, the consciousness of Onkgopotse Tiro, the organising of Tsietsi Mashinini and the determination of Khotso Seatlholo that sparked the fires of revolution at a time when the people were too scared to fight.

It is this character that inspires this generation of Economic Freedom Fighters to fight for the emancipation of our people through whatever means necessary.

It is the understanding of those young people, of Apartheid and the Bantu Education Act as racist separate development, that inspires us to fight white-monopoly capital today, that controls our economy and makes us servants in our own land.

We salute the youth that led the 1976 Soweto Youth Uprising and set in motion the destruction of the racist Apartheid regime.

The impact of their revolutionary struggle against an intolerant regime can be seen in the reawakening of the liberation struggle in the 1980s. It was their bravery that led young people to join the ranks of liberation movements and intensify the armed struggle, rendering South Africa ungovernable.

It is that revolutionary consciousness and struggle that destroyed the Apartheid regime, not the kindness of racists land murderers like P.W Botha and De Klerk, who today behave as though they liberated us when young students lost their lives fighting for our freedom.

It is their determination and their refusal to listen to those who were scared, who called them unruly and reckless, that inspires us as a generation of with our own mission.

It is the uncompromising character of the 1976 youth that guides us as economic emancipation movement to fulfil our generational mission in the same way those rebellious young people fulfilled theirs in fighting for their freedom.

Can we say the same about your" favourite" President? After the uprising on June 16, 1976, the white capitalist establishment in South Africa started to realise that Apartheid must go because Apartheid was becoming costly to their businesses.

That is why in December 1976, the white capitalist establishment led by the Oppenheimers', the Ruperts and Menell families launched an organisation called the Urban Foundation.

The Urban Foundation was an organisation used to co-opt emerging black people into the white agenda, where they wanted to influence handing over political power but retaining economic ownership and control.

One of the people they co-opted into the white agenda was Cyril Ramaphosa who joined the Urban Foundation Board in 1978, a board that was chaired by the Menell family and controlled by the Oppenheimers and Ruperts.

When teenagers were being killed, when teenagers were escaping the country into exile, when young children were being arrested and harassed by the police, Cyril Ramaphosa was wining and dining with the white capitalist establishment in South Africa.

When Solomon Mahlangu was undergoing a trial with the clear intention that apartheid courts were going to execute him, Cyril Ramaphosa was in the boardrooms of the white capitalist establishment.

If this is not a collaboration with the oppressive and exploitative system, then we do not know what collaboration is.

The question you must ask yourself is why Cyril Ramaphosa was allowed in the boardrooms of white people's organisations when Apartheid was killing school children?

Why was Cyril Ramaphosa allowed to organise a union of black workers if he posed any threat to the nonsensical apartheid regime?

It is on this basis that after his release from prison, President Mandela was introduced to the Mennels and Oppenheimers who had a working relationship with Cyril Ramaphosa from the 1970s.

The white capitalist class hijacked the militancy of the youth to push for their agenda and interests and co-opted black leaders who are leading South Africa to this day.

The reason the white establishment, white-controlled media and the white-controlled courts always defend Ramaphosa is because he was captured a long time ago in the late 1970s.

We need to save South Africa from collaborators of the apartheid capitalist system. The ruling party must save itself from white minority control.

Free, Quality, Decolonized and Well-Resourced Education as a Generational Mission

African people, the youth of 1976, played their role in the struggle for liberation.

It is those young revolutionaries who identified education as central to the development of our society, and they fought for the right to be taught in their own language and paid with their lives for the ideals they believed in.

The vision of those young people and their commitment should inspire us to fight for the dignity of our people.

The Fees Must Fall generation took the baton from the generation of 1976 and brought into sharp attention the evil of a capitalist and colonial education

It is a generation of young people who identified a generational mission and resolved to fight for it even if it cost them their lives, freedom and personal advancement.

We salute all those who sacrificed their lives in advancing the struggle for free decolonised education

We salute the likes of Kanya Cekeshe and the late Mlungisi Madonsela and thousands of students who gave their all in a genuine cause that would benefit the majority.

The consciousness of the Fees Must Fall generation can never be divorced from the 1976 generation.

These young people understood that the struggle is not about them and their institutions only, but about changing South Africa for the better with education at the centre of their struggle.

It is for this reason why students fought for the insourcing of the exploited university workers, security guards, cleaners, who earned a mere R1500 even though they are the ones who keep institutions running on a daily basis.

Today workers in institutions of higher learning are insourced, earning higher wages and are receiving benefits, because of a generation of young people who achieved what trade unions failed to do for decades.

It is for this reason that this generation of young people continues to fight for the free registration and scrapping of historical debt because they understand that education must not be a privilege of the few, but a social good that will help us develop an independent continent.

We salute these generations of young people who are in a long line of defiant youth who have shaped history and fought for the poorest of the poor at all material times.

The generational mission of the 1976 generation and the generation of Fees Must Fall is not complete.

Majority of students are still on the outskirts of higher education, the curriculum is still not decolonised and focused on developing the continent. The colonial statues are still present across campuses glorifying those who conquered us and stole our land.

Students still sleep in toilets due to lack of student accommodation, and during this COVID-19 pandemic, we are seeing how historically white institutions of higher learning are distributing digital and financial resources to their students, while the institutions of the poor and black majority struggle to adapt to the new conditions.

In the Basic Education sector, majority-black schools do not have adequate infrastructure, still, use pit toilets and do not have adequate teacher capacity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus not only the broader racial and economic inequalities in our country but has also exposed how our Education sector is based on the same Apartheid separate development that characterised schooling in 1976

As we wish the EFF Student's Command a Revolutionary Happy 5th Anniversary, we say to the collective leadership and membership not to abandon the noble struggle for free education and to defend the dignity of those who carry the hopes of their families.

We call on the Student Movement to always remember that there cannot be decolonised institutions of higher learning in a colonised society and to mobilise student's behind the banner of Economic Freedom and the demand for the return of the land which is the centre of our struggle for independence.

The EFF will continue to stand by students in their efforts to fight for the dignity of a black child, and we will continue to champion the struggles of students.

We have been there for student's when they have been arrested and insulted by a regime that hates young people and brutalised them in the same way the Apartheid government did in 1976

The EFF has been part of running the revolutionary #SizofundaNgenkani campaign which has registered thousands of students on the basis of the demand for free education and assisting the destitute when they enter the gates of higher learning.

As COVID-19 challenges our government to develop innovative ways of responding to the new reality, we advise South African government to institute the following in the short and long-term, to ensure education is not a privilege of the wealthy and that the aspirations of that 1976 generation are realised;

a) Introduce free decolonised education, advancing topics that pertain to indigenous knowledge, sovereignty and economic freedom in the curricula

b) Increase the use of information and communications technology in teaching, to improve computer literacy

c) Abolish the Independent Examination Board (IEB) and ensure all learners fall under one education system, with One Education System for One country

d) Undergo massive infrastructure development of schools, through the establishment of computer labs, provision of clean water and abolish the system of pit toilets in schools completely.

e) Establish safe scholar transport for learners particularly in rural areas

f) Undergo intensive teacher-training programs to equip teachers with social-sensitivity skills, the use of digital technologies and healthcare training to manage classrooms in the midst of COVID-19

In the Higher-Education Sector we propose the following;

g) Pass legislation that will Zero-Rate all Educational Apps and Content on all gadgets FOREVER even post COVID-19

h) Cancel all student debt and reintegrate all students who were excluded on the basis of finance. Further, all institutions must issue degrees and certificates that have been withheld on the basis of non-payment of fees

i) We call on the government to establish a central register and verification system that will link information between institutions of higher learning, Home Affairs, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and all relevant social development departments, in order to protect the dignity of students from performing their poverty to receive assistance

j) Establish a sexual crimes unit in all institutions of higher-learning that must be comprised of 70% female staff who have undergone sufficient sensitivity training and

are familiar with health and legal processes to protect victims of Gender-Based Violence

k) Facilitate the reopening of all nursing and teaching colleges in order to meet growing demand in the health and education sector

l) introduce Swahili in institutions of basic and higher learning and ensure that all courses are available in South African languages that are not English and Afrikaans

m) Ensure that all public medical schools provide courses on traditional medicine to combat infectious diseases and common illnesses

n) Establish satellite campuses in strategic economic zones to ensure localised development and curb migration of skilled young people to metropolitans such as Johannesburg and Cape Town

o) This can be in the form a satellite campus of;

- the University of Witwatersrand's School of Mining Engineering in Rustenburg which will focus on mining and mineral beneficiation.

- a satellite campus of the University of Limpopo's School of Physical and Mineral Sciences in Phalaborwa, Mokpane and Sekhukhune which will focus on mining and mineral beneficiation

- a satellite campus of the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences in Ehlanzeni in Mpumalanga which will focus on agriculture and agro-processing

- a satellite campus of the University of the North-West's School of Agricultural Sciences in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality which will focus on agriculture and agro-processing.

- a satellite campus of the University of Cape Town's Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment in ZF Magcawu District Municipality which will focus on renewable energy

Through these short and long-term solutions, the demands of the generation of the 1976 Youth Uprising can be fulfilled, and a society where education is at the centre of a continental-developmental agenda can be achieved.

As the Economic Freedom Fighters inspired the 1976 generation for their love for education, we have begun a process of building a school that will be named Winnie Madikizela Mandela Combined School. The school will accommodate brilliant pupils who come from poor backgrounds and mainly those who have lost their parents as a result of HIV/AIDS.

The school will have an independent board of trustees and will be equipped with the best teachers and the best sporting equipment.

It is a school that will champion new decolonised modes of teaching, learning and centre Africans and African development in its curricula.

The time of paying lip service to honour the 1976 generation must come to an end; we must all play our part in achieving their vision for society by building long-lasting projects and enforcing effective legislation.

As the EFF, we have committed ourselves to this, and we will not wait to be in government to implement meaningful change in society.

Youth Unemployment in South Africa and The Need for a Conscious Youth

Fellow Fighters our country has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world

50% of all people between the ages of 15-35 are unemployed and are sitting in our communities, becoming more unemployable and resorting to crime and alcoholism

We are losing a generation of young people to hopelessness because of the lack of inward-industrial development in South Africa and the continent, which would lead to the creation of jobs and a strong economy.

The youth of our country has been left to drown in depression, and the graduates of South Africa are on the streets of South Africa begging for jobs.

The crisis of unemployment in South Africa is a direct result of the lack of political will from those in power, and we must never begin to blame another poor person for the unemployment crisis in South Africa.

Our people are unemployed because there are no skills development in this country and the economy is concentrated in the hands of people who exploit the desperateness of our African brothers and sisters and leave us fighting them for crumbs from their table.

We must encourage young people to be politically conscious and engage in activities that will develop them and their communities, not a narrow self-hate of fellow Africans who can help us broaden our economic activity by engaging in inter-continental trade and development.

The youth of today must learn from the youth of 1976 and not turn to alcohol when confronted with problems that require principled activism and innovative political solutions.

The youth of today must be at the forefront of saving our people from the destructive dependency on alcohol, which dulls the consciousness of the country and creates empty shells with no appetite to change their conditions.

Comrades the crisis of unemployment will not be resolved by seminars and appealing to the moral conscience of captains of the industry. These are the same people to profit from the super-exploitation of black people, and we cannot expect them to be the ones who will save us from this crisis.

The political power that so many have died and fought for must be used to effect meaningful economic change in our country by placing the economy and productive activity in the hands of the black majority.

This can be done by;

1. Passing legislation that will ensure that all government departments and all public institutions employ a minimum of 40% of people between the ages of 18 and 35.
2. Passing of legislation that will ensure that all government departments and all public institutions spend 50% of their procurement budget on Youth-owned businesses.
3. Ensuring that all private corporations employ a minimum of 35% of people between the ages of 18 and 35.
4. Ensure that a minimum of 40% of budget allocation to government departments in all spheres of government is specifically set aside for youth empowerment and upliftment.
5. Rescuing the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) from partisan management and cronyism that channels funding that is supposed to develop youth projects to the pockets of those affiliated with the ruling party
6. There must be regional and continental economic integration in a manner that will qualitatively and quantitatively expand economic activities and intra-trade in South Africa, the SADC region and the African continent. In this way, South Africans will be able to explore employment opportunities in the continent and develop mutually beneficial economic relations

Racism and Anti-Blackness As a Global Problem

Commissars and Fighters there is a war being waged against black people all across the world

We have witnessed in recent weeks the murder of black people by racist law enforcement agencies in the United States of America and the persistent anti-blackness that characterises the life of a black person even here in the continent

The impossibility of black life has been confirmed and now more than ever we are reminded that we cannot escape our common identity and we will be persecuted for the colour of our skin wherever we are in the world.

Fellow Fighter, the murder of George Floyd has confirmed what we have always known, that to be black is to be guilty until proven innocent, that to be black is to be a criminal and that blackness is the colour of suspicion and moral decay

When George Floyd suffered and said that **he cannot breathe**, it represented the suffocation black people as a result of the global system of white supremacy.

When George Floyd said that **he cannot breathe**, he spoke about the knee of imperialism and racism that suffocates Africa and exploits her resources

It is the United States and its allies which preaches so-called democracy and freedom, that suffocates Africa, the Middle-East and Palestinians in their own land by establishing army bases and sponsoring conflict to further their imperialist agenda

It is France which continues to make its former colonies in Africa continue to pay the colonial debt that suffocates black life and development in the continent

The suffocation of George Floyd, the senseless murder of Collins Khoza are not isolated incidents, but, it is the system of white supremacy that the generation of 1976 fought exercising its power and its racism.

Law enforcement agencies in society in their current form do not exist to protect the poor, but rather they protect the privilege and interests of capital at the expense of life, as we saw during the Marikana Massacre.

The hate for black people is institutionalised, and as a result, wherever you go in the world, it is black people who are insulted, undermined and murdered.

Here in the continent, in South Africa, we practice hate against African people, leading the murder and persecution of fellow Africans.

There is no difference between the murderers of George Floyd, who treated him like he was guilty and murdered him, and those who assume that Nigerians, Zimbabweans are criminals

Stop blaming a nationality for acts of criminality. Stop blaming a nation of African people for the crimes of individuals

These criminals would not be able to operate in South Africa without assistance from those in our communities and without assistance from corrupt police. We must identify those who are assisting in criminal acts in South Africa; we must isolate police who take bribes in order to ignore criminal acts in South Africa.

Let us stop treating Africans as if they are criminals because that is self-hate that makes you see fellow Africans through the eyes of those who colonised us.

Today since we have entered level 3 of the national lockdown, it is South African men who are murdering, butchering and raping South African women. It is South African men who are beating their children and abandoning their families. Where are the hypocrites who want to blame fellow Africans for all the social problems of South Africa?

Let us not be cowards, let us not be hypocrites like a government that shows solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter in America, but murdered Marikana workers who demanded a living wage.

Let us not be hypocrites like a government that arrested and brutalised students for demanding free education yet calls for black lives to matter abroad

Let us not be hypocrites, let us not show solidarity with Africans being abused and humiliated in China yet we embarrass and humiliate Africans here in South Africa

Let us not be cowards, and identify Bill Gates as an enemy, yet we don't want to accept that there is capture happening in South Africa facilitated by the Ruperts and the Oppenheimers

We must be consistent, and we must lead by example in defending the life of a black child

Let us understand that as Africans, we are one here in the continent and the diaspora. We exist in an international community and our struggles as black people are one, and we can practice black consciousness and defend each other at all costs.

We must not subscribe to a narrow consciousness, where we only concern ourselves with the problems of our villages and townships and the politics of South Africa. We must begin to accept that white supremacy and capitalism exists as an international system. It is for this reason that we must show solidarity with Collins Khoza and George Floyd at the same time because the struggle is the same.

That is why we are subjected to the destructive monetary policies of the IMF and World Bank, that is why we are subjected to paying colonial debts and that is why the mineral resources of Africa are extracted to the benefit of Western economies.

We must set the example here in Africa, and treat our fellow Africans with dignity.

The EFF continues to support the family of Collins Khoza and will seek justice for the Khoza family through all legal means possible.

On Colonial Statues

The global movement for the fall of the statues of all colonialists is in line with the EFF's mission for a decolonised society.

It was the EFF that called for the removal of all colonial statues and took this struggle into its hands even when we were told that it is vandalism and destruction of history

The history of colonialism must never be glorified or respected. The statues of colonialists like Rhodes, Henrik Verwoed, Paul Kruger, Louis Botha represent a painful history of land dispossession and murder of African people.

To allow these statues to exist in places of integrity and at the centre of a democratic society is to undermine the memory of those who died at the hands of murderers and to celebrate genocide.

You will never find a statue of Hitler in Germany and hear nonsensical arguments that it is the preservation of history.

It is because the life of black people is so disrespected that those who practised genocide on our people must be celebrated and their history preserved.

It is because of a belief that colonialism was a process of development, that thieves stand at the foot of a democratic parliament.

We welcome the long-overdue agreement by society that these colonial symbols must fall. With them, "Die Stem" in the South African national anthem must be removed, as it is an anthem of a racist apartheid society which was sung while our people were being brutalised by the Apartheid regime.

On Gender-Based Violence

Fellow Fighters there is a brutal war against women in this country.

We say black lives matter, yet black women are being beaten in their homes. We demand for black lives to matter, yet black women are being kidnapped, raped and brutally murdered here in our country.

The ruthless murder of women is done by cowards who exist in a society that hates its own mothers, its own sisters and its own daughters.

Every day there is news of the abuse of women and the femicide being perpetuated which has left the women of South Africa in a constant state of anxiety and fear for their lives.

Enough is Enough

It is in the hands of you the youth to defeat the violence being perpetrated against women in the same way you fought against Apartheid

It is the women, the mothers and daughters who kept the fires burning when all the male activists were arrested and in exile. It is the grandmothers of our country who raised the children who had lost their parents during Apartheid and kept our communities together.

It is the women of South Africa who protected activists from ruthless Apartheid security forces, risking their own lives. Today such hate and brutality is practised against the women of this country who nurtured us to political freedom.

It must come to an end; it is now time for us to take this struggle into our own hands and defend the women of South Africa.

COVID-19 and Current Conditions

We warned the government from the beginning that the easing of the regulations that guide the national lockdown to curb the spread of Coronavirus should not happen if it is not on the basis of science and medical evidence.

Today cases are getting out of control, and new cases of COVID-19 are averaging above two-thousand every day, taking us closer to One-Hundred Thousand COVID-19 cases each day. The deaths related to COVID-19 increase rapidly as we near the two-thousand deaths mark, and there is yet to be sufficient provision of PPE's and improvement of health infrastructures.

To make matters worse, the President of the country has allowed the sale of alcohol in a country that has a history of high fatalities and hospitalisation due to alcohol-related inter-personal violence.

This reckless decision places a burden on a health sector that is already overwhelmed and should be directing its energies to fight the spread of COVID-19. Nurses and medical staff are now further exposed to catching the virus because they do not have PPE's and are dealing with an increase in trauma unit cases due to alcohol

At Groote Schuur hospital in Cape Town, the number of people admitted to medical trauma units has spiked since the 1st of June 2020, when alcohol sales resumed, rising from 8 to 20 per day.

At Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital patients in the trauma, the unit was reported to have doubled in the space of 24-hours after the resumption of the sale of alcohol. A majority of the patients seen in these units were there due to alcohol-related incidents, whether it be motor vehicle accidents, domestic abuse or interpersonal violence.

This painful reality is a result of the incompetence, spinelessness and cowardice of our government led by Cyril Ramaphosa who has sacrificed the lives of South Africans in the interests of capital

We want to warn Ramaphosa and all his accomplices that the mass-deaths we are to witness over the coming weeks are due to his lack of decisiveness at a time when the country needed leadership. The death toll will continue to increase sharply and the health care infrastructure will be overburdened by alcohol-related trauma incidents

and struggle to fight the deadly Coronavirus. We call for the reinstatement of the ban on alcohol in protection of human life over the desire for profit.

We will hold this government and Ramaphosa personally responsibly for the deliberate jeopardising of black lives as he has now become an ally of the deadly Coronavirus by prioritising his relationship with white-monopoly capital over the lives of South Africans.

As the Economic Freedom Fighters, we continue to play a role of oversight on all procurement and legislative processes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We continue to guard against corruption and maladministration by those tasked with leading the country.

All EFF Public Representatives have committed a third of our monthly salaries to the FIGHT AGAINST CORONA VIRUS. This commitment has been made for 3 months, and thus far the EFF has contributed 12 million over a period of two months.

We will make a further donation to the Solidarity Fund to assist in the purchasing of food parcels, PPE's, ventilators, and improvement of health infrastructures to combat the spread and impact of the Coronavirus.

On Schools

The EFF maintains the rejection of the reopening of schools in the midst of the increase of cases and deaths relating to COVID-19.

The Department of Basic Education has based its assessment of readiness on what it defines as "variables" to determine readiness as schools according to them can never be 100% ready. Their claim that 97.6% of schools are ready to operate was based on the existence of the facility and not the qualitative aspect of these facilities.

Basically for the Department readiness may refer to a building with broken windows, desks, dysfunctional toilets and small classrooms, so long as there is a building in which learning can take place.

Their nonsensical assessment has produced deadly results and risked the lives of children. In the Western Cape alone 98 teachers have tested positive for COVID-19, and 1800 children who returned to schools have been infected. 20 schools have had to close due to positive COVID-19 cases.

The reckless decision to experiment with children will end in tears, and we will hold Cyril Ramaphosa personally responsible.

Constitutional Court Ruling

Fighters and Commissars, we welcome the judgment by the Constitutional Court which has ruled that the Electoral Act 73 of 1998 is unconstitutional insofar as it does not make provisions for independent candidates to contest representation in the National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures of South Africa.

We welcome the Constitutional Court judgement insofar as it enhances our political democracy and interprets the constitution and Bill of Rights in a manner that opens up our political system to people of different political persuasions.

The EFF will monitor and participate in the parliamentary process that will fine-tune legislation to ensure the maximum and fair participation of independents in our political system.

We further reject the herd voting system introduced in parliament and call for physical reconvening of parliament in a space where the government is and easily accessible for all. Herd voting deprives members of their democratic rights and that's what the constitutional court discouraged in the secret ballot judgment.

The entire process renders Parliament a circus and members have abdicated their duties to Chief Whips and are not effectively fulfilling their role as Public Representatives

On Elections

We reiterate our call for local government elections to be combined with the National and Provincial elections. This is on the basis that the South African political landscape is defined by a permanent state of elections which hinders Public Representatives from executing their duties. This is because political parties are preoccupied with elections every 2-years instead of providing basic services.

We therefore call for the postponement of the 2021 local government elections on this basis and in order to manage the impact of the Corona Virus and ensure full participation in the electoral process.

On Pan-Africanism and Internationalist Character

It is our duty as an organisation of the poorest of the poor to foster continental unity and respond directly to all attitudes that undermine the dignity of others and the broader goal for economic emancipation and the defeat of imperialism

We must never allow ourselves to be misled into a hatred of those who share a common experience with us. Such attitudes are orchestrated by former colonisers in an attempt to render African people a child race which is at war with each other and needs supervision

Accordingly, we take this opportunity to remind South Africans of the need and importance of unity amongst Africans in order for our objective of economic freedom to be realised;

We must integrate African economies in order to undermine the neo-liberal global economy which survives on unequal trade with Africa and the exploitation of our raw materials

We must achieve political stability within the continent in order to build one United States of Africa, with a central economy and one parliament.

Accordingly, we welcome the resignation of former Prime Minister of Lesotho Thomas Thabane and call for a peaceful political transition in the country, where a suitable and accountable leader will be elected.

We continue to extend our solidarity with those resisting the anti-humanitarian monarchy in ESwatini

The EFF maintains its call for boycotts, divestment and sanctions against the apartheid state of Israel as a concrete form of solidarity with the Palestinians to end the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel.

We further extend our solidarity with the people of Western Sahara to realise real political independence from colonial domination that terrorises the region

We call for meaningful intervention by the United Nations (UN), African Union (AU) and all humanitarian bodies in the slave trade of black Africans that is happening in Libya that has resulted in thousands of Africans seeking asylum in Europe.

The situation in Libya is a direct result of the destabilisation orchestrated by the United States and confirms our belief that Africa must unite to oppose imperial intervention that seeks to restore and sustain the inhumane treatment of African.

Our approach to industrialisation must be based on an attitude of continental integration and SOE's must be at the centre of our expansion and developmental efforts

In Closing

We have warned Cyril Ramaphosa who has constituted himself as an ally of white-monopoly capital and the Corona Virus that he will be held personally responsible for the loss of life that is going to happen as a result of his decisions.

He will be met with the same attitude of his predecessor, for having sold off our national assets and sacrificing the lives of workers, children and the elderly to please those who funded his political campaign for Presidency and adopted him before the transition to democracy in South Africa.

We will not allow South Africa to be run like a family affair, presided over by the adopted child of the Mennell family and allies of the Ruperts and the Oppenheimer.

The youth of 1976 did not risk their lives for our freedoms so that our lives can be sacrificed to maintain the strength of an apartheid economy and fill the pockets of the puppets of white-monopoly capital.

We will continue to defend the rights of all South Africans, particularly workers in this difficult time, who can approach our Labour Desk led by the National Chairperson should they encounter any problems in the workplace.

Let us continue to practice proper hygiene, let us continue to protect one another and defend the women of South Africa and let us resist the urge to die for an economy we do not own or control.

Stay Safe.

Protect your loved ones and those in your communities.

Hasta La Victoria Siempre.

Thank you very much.

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