



## **EFF 8<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL CELEBRATION ADDRESSED BY CIC JULIUS MALEMA**

Monday, 26 July 2021

We send our revolutionary greetings to all the progressive forces.

Today we celebrate the 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Economic Freedom Fighters, a revolutionary social mass organisation that was founded by revolutionary activists from all part of South Africa 8 years ago.

The month of JULY IS A VERY IMPORTANT MONTH IN THE HISTORY OF SOCIALISM AND SOCIALIST PROGRESSIVE FORCES ALL OVER THE WORLD.

The CUBAN JULY 26 MOVEMENT OF FIDEL CASTRO BEGUN ITS REVOLUTIONARY ACTION against the Batista regime on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 1953.

We are aware that there are attempts to sponsor a counter revolution in Cuba, and we call on the people of Cuba to resist American imperialism, which for decades has tried to destabilise the CUBAN REVOLUTION.

THE MONTH OF JULY IS ALSO IMPORTANT BECAUSE 100 YEARS AGO, the CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS FOUNDED AND FESTIVITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE STILL ONGOING TO CELEBRATE THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA.

The CCP is currently the world's most important political organisation, one which will soon lead the world's biggest economy. The global balance of forces will gradually change in favour of progressive socialist forces. The ideological and political dominance of Western forces led by the United States have brought too much suffering to the people of the African continent. US Imperialism and its neo-liberal

ideology has destroyed the world and undermined any efforts of many African countries to defeat and eradicate poverty.

As we said in our statement to wish the CCP its 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday,

- a. China must unashamedly continue to build solidarity with all progressive Marxist-Leninist forces all over the world and particularly contribute to the ideological, political and organisational development and growth of all progressive forces in the world like it is doing with the World Symposium for Marxist Political Parties.
- b. China must consider cancelling all debts of impoverished countries, particularly in the underdeveloped economies.
- c. China must aggressively and purposely play a leading role in the industrialisation (development of the productive forces) in all countries in the world.
- d. China must play a more central role in peacekeeping and peace-making.
- e. China must be the leading voice in calling for the reform of multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund.
- f. China must unapologetically lead a new socialist world order devoid of imperialism, imperialist wars and dispossession of the powerless.
- g. China must lead in the establishment of alternative progressive global institutions, that must provide a counter-narrative to established institutions, and the aim of those progressive institutions must be to provide support to emerging socialist economies the world over.

**When we gathered in Soweto 8 years ago, we asked the question of WHAT IS TO BE DONE because there are several observations that had made about the politics of South Africa.**

Amongst these observations which are contained in the Founding Manifesto of the Economic Freedom Fighters,

The 20 years of political freedom have not borne much significance to the people of South Africa.

The political power that was transferred to the black majority through inclusive elections in 1994 was never transformed into economic freedom as the majority of Africans remain on the margins of society as unemployed, underemployed or discriminated-against in their employment, while those who held economic, social and political power since the colonial period continue to enjoy economic, social, and professional privileges.

The post-1994 government has maintained the apartheid and white-supremacist state, with the consequence that the majority, in effect, have become a voting, but powerless, majority.

The conditions of the people are generally deplorable and show no evidence of a liberated people.

Most of the people of South Africa have to engage in mass action or service-delivery protests to receive attention from government. Some resort to criminal activities, and a majority suffer in silence with the hope that conditions will change for the better.

The post-1994 government has lost its capacity to understand the aspirations of the people, hence deepening neglect and violence against the people, from the brazen abuse of power by political authorities and the sheer disregard of the voice of the people.

Political power in the control of the post-1994 government is meaningless, because it has not been used to win the battles that began during the wars of dispossession.

The post-1994 government has weakened its capacity to provide services, drive economic growth and development.

The South African government had intended to redistribute 30% of land by 2014, but in 2012 only 8% had been redistributed.

8 YEARS AGO, we additionally made the following observations:

The former liberation movement in office will never be a sustainable solution to South Africa's developmental problems in the foreseeable future, owing to its ideological zigzags, and the open dominance of neoliberal and right-wing politics. If left unchallenged by a radical left political formation, this will give rise to and attach some sense of political legitimacy to political parties whose agenda and political programme is to continue with white supremacy and the imperialist domination of South Africa.

The former liberation movement's integrity and credibility will gradually decline because it will not address the many massive developmental challenges confronting society in the current status quo. Poverty, unemployment and inequalities are worsening under the post-1994 government. This is because the former liberation movement does not welcome radical policy shifts and is instead obsessed with protecting the interests of white monopoly capital.

Political parties in opposition to the former liberation movement in office oppose it on superficial issues, because all the major political formations in parliament carry the same neoliberal, capitalist and free-market programme that the incumbent government does.

The Congress-aligned left-wing formations have been swallowed into reform politics of patronage and will never regain integrity to pursue real working class struggles any time soon.

The trade union movement (which is supposed to defend workers' interests) will soon be swallowed into the same politics of reform. All those who push for a radical agenda will be isolated, banished and portrayed as anti-government.

Independent trade unions will continue to emerge and grow bigger because previously dominant unions will gradually fail to represent workers.

The majority of people in informal settlements, townships, villages and other poor communities will disengage from mainstream politics and not vote in successive elections. This will be sure to happen if, as fighters for economic emancipation, we do not offer a real ideological and political alternative to the status quo.

The youth movement has been turned into a lapdog sent to repeat what the incumbent government leadership says. Puppet youth leaders will be rewarded with Cabinet posts and other perks to sustain their puppet status.

Victimisation of those who are suspected of being part of the political alternatives to the former liberation movement will increase, with threats of arrest, assassination and the possible manipulation of the justice system.

The middle class will further drift away from the former liberation movement and beef up the neoliberal alternative.

Service-delivery protests will intensify and workplace stoppages in the mines and on farms will also continue in higher volumes than before, thus worsening the economic crisis South Africa is experiencing.

Social movements and issue-based organisations will remain on the margins of mainstream politics and only mobilise on sector-based issues, which will not relate to mainstream electoral and power politics.

**Any form of generalised uprising will be harshly suppressed by the state machinery, in an attempt to prevent it from escalating to a level where a sitting government can be toppled.**

The youth will become more disgruntled under the leadership of the former liberation movement and like in previous elections; the youth will be fed so many empty promises on education and jobs, which will never be created, because there is no radical, convincing plan on how this can be done.

South Africa has been turned into a kleptocracy, with government leaders openly looting state resources, pursuing self-enrichment and classifying reports and processes that seek to expose such callous behaviour. Those close to political leaders will get richer and more corrupt because they will know that, like them, they are immune from prosecution.

It was therefore on the basis of these observations that we responded to the question of WHAT IS TO BE DONE.

OUR RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTION, 8 Years ago was that we should found a revolutionary organisation as a fighting weapon for the poor.

The EFF has since its formation demonstrated that it is the most dependable and trustworthy fighting weapon in the hands of the dispossessed, landless and jobless masses of our people.

**SINCE OUR FORMATION 8 YEARS AGO, THESE ARE SOME OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS: ORGANISATIONAL AND POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS.**

The EFF Pan-Africanist message for continental unity and economic freedom in our lifetime has echoed across the continent. It has led to the formation of the EFF structures in Namibia, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Eswatini, Malawi and Ghana by young, militant, and fearless generation. The message echoes across the continent because young people have realized that there cannot be economic emancipation in one country while the rest of Africa remain as neocolonial in the neoliberal clothes.

Here is South Africa, we can confidently celebrate the fact that the formation of the EFF 8 years ago has changed the social, economic, and political landscape, and it will never be the same. Millions of activists have responded to the clarion call for economic emancipation.

Today, the EFF is fastest growing political movement, both qualitative and quantitative with a clear program of action. We have brought young people to politics of program and activism, instead of politics of careerism and patronage.

We have increased our votes from 1.2 million votes in 2014 to just under 2 million in 2019. We have increased our public representatives from just over 60 in 2014 to more than 900. We are represented in the national Parliament, in all provincial legislatures and in majority of municipal councils.

The days of sleeping legislatures are behind us. The days of sending political rejects in legislatures are behind us and the days of using legislatures to sweep corruption are well behind us.

They can use their majority to pass unconstitutional laws, behave in an irrational manner and try and protect each other incompetence, but we are there every day, in every committee meeting, oversight and most municipal councils to expose their incompetence.

It is the EFF that went to the Constitutional Court to defend and protected the independence of the Office of the Public Protector when it is no fashionable. Today, there is no doubt in anyone's mind or politician who may want to abuse their position that the findings of the Public Protector are binding until reviewed and set aside.

It is the EFF that said former president Jacob Zuma must pay back money spent on non-security related upgrades at his homestead in Nkandla when many thought it was a frivolous and pointless political program.

In the 9 years Mr. Zuma was in Office, he survived 6 motions of no confidence tabled by opposition parties. It was the 7<sup>th</sup> motion of no confidence that the EFF tabled for the first time that pushed Mr. Zuma out of office.

It was the EFF that led and supported land occupation programme that gave many of our landless people land across all provinces.

The people of Moidraai farm in Free State and many other areas currently occupy a new residential area. In Bela-Bela, the EFF tabled a motion for a land expropriation program that led the municipal council to allocate 700 fully serviced stands to deserving landless people.

The EFF was formed at a time when the South Africa government was under the control of the Gupta parasitic criminal syndicate with corrupt and malicious control of key departments and state-owned enterprises.

The EFF effectively led a political program, including in parliament, that stopped the Gupta criminal syndicate. One of the by-products of the EFF political program against the Guptas is a vibrant political landscape. This has led to improved oversight over the executive and government across all spheres.

The EFF has used its parliamentary participation to table legislation that will change the economic architecture of South Africa.

South Africa's economy continues to be concentrated in the hands of few minorities. According to the Reserve Bank, South Africa's banking sector is dominated by the five largest banks, which collectively held 90.1% of the total banking sector assets without state participation. The same ownership patterns can be found in other financial sector industries such as insurance and asset management.

The EFF tabled a private member bill in parliament to amend the Banks Act of 1990 to allow the creation of state-owned banks that will register and conduct commercial banks. While the bill was passed by parliament and signed by the president into an act under the finance act tabled by the finance minister, it is the EFF persistence that led to the amendment of legislation that allows the creation of state banks.

The EFF tabled a private member bill to nationalise the South African Reserve Bank to discontinue private ownership of the central bank and it is currently before parliament.

The EFF continues to champion workers interests. The EFF, through its public representatives in Johannesburg, Tshwane and Nelson Mandela Bay municipal councils, tabled successful motions on the insourcing of municipality workers. Consequently, thousands of security guards, cleaners and other low-paid workers are now full-time employees with proper salaries. Security guards in Nelson Mandela Bay were insourced with a salary increase from R4 000 to R11 0000. In Rustenburg, the EFF fought for workers to be reinstated after they were wrongfully terminated.

Today, the EFF Labour Desk has recorded wins for workers in different factories, workplace and against government institutions that exploit workers.

The EFF Gender Desk under the guidance of the Deputy Secretary General is at the forefront of the fight against gender-based violence in courts, homes, rural areas, townships and everywhere where it happens.

The EFF most outstanding achievement in the last eight years since the formation of the EFF is the fight against anti-black racism and continued disregard of black lives. Despite the attainment of political freedom, black people are subjected to racism, including by institutions such as banks, insurance companies, many other service providers, and right-wingers. The EFF has built the confidence of black people, in particular black workers working in racists companies, to confront racism everywhere where it encounters it.

These are some of the few organizational and political achievements we look back in the last 8 years and we see as solid foundation for the work that lies ahead for South Africa and African continent.

Because we use superior logic and advanced tools of analysis, we were able to foresee all what is happening in South Africa 8 years ago.

The EFF Founding Manifesto which was adopted 8 years ago says, “**Any form of generalised uprising will be harshly suppressed by the state machinery, in an attempt to prevent it from escalating to a level where a sitting government can be toppled**”.

The activities of the past two weeks are a reflection that South Africa is sitting on a ticking time bomb.

What happened in South Africa two weeks ago was not an insurrection and was never an attempt to topple government.

Anyone who suggests that what transpired in South Africa two weeks ago is an insurrection is a charlatan, an opportunist, liars who have substituted their brains with hot air.

There was never an insurrection in South Africa and there was never an attempt for an insurrection.

Many social media commentators confused the Economic Freedom Fighters' rejection of the deployment of soldiers into the streets to police the unrests that were ignited by the arrest of former President Jacob Zuma with the endorsement of the destruction of shopping malls. On the contrary, the EFF does not and did not endorse the looting and destruction of property.

Bringing soldiers into the streets for civilian unrest is a sign of a government that has no legitimacy amongst its people, where leaders are unable to persuade citizens to conduct themselves in accordance with the law. Those who lived under the racist illegitimate apartheid government will vividly remember that to remain in power and in charge, the regime had to threaten force and arrests of defenceless people. Thus, apartheid has to perpetually bring soldiers into civilian matters because it was illegitimate.

Almost all illegitimate regimes in the world are fraught with soldiers on the streets to protect private property and to protect the elite. When he won an illegitimate election, Uganda's President had to bring in the soldiers to remain in power.

In eSwatini, the so-called King who recently sworn in a Prime Minister to be loyal to him as the King recently deployed soldiers because he is presiding over a personal fiefdom, an illegitimate government established without the will of the people.

In Myanmar, there are soldiers on the streets because they overthrew a democratically elected government and have to enforce their rulership through threats of violence.

When the government of Cuba recently encountered the United States sponsored minute protests in the Capital City, the government of Cuba and its leadership mobilised masses into the streets to defend the Cuban Revolution. The leadership of the Cuban people knew and understood that the best defence against reactionary forces is the masses, not guns, military threats or show of force.

In the US, the military is deployed into civilian matters when there is a real threat of insurrection, and this is guided by the Insurrection Act of 1806. Of course, Donald Trump deployed the military to some of the States during the George Floyd and Black Lives Matter protests, and this was hugely rejected by American military specialists and generals, who have a moral obligation to disobey illegal instructions from a Commander in Chief.

Of course, when there is a real threat of insurrection, institutionalised terrorism and attempts to overthrow a government through unlawful means, the military can be legitimately deployed to suppress such. South Africa is not confronted with an insurrection, counter-revolution, or terrorism by all means of measure and standards, let alone a coup d'état.

There is absolutely no one who has yet threatened to remove the sitting government through violence, and all the intelligence services, crime intelligence, SSA and Military Intelligence have publicly admitted that there is no threat of insurrection yet.

## VACCINE RACISM IN THE WORLD

Vaccination of all people, particularly frontline health and care workers, older adults, and those people at high risk of death because of underlying conditions like heart disease and diabetes, is important for South Africa, Africa and the World to end destructive variants of the Coronavirus and contribute towards putting the world on the path to ending the pandemic.

Since the world has begun with mass Coronavirus vaccination, the West and imperialist have again shown that to them, the lives of the poor and Africans in particular, are meaningless as long as they continue to extract our cultural, mineral and human resources.

We have witnessed vaccine racism in the world as rich countries continue to stockpile more vaccine than they need while our people continue to die.

This is made worse by incomplete and corrupt governments that controlled by profit instead of the wellbeing of their people.

Vaccine budgets were looted, there is over reliance on vaccines from Western countries while there is diversity of vaccines that countries can also access in large quantities and vaccinate as many of our people as possible. We have called for South Africa to diversify access to Coronavirus vaccine suppliers and ensure that we vaccinate millions of our people.

We are not going to reach herd immunity by vaccinating Discovery customers and few suburbs while millions of our people in rural areas and townships are not vaccinated. If government continues to fail our people, South Africa vaccinate majority if not all white people and few black elites while our people with comorbidities will continue to die.

Vaccine rollout must go back to science. We must prioritise the most vulnerable before we open vaccination according to age group, a method that is unscientific given limited vaccines.

## PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE VACCINES

Vaccines are essential, if we ever want to see this country going back to operating in a full-capacity

It is for this reason, the EFF marched to SAHPRA, demanding alternative vaccines, so that we can increase efforts of saving the lives of our people

We marched against a capture of our health regulatory authority, by parasites and capitalists, who have turned a health crisis into an opportunity to conduct a transaction

The over-dependency on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which Ramaphosa has become a marketing agent and ambassador of, is why we are seeing such a high rate of infections and slow vaccine program

Global pharmaceutical companies, are weapons of the establishment, and have forced Ramaphosa, Helen Rees and SAHPRA to deliberately delay the approval and use of alternative vaccines from the enemies of global capitalism.

It is for this reason that SAHPRA drags its feet on the use of Chinese vaccine Coronavac, and Russia's Sputnik-V Vaccine.

Because those at the helm of SAHPRA, are literally in bed with those who have interests in J&J

The EFF's march to SAHPRA, led to a PR approval of the Coronavac vaccine from China, because to date the vaccine is still not being used.

We want to send a strong warning to these greedy vultures at SAHPRA, that we will not tolerate a vaccine program that operates on the availability of J&J vaccines. In this country our vaccine program operates like a light switch, when there is J&J there are vaccinations, when there is no J&J, our people are surrendered to death.

Coronavac and Sinovac have been approved by the World Health Organization and have been proven to be effective against this virus. The continued refusal to use them, is tantamount to a genocide, and we will not sit by and watch while our people die in the interests of profit.

As much as we support the vaccines, we must not force our people to vaccinate through dictatorship by the private sector and businesses and all state-institutions.

There is a growing tendency of dictatorship in South Africa because of a government that has shown that they cannot inspire faith in our people and convince them to do anything, and whenever confronted by a challenge, they threaten or send soldiers.

The EFF must state categorically that we will go to court if government fails to intervene in the growing tendency of the private sector making vaccinations compulsory through the back door.

We have received reports of institutions, employers and even landlords threatening our people with deadlines to vaccinate, instead of promoting vaccine use.

The solution to vaccine fears, is engagement with our people, and exhibiting to them the need for vaccinations in order to save their own lives. Our people must be engaged, not threatened and have their health rights violated.

COMMITTED, DISCIPLINED GROUND FORCES TOWARDS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS.

As the EFF, we are approaching the upcoming important local government elections from a position of strength and governance experience we gained in the last 8 years. Many people confuse our call for postponement with being organisationally weak.

Fighters remain committed, disciplined, and grounded in popular grassroots formation and community struggles. We called for the postponement of elections because our assessment of scientific studies and data presented showed that if South Africa continues with elections, they will not be free and fair. We welcome the report by former Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke panel that recommended postponement of elections and the announcement by the IEC to. Say they accept these recommendations.

While the EFF was the lone voice at the beginning calling for postponement of local government election, we are happy that others have come to this realisation, and we will work together to ensure free and fair elections.

We are ready for the elections. We are on the ground, committed and willing to participate in free and fair elections, but not at the expense of lives of our people. We have 4 033 out of 4 468 branches in good standing.

We should be the ones pushing for election as the fastest growing political party, but not at the expense of lives of our people.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEMANDS

Our demands towards local government elections are clear based on our founding manifesto.

We want municipalities to be the centre of South Africa's industrialisation policy. Each municipality must represent a site of meaningful participation in the economy.

EFF municipalities will incentive manufacturing of semi-finished and finished products depending on comparative advantage.

Municipalities in Eastern Cape must have strong influence in the dairy industry and all its up and downstream activities.

Municipalities in Limpopo must play an active role in establish agro-processing facilities to create jobs and grow the economy in all regions.

Municipalities in Mpumalanga must be at the centre of South Africa energy production and localise ownership and control of mining.

All townships in South Africa must be turned into special economic zones, and municipalities must create a conducive environment, subsidise infrastructure development and enter into agreements with private investors to secure local jobs.

We must continue the fight to ensure all workers in local government and rebuild local government capacity from scratch to deliver services to our people.

The management of municipal pensions of all municipalities will prioritise investment in potential industries will play a role in food security for all households because investment in manufacturing of goods for consumption to create jobs.

Municipalities procurement budget will serve as instrument to drive job creation by ensuring that a minimum of 80% of all goods and services procured by the state if we cannot insource are produced locally.

These are some of the immediate and important demand we will make as the EFF towards the upcoming important local government elections.

We must put it on record, that we are suspicious of the R350 extension of the Unemployment Grant, only until March 2022, which will be just after the postponed Local Government Elections

The EFF has long called for a Basic Income Grant, and to confine the extension to the election period seems to be another food parcel program of the ruling party, implemented by the state.

The grant must be made a permanent reality, and the amount increased to a respectable amount which will have a meaningful impact.

#### ON ORGANISATIONAL BUILDING

Fellow Fighters our organization has grown and continues to show signs of becoming the first genuine alternative political party in South Africa.

In order for us to meet the objectives we have set, we must build an organic movement that is entrenched in the hearts and minds of our people

In the history of South Africa, there is no political organization that has been able to establish a national presence, outside of the ruling party.

All other organizations have taken a regional approach to establishing themselves, and focused on specific geographic areas.

The EFF is therefore the only opposition party that is working towards having a national presence, in order to ensure that we can take on the ruling elite in every single ward in South Africa

Before we had to take a decision to halt our political activity in the interest of protecting life, because we have long resolved we will never adhere to nonsensical lockdown regulations, the EFF had gone on a vigorous organizational renewal process.

All structures of the EFF convened Branch People's Assemblies and Regional People's Assemblies, ensuring that in every region, there is 90% presence of the EFF in terms of ward representation.

We are glad to report that these requirements have been met in all regions of the country, and the remaining task now, is to convene Regional People's Assemblies, in order to build an effective elections machinery.

We must now resume the process of organizational building and capacitate our structures to forge a people's revolution, guided by the 7 non-negotiable cardinal pillars of our movement

The level of discipline that has been shown in all Branch People's Assemblies and Regional People's Assemblies must continue. We are not like our neighbours, who kill each other in meetings fighting for power.

There has not been a single report of violence or disruption in any of the meetings of the EFF, and all organizational processes have continued without a drop of blood.

This is a sign that when the EFF assumes power, we will never see the factional warfare, spilling onto the streets, because we are an organization founded on discipline.

We commend Fighters for protecting each other, and not showing greed and opportunism, in contesting positions in the EFF. This is the type of humble and committed leadership that will take us forward.

## ON DECOLONISED EDUCATION AND THE STUDENT'S MOVEMENT

Comrades the struggle for free, well-resourced and decolonised education is not over.

The rallying call for access to higher education has seen a regime which hates its children, spill the blood of a militant youth, that is demanding to be educated.

This brave generation has taken up the spear from the revolutionary youth of 1976, and have confronted a government that is determined to keep young people in hopelessness.

We salute the Student Movement, particularly the EFF Students' Command, for being at the centre of an old struggle for free education, in order to develop themselves and their communities

The emergence of a defiant student movement, has resulted in the changing of the landscape in Higher Education for the better.

At a material level, the Student Movement of the EFF has had landslide victories of Student Representative Councils, and began changing the terms of engagement.

Free registration, walk-ins and clearances of historic debt, were once viewed as unobtainable goals, have become a yearly feature on campuses.

Through self-less activism, hundreds of thousands of students were allowed to conduct walk in registrations in 2018, through the persistence of the EFF Student's Command.

The doors of learning were forced open, in a pursuit of the objective for academic and research excellence. Multitudes of young people were removed from the doom of loitering in the streets and succumbing to substance abuse.

The most notable victory was the insourcing of workers, cleaners, kitchen staff, gardeners and all laborers in Universities.

This was a struggle that unionists and shop-stewards have rallied workers behind and failed for decades, it took a student movement of an organization that is only now turning 8-years old, to change the lives of workers

We salute this revolutionary youth on our campuses, that has understood that there is no liberation in campuses, without liberation of society and those who work amongst them.

The struggle however is not complete.

Over One -Hundred Thousand students have been unable to get their qualifications, because of student debt

As the only dependable organization to forward student struggles, the EFF has resolved to present in Parliament a Students' Debt Cancellation Private Member's Bill, to clear student debt and allow these young people to make a contribution to society

To deny people who have shown they have the capacity to complete their qualifications access to their degrees, is evil, and means that we are unable to transform the representation of lecturers and academics, because black people do not have the money to proceed with their education.

We must ensure that there is meaningful decolonisation of academia, and that all fields are able to respond to the need for innovative ideas in the country and the continent

Qualifications must not be designed to make capitalists, who get education in pursuit of money. Our education system must respond to the challenges of society, and our dark past of underdevelopment by colonialism and imperialism.

The rallying call for decolonial education must rise not only in South Africa, but the entire continent, and we must build a student's movement that will challenge all puppet regimes in Africa

Through this continental solidarity of the youth, we will create an Africa that is developmental, and centres education in all efforts towards economic freedom

## TRANSFORMATION OF THE MEDIA

The media space needs to be transformed if we are going to achieve this mission of building a society that reflects reality

As things stand, the entire media space operates in the interests of the ruling elite, and that means that what is consumed by our people seeks to present those who oppress and exploit them as their heroes

The EFF must continue being a champion for media freedom but also remain critical of captured news agencies that seek to distort the message of economic freedom

We must develop internal capacity and create systems that will allow us to participate vibrantly in the media space

## ON CREATIVE INDUSTRY AND HOSPITALITY

The COVID-19 pandemic has had the most brutal impact on the lives of people in the hospitality and entertainment industry.

Artists, who depend on gatherings in order to make an income are struggling to make ends meet, because this government has failed to develop a comprehensive relief package for those who maintain the soul of the nation.

The neglect of the entertainment industry means that these artists cannot afford to repay home loans, school fees for their children and buy basic necessities to sustain themselves and their families.

These are people whose primary source of income is events, and this government fails to consider this when they drag their feet on the vaccination program and make lockdowns a permanent solution. Before we know it, our artists will abandon the industry, and all those who gave us music and entertainment will die poor, while we pretend to be shocked.

The arts is central to nation building, and have always played a role in the struggle for liberation. To neglect the arts, is to neglect the spirit of society, and ways of resisting.

The past two years has seen the closure of the Fugard Theatre, the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg and most recently the sale of the Ticketpro Dome in North Gauteng. Artists have been occupying administrative buildings and taking to the streets, demanding relief for the creative industry.

Sadly, we are led in this country by a Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture who is skilled in sending condolences, and congratulating artists for achievements they have played no role in.

The EFF remains the only reliable ally to the creative industry, having set up an Artists Relief Fund during COVID-19, for all artists who have historically been part of our events.

As we celebrate our 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we must intensify our efforts to protect the creative industry and ensure that artists are taken care of.

We must champion the establishment of a state, non-profit recording and distribution company, in order to rescue artists from parasitic recording companies. Further to that, we must develop a legal unit to assist artists who need to reclaim ownership of their royalties and material from exploitative record labels.

Public broadcasters such as the SABC radio stations, cannot be caught in scandals such as we see now, of not paying artists royalties for their music, which they play on their platforms. Radio must pay all artists their needle-time royalties.

We must be at the forefront of demanding the professionalising of the creative industry, in order to protect artists and ensure they receive all that is due to them.

Actors and all those in the film industry must receive relief, and there must be a process where all old films and television series, and local content is broadcast in other countries and royalties paid to actors.

All actors must be paid for the re-airing of old soapies, because it is their blood and sweat on our television screens, and they deserve to be compensated for that.

Comrades the hospitality industry has equally been a victim of the incompetence of government and failure to protect industries.

This is a sector where majority of our people provide services, in hotels, restaurants and recreational spaces. The consistent bans on gatherings, and in some instances travel, has meant that it is impossible for these institutions to remain afloat.

Black businesses, who need to meet rental demands in order to maintain a presence in malls and city centres, have had to close down, because they are not making enough money.

Our tourism sector is on the verge of collapse, while we witness the rest of the vaccinated world carry on with their lives in football stadiums.

Workers in hotels are being paid half their salaries, because these institutions are simply not getting occupied as a result of lockdown regulations.

We call for a relief package for restaurants and the hospitality industry, particularly those that are black owned. The jobs in this sector must be protected and restaurant owners must be given the leeway to continue occupying buildings even when they struggle to meet rental payments.

The clause that prevents evictions during this period must apply to businesses, and no one must close down because they can no longer afford to pay rent.

We are in a war against a deadly virus, the creative and hospitality industry need our protection, if they are to exist after COVID-19. Our protection of this industry depends on a massive vaccination roll-out program, so that these institutions can function at full capacity.

## LAND

When the EFF spoke about radical transformation of society, at the centre of which is the return of dispossessed land back to those from whom it was dispossessed, the South African government, and the largely white quasi-intellectual base upon which the government depends, was caught unaware.

It is for this reason that the ruling party repeatedly rejected the EFF's attempts to amend the Constitution prior to 2018. For the ruling party, and the intellectual base on which it depends, the pain of landlessness was something that could be postponed indefinitely.

This is despite the shocking revelations of 2014 land audit report which stated that out of 122 million Hectares of SA land about 79% of this land is privately owned, 14% owned by the State, and 7% unaccounted for.

This was a glaring fact which the EFF strongly believes that the state should be a custodian in order to redistribute fairly and meaningfully and of most importance avail land for public purpose with no unnecessary hurdles.

The ANC is selling out on this important question of land by adopting some reactionary imperialist sponsored position on the land question when we have an opportunity to address the historical injustice and begin a concrete program of poverty eradication.

We contend that it is impossible to ensure a broad-based land redistribution programme when the land tenure regime is still primarily that of freehold tenure.

If the ANC continue with their attitude and adopt Section 25 as it is now, despite EFF superior logic, guidance, and willingness to work with them, our people will be left with no options. Land is everything to our people.

## JUDICIARY AND CR17 DOCUMENTS

We must speak against the decision to refuse to unseal the CR17 Documents by the North Gauteng High Court as an exhibition of the possible capture of our judiciary

The court has given no reasonable explanation as to why the President's ascent to Presidency is not of public interest, in terms of those who funded him essentially conducting a preliminary capture of the state

We are of the firm belief that those who funded Ramaphosa's political campaign to Presidency, are now beneficiaries of State-tenders and access to State-Owned Enterprises.

This becomes worse in the context of a pandemic, where pharmaceutical companies that are part of these CR17 documents, are now exclusive producers for South Africa's vaccine program

There is no doubt that the CR17 documents are of public interest, and we will approach the Constitutional Court directly, to ensure that these documents are unsealed

## ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND LGBTQI COMMUNITY

The plague of Gender Based Violence continues to terrorise our communities, and haunt all women and children

South Africa remains a place of fear, for the most marginalized, and brutal murders of people from the LGBTQI community, remind us of the intolerance of the men of South Africa

We commend the EFF Gender Based Violence Desk, for taking up the struggles of our people, such as elevating the matter of forced sterilisations of women who are HIV positive by the South African Health Department

The Gender Based Violence Desk continues to be at the centre of cases confronting women and children, registering a presence at all court appearances and providing relief and support to families

We must begin to legislate change that will protect women such as establishing special investigative units for crimes against women and children, and hate crimes against the LGBTQI community.

Judges who give lenient sentences to perpetrators must be removed, and we must create units that prioritize Gender Based Violence cases, and are trained with the necessary sensitivity, in order not to subject victims to secondary trauma.

## ON INTERNATIONALISM

Fellow Fighters the unity of Africa remains central to our agenda for Economic Freedom

We must continue to extend our support to our comrades in eSwatini, for waging a principled struggle against a despotic King.

The EFF remains committed to the idea of One united Africa, with no colonial borders, a central currency, an African standby army to fight terrorism and a unitary government.

There can never be a development of South Africa and its people, without the development of Africa and her people.

This means there must be massive investment in internal trade, Africans must seek job opportunities outside of their countries and we must build an economy that is based on our minerals.

The failure of Africa has been leaders who are dependent on the Western Nations, who have an obsession with power and as a result, sacrifice our continent to imperialists

Our problems began and continue, because of deliberate underdevelopment of Africa and the theft of our wealth, rendering our government puppet regimes

It was this tendency that we were fighting in the Pan African Parliament, where individuals were determined to undermine the rotational policy of the African Union, because they are servants of France.

The desire to keep PAP in only Francophone regions, is driven by corrupt elements that will never take Africa forward

In order to build a PAP with teeth, the institution must be radicalized and democratized, so that it can hold African states and leaders accountable

The EFF is of course in solidarity with the people of eSwatini, and is proud of our own comrades of EFF eSwatini, who have waged a revolution against the despotic regime of the King.

We must register that, the empty rumours that we are providing guns to our comrades in eSwatini are baseless, and are a tendency of regimes that have fallen out of favour with the people.

When there are popular uprisings, regimes of dictators always try and find a third-force, instead of confronting the real problems and accepting that they have failed and are no longer wanted.

There must be democracy in eSwatini, with a people's government and the wealth of the nation shared with the people. The time for all-powerful monarchs is in the past.

We continue to be concerned by the genocide of Palestinian people, by the Apartheid Israeli regime

Our solidarity efforts must intensify, because what is even worse is that vaccinations and medical care was prioritized for Israeli people, over Palestinians. This means that it is a well-planned genocide, and before we know it, we will speak of an extinct nation of the people of Palestine.

**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

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