



EFF STATEMENT ON UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS FACING SOUTH AFRICA

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The EFF notes the unemployment crisis reported by Stats SA. According to the latest quarterly labour force survey, the latest figures show a deepening of unemployment as more than 10.3 million people remain unemployed. A total of 3.1 million out of the 10.3 million of these people given up on finding employment. According to the expanded definition of unemployment, more than 11.4 million or 43.2 per cent cannot find work, the highest unemployment rate since 2008. These unemployment figures are a reliable measure to show that the current administration made empty job promises without a capacity, believable plan or the competence to lead us out of this crisis.

The current unemployment affects primarily young people. Of the 10.2 million young people between the age of 15 to 24 years, more than 32.4% are not in education or training or employment. These are young people who are just loitering the streets, left with no options but to engage in social ills such as drug abuse and crime. This is made worse because young women are at the receiving end of this harsh reality, made worse by gender-based violence. Black African women are the most vulnerable, with an official unemployment rate of 51.5% compared to 10% white women. The unemployment of white women has declined, meaning that while the economy is shedding jobs, jobs are created specifically for white women.

The crisis of unemployment is the biggest crisis that is a threat to national security. Failure to address unemployment crises, especially amongst the youth, has the capacity and potential to plunge the country into a crisis that will destabilise the little normality that has remain, including in lily-white racist serfdom that the ruling party invest the little state resources to protect.

The new dawn has failed drastically to develop any practical and believable plan to grow the economy. Instead, the obsession with the austerity doctrine by the Treasury and the finance minister has worsened the unemployment crisis. The idea that you can revive the economy and create jobs by reducing money circulating in the economy is reactionary. These budget cuts are taking jobs and are taking lives. Austerity measures are killing people, and the sooner

we see it this way, the better we will understand the incapacity and malicious budget cuts by Ramaphosa administration clear for all to see.

The EFF maintains that the only way to recover this economy will begin with bringing to an end the misguided austerity and back door privatisation that has preoccupy government. To create sustainable jobs, South Africa will have to become an industrial hub overnight to produce most things people use daily. Localisation is the most practical way hundreds of young people loitering the streets can wake up and go to factories. Localisation must be combined with real wage increase and building of state capacity to ensure that social services coupled with real wage increases grow the economy, reduce poverty and deal with the unemployment crises at the same time. The ruling party cannot do anything about the current crisis of unemployment.

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