



EFF STATEMENT ON 2022 4TH QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE SURVEY BY STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA

Wednesday, 01 March 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) notes the 2022 4th Quarter Labour Force Survey by Statistics South Africa. The Stats SA 4th quarter labour force survey shows that the number of unemployed people is sitting at 11.8 million using the expanded definition of unemployment.

Stats SA further shows that, using the official definition of unemployment, the proportion of those who are unemployed in the long-term, being the period between quarter 4 of 2012 to quarter 4 of 2022 increased from 68.2% to 78.3%.

This demonstrates that the ruling party lacks both the capacity and the willingness to grow the economy and create much-needed jobs. Instead, they have collapsed the state, the only weapon in the hands of black people to transform their lives and achieve economic freedom post-apartheid.

The EFF is concerned that the number of discouraged job seekers, which currently stands at 3.4 million capable and ready to work, continues to be extremely high. With South Africa's economy projected to grow by 2.5%, which is likely to be revised to below 2% because of the deliberate collapse and destruction of Eskom and the electricity supply, more people are likely to be discouraged from finding employment.

Even the number of unemployed people is likely to increase because South Africa has returned to pre-COVID conditions and most companies have resumed operations, resulting in an increase in employment for four consecutive quarters.

The new jobs reported by Stats SA today are not the result of the ANC's deliberate intervention. Celebrating a 0.2% drop in the unemployment rate and the creation of 169 000 jobs when there are over 11.8 million people out of work is simply claiming easy victories and deceiving our people.

The number of people who are not in employment, education, or training has increased to 13.4 million. These people are pushed towards the margins of society and forced to survive like animals. There is a strong correlation between unemployment, poverty, and crime in South Africa, and the more people continue to stay unemployed and forgotten the worse it will become.

It is even more concerning that the number of unemployed graduates has more than doubled from 4.4% in 2012 to 10.6% in 2022. This means that young people who were told to go to school listened, as they were promised a better future with education. However, the ANC government is failing to grow the economy and create jobs, even for educated young people.

The EFF continues to submit concrete and implementable solutions to the challenges of unemployment, and we are implementing them where we govern. However, the ANC is not interested in the future of South Africa, and Cyril Ramaphosa is happy to sit at the helm of a collapsing state, and wants the rest of South Africa to collapse with him in the name of profit.

The EFF calls on all employed, exploited, and unemployed people to join the National Shutdown on the 20th of March to demand the immediate resignation of Cyril Ramaphosa and stabilisation of electricity supply.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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