

UMKHOMB'ANDLELA

THE FIGHTERS COMMAND

VOLUME 1



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A letter from President Julius Sello Malema



Dear Fellow Citizens,

Only the EFF will redistribute land successfully in South Africa.

During the launch of our 2024 election manifesto at a packed Moses Mabhida Stadium, brimming with dedicated fighters and revolutionary volunteers from KwaZulu-Natal, we resolutely reaffirmed one of our cardinal pillars: land redistribution without compensation. Despite the populists and non-believers, we remain steadfast on our journey for the economic emancipation of Africans through land expropriation and eventual redistribution.

Over ten years since our formation, we maintain that there is no dignity without ownership of the means of production. The issue of landlessness remains one of the most catastrophic compromises of the CODESA negotiations and a massive failure of the current administration, despite arguments that Section 25 of the Constitution is not an impediment to redress.

While we are committed to pursuing redress within the boundaries of the law, it's evident that the current Constitution of South Africa falls short in effectively returning the land to its rightful owners. As a result, it is the intention of the incoming EFF administration to ensure that Section 25 is clear for all to understand and highlight the amendments necessary for the executive to implement it.



These are not mere pronouncements that cannot be backed by our manifesto, in fact, we have made it abundantly clear how the EFF government will introduce legislation, either through an amended Constitution or within the context of the current Constitution, to make the State the custodian of all land in South Africa.

In simple terms, all land will be owned by all the people of South Africa through their democratically elected government. No citizens should be forced to reside in unsafe buildings where their lives are endangered. Furthermore, no citizens should endure living conditions reminiscent of concentration camps, while the white

minority monopolises millions of hectares solely for recreational purposes.

The dire situation in the City of Johannesburg, where approximately 500 buildings stand hijacked and unfit for human habitation, mirrors the plight across the road in overpopulated and highly informal Alexandra. This alarming reality is a direct consequence of the failure to redistribute land since 1994. It is clear that someone is benefitting from our people's misery – and the EFF is determined to end this.

Every endeavour we undertake necessitates the involvement of our people and adherence to the law, and we recognise that change can be



challenging due to the accompanying shifts in power dynamics. However, under the EFF, the majority of citizens in this country will own the means of production. This stands in stark contrast to the leadership of the ANC, where our people have been granted freedom but denied true economic emancipation through land ownership.

Despite the fact that we have spent copious amounts of time educating the public on our policy of land redistribution, we are still deliberately misunderstood by some who do not understand why the issue of land is central to the existence of the EFF. For us, land equals economic empowerment and dignity. We believe that land redistribution can provide landless South Africans with the means to generate an income and become economically self-sufficient. With access to land, they can engage in agricultural activities, establish businesses, and create employment opportunities for themselves and others.

There is dignity in self sustenance and our people are owed that; there is dignity in working the land and navigating from subsistence to commercial farming; and it is highly possible and only requires political will. South Africans possess the capacity to engage in large-scale agricultural production and

capitalise on the value chain within the sector. Instead of being relegated to subsistence farming and mere consumers, we have the potential to become major players in agricultural production.

This can be achieved by ensuring closer cooperation between current commercial farmers and emerging farmers – under the EFF, current farmers who engage in the right practices by actively involving their fellow citizens through skills transfer will thrive. Additionally it is not our intention to chase farmers away, if anything, their enterprises will only grow under our policies of land redress. Unused tracts of land adjacent to current farms will be swiftly transformed into productive assets, and in our estimation, this will lead to a significant increase in South African exports, potentially multiplying several times over and generating the millions of jobs that we are committed to creating.

For land redistribution to be successful, the state must cease to be synonymous with public service malfunction and corruption, and assume its rightful place as the leader of society and the nation. As it stands, multinational corporations have been stockpiling land in our country to the detriment of our people. Therefore, it is imperative that the state take decisive action to rectify this

situation and put in place measures and legislation to limit the ownership of land by foreigners.

Undoubtedly, one of the most compelling benefits of land redistribution is its potential to substantially reduce poverty levels. Under the current failing ANC government, our people are not only landless but are trapped in a poverty cycle and used as voting fodder. Therefore, granting landless South Africans access land allows them to grow their own food, earn a livelihood, and escape the cycle of poverty.

In maintaining our commitment to uplifting the people of South Africa, the EFF refuses to continue this cycle of trapping people and keeping them underdeveloped. We are confident that land redistribution will lead to land ownership for previously marginalised members of society thereby opening up new opportunities that are currently unattainable under the misrule of the ANC; and ending the cycle of inequality.

Africans continue to be disadvantaged because they must pay to access land that was stolen from them by Europeans. It's an egregious injustice that those who committed theft expect payment for the return of what rightfully belongs to the African people. Under the leadership of the EFF government, we stand firm and



unyielding in our stance against such exploitation.

The EFF takes cognisance of the difficulties faced by the current land restitution programme which has been prone to corruption and conflict amongst beneficiaries, moves at an incredibly slow pace, and does not adequately address the societal need for land. As a result, as per our manifesto, the EFF will do away with land restitution as a mechanism for land reform, and have the land reform programme anchored mainly by land redistribution, thus allowing for accelerated land redistribution.

It is important to note that our approach to land redistribution is not limited to agricultural land but is multifaceted to address the dynamic needs of our people. A significant issue relating to land and stems from Apartheid spatial planning is urban land poverty, which has led to the majority of our population bearing immense transportation and accommodation expenses to reach the economic hubs where they are employed. It is a travesty that this continues to occur 30 years into our democracy. In order to address this the EFF government intends to release all state land and abandoned buildings in urban areas that can be used as low cost housing and alternative accommodation for our people.

Similarly, the dynamic needs of our people when it comes to land extend to rural development. While we advocate for our people to have the option to access economic opportunities in urban centres, we also understand that diversification is necessary for economic growth. It is therefore our firm belief that land redistribution can catalyse rural development by attracting investment, improving infrastructure, and creating employment opportunities in rural areas. It can help revitalise rural communities while reducing urban migration and overcrowding of urban areas, a fate that can only be achieved through land redistribution under the EFF government.

I will reiterate that since inception, the EFF has been committed to redistribution of land because it is the gateway to economic emancipation. Even when it was unpopular to make such pronouncements, we stood firm in this stance, and as we head into the 2024 elections, it remains our commitment to accelerate the redistribution of land and restore dignity to our people. There is dignity in land ownership. There is economic emancipation through land ownership. There is access to true freedom in land ownership. Therefore, as long as there are poverty alleviating mechanisms that can be fully exploited by the EFF government, we will achieve them all

for the benefit of our people.

Our commitment to the people of South Africa is land ownership in the true sense of the word. In a manner that will lead to self sustenance. In a manner that will reignite the rural economy. In a manner that will lead to the creation of African commercial farmers and captains of industries. All this can be achieved under the EFF government. The recently released manifestos of both the DA and the ANC demonstrate a poverty of ideas where land is concerned – this is there for all to see in their half-hearted and recycled non-policies that perpetuate the continuation of modern-day slavery under their governance. It is time for change that matters to the majority of our people.

Land – our non negotiable command.

Sincerely,

Julius Malema
President and CIC of the Economic
Freedom Fighters