



EFF STATEMENT ON WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Wednesday, 05 October 2022

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) pays homage to all Teachers who work diligently, passionately and tirelessly in shaping the minds and building characters of our next generation. On this World Teachers' Day, we salute our teachers who stand as key pillars in building a remarkable next generation.

We particularly note the theme of the World Teacher's Day 2002, which is "The transformation of education begins with teachers." However in South Africa, it is the lack of equal access to free, decolonized and quality education which stands in the way of transformation in the educational sector.

We reiterate our call for "Free quality education, healthcare, houses, and sanitation" as stipulated in our Fourth Non-negotiable cardinal pillar for Economic Freedom In Our Lifetime. The private and public education systems deepen the inequality gap and breed the racism of separate development. The disparity in the education system, which is dogged by stark inequalities and chronic underperformance, has deep roots in the legacy of apartheid that has gone largely unaddressed by the ANC Government.

We recognize our Teachers who are terribly burdened by the failures of the ANC Government. African Teachers are on the receiving end of systemic racism in private and Model-C schools. It is African Teachers who are the first respondents when our children fall to their deaths in pit toilets because the ANC hates the African Child.

It is African Teachers who are traumatized daily by learner hunger because the ANC Government sees it fit to steal crumbs from hungry mouths instead of implementing the school feeding schemes. It is African Teachers who are forced to work in dilapidated classrooms or even under trees because the ANC Government has failed to provide adequate educational structures. It is Teachers who are grossly underpaid while the State President, Cyril Ramaphosa stashes cash in mattresses at his Phala Phala Farm.

Amidst noble teachers in the educational sector, there are sex predators parading as teachers, who abuse their power over young lives. As early as late last year, the South African Council for Educators revealed that between April 2020 and July 2021, more than 160 cases of sexual misconduct had been perpetrated by male teachers in our schools. In all likelihood the rape

of learners by their teachers is higher as cases of learners who do not fall pregnant are generally not reported. It also does not account for learners who are often forced to have abortions.

We are also left to contend with racists masquerading as Teachers, who teach African children to be ashamed of their language, hair, skin and colour. We call on our noble Teachers to abhor such in their ranks and to diligently and fearless ensure that the sex predators and racists are removed from the system.

Today, the EFF also recognizes Teachers as knowledge producers, reflective practitioners, and policy partners. It is only an EFF Government that will remunerate our Teachers adequately. It is only an EFF Government that will create an educational space that does not emotionally and psychologically cripple our Teachers by equipping our schools with high-technology infrastructure to respond to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, while advancing topics pertaining to indigenous knowledge, sovereignty and economic freedom in the curricula.

The EFF has a deep appreciation and understanding of the critical role of Teachers in our fight for economic emancipation and as such, a government of the EFF will ensure the continuous development to address the professional and personal needs of teachers, including training in soft skills, emotional wellness and financial literacy in order to equip educators to impart a decolonized curriculum to learners.

The EFF pays a revolutionary tribute to our Teachers who go beyond the call of duty, those who are considerate in caring and attending to learners who are orphans, learners from child-headed households.

Salute Noble Teachers, Salute!

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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