



## **EFF CONDEMNS SAPO'S RETRENCHMENT OF 6 000 WORKERS**

Thursday, 07 December 2023.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) strongly condemns the recent approval of the South African Post Office (SAPO) business rescue plan to retrench 6 000 workers and close 420 branches nationwide. This devastating decision and what can only be described as a jobs bloodbath, is borne from years of ANC mismanagement and neglect, will only serve to deepen our unemployment crisis and further marginalise vulnerable communities who rely on essential postal services.

The closure of branches has many effects. It will force SASSA beneficiaries, particularly those in rural areas, to travel even further distances to collect their social grants, incurring additional financial burdens and hardship. In urban areas, longer queues and wait times will only exacerbate the already dire situation faced by grant recipients.

The ANC government's track record with SAPO is appalling, despite receiving billions of rand in taxpayer bailouts, the organisation has continued to deteriorate. The public postal service already received R7.3 billion rand between 2016 and 2019, which did nothing to shift things back and was placed under provisional liquidation in April 2023.

This recent business rescue plan, which relies heavily on retrenchments and branch closures, is a clear indication of the government's failure to effectively manage this crucial State Owned Enterprise (SOE). We are witnessing the potential dismantling of a vital public service, leaving millions of South Africans without access to essential services and jeopardising the livelihoods of thousands of workers as the country faces a cost of living crisis.

The EFF has long recognised the critical role of well-functioning SOEs in building a robust and inclusive economy. The ANC's reckless push towards privatisation, under the direction of Minister of Public Enterprises Pravin Gordhan, through deliberate neglect of SAPO is deeply concerning.

The EFF remains committed to fighting for a South Africa where SOEs are managed effectively and contribute to a just and equitable economy. Instances such as this confirm the urgent need to remove the ANC government in 2024, as they have no verifiable plan to create jobs, but are determined to create unemployment.

The 6 000 workers who will fall victim to these retrenchments must never forget that this government, which stated it does not have the responsibility to create jobs, has assumed the responsibility of sending them into massive poverty and unemployment.



**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**


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