

## THE EFF MOTHER'S DAY MESSAGE

Sunday, 14 May 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) celebrates and deeply appreciates dedicated mothers who carry, birth and /or raise children despite the harshest socioeconomic conditions. All the mothers who have picked up the sword from the Mother of the Nation – Mama Winnie Madikizela Mandela, we salute your courageous spirit and dedication to the EFF over the past 10-years.

Mothers in South Africa parent under harsh conditions. Most children, about 42% live with their mothers while 4% live with their fathers. Mothers are expected to maintain their children despite the stark reality that it is harder for women to find work compared to men.

Further, the women who do find employment are often employed in low paying jobs, where improvement prospects are limited. With this reality, the ANC Government has failed to fix these dire economic conditions. We celebrate our mothers who still rise!

The deteriorating public healthcare system has left maternity departments in clinics and hospitals in utter despair. The report - South African National Department of Health Maternal, Perinatal and Neonatal Health Policy (21 June 2021) found that 80% of women who died, received substandard care at district hospitals. The figure was 60% for community healthcare centres and regional hospitals. Poor quality of care is therefore a major problem in our healthcare system.

The same report identified overcrowding, lack of resources, including shortage of nursing and medical personnel among the key drivers for the poor-quality care. We celebrate our mothers who still triumph!

The EFF, alive to these critical conditions, have solutions for maternity health in our election manifestos. These solutions are now being implemented in the City of Ekurhuleni and Joburg by the respective EFF Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMC). It includes 24-hour clinics that cater for pregnant women and accessible infant care.

As the EFF celebrates its 10th Anniversary, it does so on the shoulders of its mothers whose unprecedented work is evident since its inception on the 26th July 2013. We know that nothing moves in our revolutionary movement without mothers implementing their organisational responsibilities while many single-handed raise children at the same time.

The mothers in our movement know the burdens of single mothers, foster mothers, mothers with children fighting the scourge of drug abuse, unemployed mothers, mothers with disabilities and mothers raising children with disabilities. It is that fundamental understanding that makes the EFF the only safe home for the dejected masses.

Mothers, revolutionary salutations, we know your cries! We celebrate your resilience!

Come 2024, vote EFF to improve your socioeconomic conditions for parenting our next generation.

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Sinawo Thambo (National Spokesperson) 072 629 7422 Leigh-Ann Mathys (National Spokesperson) 082 304 7572

- communications@effonline.org
- http://www.effonline.org
- @EFFSouthAfrica
- @EFFSouthAfrica
- Economic Freedom Fighters