



## **EFF STATEMENT ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT ADDRESS**

Thursday, 17 July 2024

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) notes the opening of Parliament address by President Cyril Ramaphosa. As expected, there was nothing of substance offered by the plans of the white supremacist government of national unity (GNU). In fact, this is a crucial opportunity to expose and denounce Ramaphosa's blatant failure to deliver on his stale promises from the previous opening of Parliament address five years ago.

Ramaphosa said "Thuma Mina" in 2019 to effect economic transformation and job creation. What he has brought back is rising unemployment which currently stands at 32,9%, with millions of South Africans, particularly the youth, still jobless and hopeless. And an economy that has grown an average of 2% each year in the last five years. The President's grand promises of job creation have devolved into empty rhetoric, devoid of any tangible results for the people.

Our public education system has gone from shambles to tatters. Children are still losing their lives using pit toilets at schools, crossing rivers to get to school, and lagging behind the rest of the world in reading and literacy. The promise of every 10-year-old being able to read for meaning is a distant dream. The harsh reality is that our children are still deprived of quality education.

The promise of reliable and quality basic services is a joke. South Africans are still suffering from inadequate housing, lack of clean water, and electricity blackouts. Spatial integration and human settlements remain a distant dream. The gap between rich and poor continues to widen, with the African child bearing the brunt of this inequality. Local government corruption and inefficiency are rampant, with no real efforts from the administration to address these issues.

The promise to build a capable, ethical, and developmental state has been broken. Corruption and maladministration are the hallmarks of Ramaphosa's government. Mr. Phala Phala himself is a representation of this corruption, having a reputation of money laundering through the stuffing of foreign cash in sofas and mattresses. Many of his own colleagues are currently in court with charges of extreme corruption and criminality that is frankly embarrassing.

The promise to halve violent crime has been another failure. South Africans continue to live in fear, with crime rates soaring, especially for women and children. There have been no strategic interventions to prevent or combat crime in hotspots across the country. The courts and justice system remain under-resourced, prosecution rates are abysmal, and illegal firearms continue to flood our communities, while the proposed budgets presented by ministries this past week utterly failed to address these critical issues.

Ramaphosa made a promise in his last opening of Parliament address that "No Person in South Africa Will Go Hungry." This bold plan has failed miserably. Millions of South Africans still go to bed hungry every night, and the President has done nothing to alleviate this crisis. We have some of the highest malnutrition rates we have ever had, with women choosing to go as far as committing suicide and taking the lives of their own children due to the inability to feed them. This is the legacy of Ramaphosa and the ANC: utter neglect and disdain for the African child.

Our grandmothers continue being cruelly denied their social grants, often receiving them late or not at all, forcing them to endure humiliating and endless queues for a pittance that barely keeps them alive. A government that does not care for its children and elderly is one that does not deserve respect. Therefore, we cannot expect much from today's promises when, five years later, Ramaphosa has failed to merely ensure South Africans are simply fed.

Ramaphosa's administration has failed to stimulate the economy and create sustainable growth. We cannot even speak of the infamous smart cities and bullet trains. These declarations of smart cities and bullet trains are laughable when basic services like electricity and water are not being provided.

However appalling Ramaphosa's incessant lies about job creation, infrastructure development, inclusive economic growth, and poverty reduction have been since 2019, and continued in today's address, we cannot overlook that this perpetuates the ongoing betrayal of the African child by the former liberation movement. This movement has now united with the oppressors, once again failing our country.

This coalition has further eroded any hope for the African child to experience economic freedom in our lifetime. The alliance with the DA is a clear indication that Ramaphosa's administration is more interested in maintaining power than in addressing the needs of South Africans.

Ramaphosa's proposals to attract business investment to eradicate unemployment are nothing but a plan to implement highly exploitative labour policies with minimal regulation and grossly inadequate pay for workers, directly lifted from the DA's labour policy playbook. However, giving free rein to white capital will never solve unemployment, as capitalism fundamentally prioritises profit over people.

The EFF stands resolute in our commitment to fighting for the rights and dignity of South Africans. We will continue to provide diligent oversight to Ramaphosa and his white supremacist GNU accountable for their failures and demand real change for the people of South Africa.

**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

Leigh-Ann Mathys (National Spokesperson) 082 304 7572

Thato Lebyane (Media Inquiries) 078 563 1581

✉ communications@effonline.org  
🌐 <http://www.effonline.org>

✖ @EFFSouthAfrica  
📺 @EFFSouthAfrica

📘 Economic Freedom Fighters  
📺 @EFFSouthAfrica