



EFF STATEMENT ON UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES BY STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA

Tuesday, 24 August 2021

The EFF notes the quarterly labour force survey of the second quarter of 2021 released today by Statistics South Africa. According to Statistics South Africa, unemployed people and discouraged work-seekers have increased to 7.8 million and 3.3 million in the second quarter of 2021. In per cent terms, South Africa unemployment has reached 34,4 per cent, the highest unemployment rate recorded since Statistics South Africa started to collect quarterly labour force surveys in 2008.

The quarterly labour force survey released today is a mere illustration of the structural crisis created by colonial and apartheid regimes that the ruling party continue to perpetuate in a post-apartheid South Africa.

South Africa's unemployment has long reached a point of crisis. It continues to be a threat to a country on the brink of collapse because ownership and control of the country's resources remain intact in the hands of a few white men only interested in greed, exploitation, and racism. Unless South Africa decisively dismantle colonial and apartheid patterns of ownership and control of the economy, South Africa will soon have more unemployed people than employed.

The EFF has repeatedly highlighted the continued discrimination of women from all spheres of economic participation, particularly illustrated in the unemployment figures. Unemployment of women has increased from 34 per cent to 36.8 per cent compared to an increase from 31.4 per cent to 32.4 per cent the unemployment rate amongst men.

The majority of unemployed women are black women in townships and rural areas. The exclusion of women from the economy is generalised structural violence by the capitalist class that continues to depend on pervasive exploitation of all forms of life, including family lives, climate and other natural resources for profit.

The EFF has long warned that Cyril Ramaphosa and his collective incompetent cabinet do not have either the willingness and capacity to be decisive and deal with the structural crisis facing South Africa in all spheres of society.

Unemployment has consequences for policing, food security and all other areas of society. Instead, we have witnessed an increasing number of people who are able, willing and capable to work but have given up on finding any work. When Ramaphosa took over in 2018, the number of discouraged work-seekers was 2.9 million. Today, more than 3.3 million do not have any hope of finding employment.

The last three years have clearly illustrated that the move to collapse the very little strategic capacity of the state in state-owned companies is driven by greed. The plan to defund public institutions and replace them with the private sector and completely outsourced public services in water, electricity, ports management, health care and many other essential services will not create jobs but benefit only a few.

The EFF put proposals to redistribute land equally, build capable state, health, education, and water infrastructure, and address the structural unemployment crisis. However, all these proposals were rejected because they prioritise equality eradication of cheap and reserve labour that capital depends on to continue to make super-profits.

Jobs will be created when we all share in the country's wealth meaningfully instead of black faces managing affairs on behalf of white masters. The South African unemployment crisis is manufactured, not an inherent feature of society as we are made to believe.

The EFF calls on all the young, poor and unemployed to come out in numbers to actively participate in civic structures and EFF branches and mobilise society to vote

for the EFF in the upcoming local government elections to build capable municipalities that will create jobs.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Vuyani Pambo (National Spokesperson): 066 082 0889

Delisile Ngwenya (National Spokesperson): 066 388 8779

Sixelise Gcilishe (National Communications Manager): 071 142 1663

✉ communications@effonline.org

🌐 <http://www.effonline.org>

🐦 @EFFSouthAfrica

📷 @EFFSouthAfrica

📘 Economic Freedom Fighters