



CIC Speaking Notes at the EFF 11th Anniversary Rally in Kimberley

Saturday, 27 July 2024.

Salutations to the Deputy President, Floyd Shivambu, Secretary General Marshall Dlamini, Deputy Secretary General Poppy Mailola, Treasurer General Omphile Maotwe and all members of the Central Command Team.

Members of the PCTs, RCTs present with us. Fraternal greetings to leaders of the EFF from across the continent. Members of the diplomatic core. Members of the business community here with us. Honoured guests.

Fellow fighters, I extend my greatest salute to all the members and loyal ground forces of the EFF all across South Africa, the continent, and the world, who make this movement what it is today.

I want to extend my warmest greetings to you, and honour you because without you, the liberation of our people from the chains of poverty and landlessness would not be possible.

I salute you the ground forces, who have remained firm in the face of all sorts of campaigns that seek to predict and engineer the death of the EFF. I want to salute you ground forces, for working hard for your movement, despite sponsored campaigns against your movement.

Comrades, I want to salute all of those who are with us here today, and those who are watching at home, I want to commend you for your loyalty at a time when our movement is confronted by enemy agents, and those who thought that this movement of ours is a vehicle for personal wealth accumulation.

I want to salute you ground forces, for your patience, for your love for your organisation, but most importantly for your loyalty and commitment to this revolution, without seeking any personal gain.

The EFF is turning 11-years today because you are resilient in the face of persecution. Comrades the EFF is turning 11-years today because of the hard work of you the ground forces. We are where we are today, because of your sweat, your blood and your commitment, and for that once again, I salute you!

Comrades, today we gather in Kimberley, the birthplace of South Africa's mineral industrial complex. It is here that the minerals of our people, in the form of diamonds, were extracted for European benefit.

It was here in Kimberley where the Chamber of Mines, under the leadership of colonial murderer Cecil John Rhodes, wrote laws to disallow black people from meaningful economic participation.

The brutal and exploitative capitalist system based on the extraction of our natural resources begun here in Kimberly, and was spread all over our country and to all the countries in Southern Africa.

Kimberley today looks nothing like diamonds. It is an abandoned and neglected town with no diamonds anymore or their capital benefit. The extractive industry in South Africa must still have to pay for the environmental and social impact it has caused here on the land and the people.

This is where De Beers made its fortunes, led by the chief coloniser Cecil Rhodes. The story of Kimberley tells you that colonisation was fundamentally about capital extraction and its resolution will never happen without such a consideration.

To colonise was precisely to disposes a people of land, which carried minerals and economically exclude them from economic sustenance. The only way to integrate them was as cheap and easily disposable labour.

The EFF was born out of necessity, and as a response to this colonial phenomenon.

Comrades I want us all to note that we are gathered in a province where the EFF has managed to bring the corrupt ANC below the fifty-percent (50%) mark.

Here in the Northern Cape, the ANC was defeated, and the corrupt Zuma is only in power because of the support of the racists of the Freedom Front Plus.

Comrades when the ANC was defeated here in the Northern Cape, they ran to hide behind the skirts of their boere-mag masters, and even promised to give them their own state in South Africa called Orania.

The ANC in the Northern Cape has betrayed the purpose of our struggle for liberation, and sold out our land in exchange for cheap political power and blue lights.

The so-called Thomas Sankara of the Northern Cape, who said he will never utilise blue-lights, has sold out the land of the Northern Cape, so that he can keep his blue-lights and the perks of being a Premier of this province.

We want the people of South Africa to know that the liberation struggle has been betrayed in the Northern Cape, the miners and the farmworkers in the Northern Cape, the struggle for land has been betrayed in the Northern Cape, because Zamani Saul o rata mabhuru over his own people!

Comrades, today, we gather in the name of marking the 11th anniversary of the EFF. It was 11 years ago when we gathered in Soweto, Uncle Tom's Hall in 2013 to pick up the spear that had fallen in Marikana on the struggle economic freedom.

We are here to remember against forgetting. To revive a revolutionary fighting spirit against despondency and, at times, fatigue.

Our movement, from the beginning, was always facing the threat of extinction both internally and from external forces. We were written off even before we began.

Many who left the former liberation movement to start their own political outfits, left with serious credentials and with support from significant quarters of capital.

When we started, there were no former ministers, mayors or premiers amongst us. There were no former presidents or even a single endorsement from any of such figures.

There were no traditional leaders or bishops of powerful congregations. We stood in that cold night on 26 July only on the shoulders of the working class.

In that Hall, there were representatives of mineworkers of Marikana, domestic workers, petrol attendants, security guards, the landless and the farmworkers. We had students, young professionals, and street vendors.

We were armed with conviction that political freedoms were not enough. We believed that an economic emancipation struggle had to be pursued. Eleven years later, here we are and our journey has not been an easy one.

We have kept the fire burning in favour of the poor, dejected, and rejected masses of our people. We have kept the agenda of economic freedom alive. The ideas of the Freedom Charter that the commanding heights of our economy must be nationalised: the banks and the mines.

We take inspiration from the FREEDOM IN OUR LIFETIME GENERATION OF ANTON MUZIWAKHE LAMBEDE, ROBERT MANGALISO SOBUKWE, MXOLISI MAJOMBOZI, AP MDA, CONGRESS MBATHA and the revolutionary forces that confronted apartheid and colonialism head on.

We have kept the ideas of Chris Hani alive in the national agenda; the fact that capitalism will never work for the economic emancipation of the colonised. We have advocated for socialism; the pursuit of a classless society in which the means of production are used for the benefit of all and not a few.

We have kept the ideas of Steve Biko, Tsietsi Mashinini, and Abram Tiro alive; that noble idea of Black Consciousness, empowering our people to fight against white supremacy and racism and against anyone who uses the colour of our skin as a means of our oppression.

We have mobilised black people to be proud of their blackness, to have self-love and pride. To love their communities and unite against all conditions that seek to mark them out as slaves in their own country.

We have kept the ideas of Mama Winnie Mandela, Lillian Ngoyi and Charlotte Maxeke alive; the black feminists who confronted patriarchy and sexism. We have fought against GBV and as a movement, we pride ourselves as the most women driven organisation. No other party has a gender balance in its leadership ranks than the EFF. We are the children of Mama Nomzamo Madikizela Mandela, a fearless struggle icon who refused to sell out the struggles of our people.

Over the past eleven years, the EFF has made a profound impact on the lives of the people. We have changed the political landscape of South Africa, bringing issues of land, economic justice, and true liberation to the forefront.



We have grown from strength to strength, building a movement that is rooted in the hearts of the people.

We have been at the forefront of advocating for the return of the land to the people, for free and quality education, for the nationalisation of key sectors of the economy, and for the protection of workers' rights.

We have exposed corruption at the highest levels of government and demanded accountability from those in power. We have given a voice to the voiceless and stood firm in our commitment to social justice.

EFF Practical Victories In 11-Years

Fellow fighters, we must never be obsessed with political power, to the point where we betray our historical struggle for the land and work with our oppressors.

The EFF has been a champion of the poor even if we are not in government, and for the past 11-years we have proven that even without government, we can make an impact in the lives of our people.

Comrades it is because of this EFF that the land question has been placed firmly on the table of politics in South Africa, and we even went as far as tabling a motion for the amendment of section 25 of the constitution to allow for the expropriation of land without compensation.

It is because of this EFF, that workers are insourced in institutions of Higher learning and in municipalities such as Johannesburg, Tshwane, and Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan. A struggle that all these unions had failed to champion because they collaborate with employers. This means that workers have received increased wages, health benefits, and pension funds, because of the EFF

It is because of this EFF that there has been a stronger spotlight shined on the war against women and children in South Africa, and we have gone as far as establishing a Gender Based Violence Desk that assists women who are abused, and supports them.

It was the women of the EFF who marched in their thousands in Johannesburg, demanding that there be a review of how the courts and police stations handle cases related to gender-based violence (GBV) in South Africa. It was marches such as these that led to laws relating to GBV becoming harsher on perpetrators.

Comrades it is this EFF that has made racists afraid again, and instilled confidence in our people to confront injustice and racism wherever it rears its ugly head. It is us fighters, who have attended every court case of every racist that has either put our people in coffins, has shot our children on farms, or harmed our children in toilets.

It was the students of the EFF who, in institutions of higher learning across the country, championed the struggle for free education which the former liberation movement had long abandoned. It is the students of the EFF who every year lead the Sizofunda Ngenkani Campaign, and ensure that thousands of students are allowed to register, whether they have money or not.

It was the EFF that established Parliament as a place of ideas and robust debate, where the executive is held accountable and corruption is exposed. Before the EFF, no one even knew there was something called a Parliament Channel where you can watch parliament. Today, everyone is interested and concerned about what happens in Parliament because of the EFF.

It was the EFF that exposed the billions lost due to profit shifting, base erosion, and tax avoidance by white corporate South Africa. Little did we know that while the EFF was exposing money laundering and financial crimes, a criminal by the name of Cyril Ramaphosa was laundering money and hiding it in his mattresses and sofas

Fellow fighters, we must never allow our enemies to define us and the character of our struggle. We must never allow those who benefit from the status quo, to call us rude, only because they want to steal without being held accountable.

On Local Conditions in the Northern Cape

The Northern Cape, under the current administration, is a province in crisis. Despite promises made by the Premier in his 2019 State of the Provincial Address, the people of Northern Cape continue to suffer from inadequate healthcare, deteriorating infrastructure, poor labour conditions, and rampant crime.

We are aware of the Mayor of Sol Plaatje, Kagiso Sonyoni, who is presiding over the massive unemployment in Sol Plaatje, and involved in selling jobs for sex, and giving jobs to his ANC comrades and overlooking ordinary people!

This Kagiso Sonyani, who threatens to beat people up in community meetings when they ask to hold him accountable for service delivery, must know that the EFF is coming for him.

We have heard from the people of Ikhutseng in Magareng, that the entrance to their township is a sea of sewage, and that they wake up to their roads being fixed yet not a single person from the community is employed to those road reparation projects.

Our people are crying here in Bloemendal, and here in Galeshewe that their children are unemployed, that their children are not in school, and have become monsters in the community who steal electricity cables, and sell them in exchange for drugs.

The people of Clifton Kock community are dying, and have told us that they are tired of municipal bills that make no sense, and buying electricity for R100, and only getting 20 units of electricity!

Comrades we have heard that the people of Roodepan are desperate for recreational centres and parks for their children, but all the open spaces have been left to rot as illegal dumping sites, because the municipality does not collect rubbish.

We want to say to the people of Roodepan that Ramaphosa chose to appoint a criminal as a Minister of Sports Arts and Culture, who will be too busy on X to build you a park and create sports for your children.

In Kagiso in ward 10, here in Sol Plaatje, our Matric learners are not attending school, because the school is collapsing and our children are consumed by alcohol and drugs. The EFF in the Northern Cape, and the Student Command here in the Northern Cape, must attend to the situation at that school in Kagiso (Emangmmogo Secondary School), and make sure our kids go to school.

There is no medication at the clinics here in Sol Plaatje, like at Mapule Matsepene Clinic, where patients are not even attended to, and babies do not get their important injections, because there is never medication.

Zamani Saul is the Premier of unfinished projects, because all over this province, there are unfinished roads, unfinished RDP houses, and collapsing clinics and police stations.

Zamani Saul is the Premier of collapse, and by the time he finishes, there will be nothing left in the Northern Cape.

Here in Sol Plaatje, many of our people still use buckets for toilets, because the drainage system has collapsed! It is only animals who must live with their own waste,

and under the ANC the people of Sol Plaatje, the people of Phokwane, and the people of Kuruman have been reduced into animals!

The people of Rhythm City Informal Settlement, here in ward 18 have said to us that they want their township to be formalised, they want roads, they want electricity and they want water. We are leaving this task with the councillors of Sol Plaatje, who must introduce a motion in the municipality that all informal settlements must be formalised and given services.

One of the most glaring failures is the Premier's unfulfilled promise to procure ambulances. The lack of reliable ambulance services results in unnecessary loss of life daily.

The safety within hospitals is another critical concern. For instance, ZK Matthews Hospital in Barkley West witnessed a tragic incident in 2018 when a young woman was raped on the premises.

Hospitals are also plagued by inadequate facilities, with waiting rooms lacking basic necessities like chairs. Shockingly, the hospital board is composed entirely of ANC members, highlighting a concerning level of political interference.

The capital city's infrastructure is in shambles. Sol Plaatje municipality has utterly failed to address the drainage issues, leading to frequent flooding in Kimberley. The persistent water crisis remains unresolved, despite significant government spending.

In Phokwane municipality, an outrageous sum of R11.9 million was squandered on an unfinished and non-functional facility in Ganspan. Meanwhile, there are potholes in the city's streets, and roads are eroding due to rain, making them nearly impassable.

When it comes to labour, farm workers in Northern Cape, particularly on the province's largest farm, Wildklevier, endure deplorable working conditions without any safety measures.

The Labour Relations Act is blatantly ignored, resulting in preventable fatalities as this year alone, four labourers lost their lives due to lightning strikes. Adding insult to injury, the farm owner has extended his operations over the graves of deceased workers.

Additionally, in Kakamas, black labourers face daily racism and exploitation, being paid in alcohol while the government turns a blind eye; while in Kleinsee, white police officers have abandoned their policing duties to act as security guards within the

mines. They have been involved in the killing of Africans who were found outside Namaqua, with no accountability for their actions.

Despite being a hub for mining essential minerals like manganese, tungsten, zinc, lead, asbestos, iron ore, and limestone, the Northern Cape's wealth does not translate into prosperity for its people. Instead, the province suffers from high unemployment rates and extreme poverty, a stark contradiction to its rich natural resource base.

The province is grappling with a severe issue of teenage pregnancies, showing alarming statistics that reflect the broader neglect of the education sector under the current administration.

The Northern Cape is experiencing a surge in crime, largely driven by widespread drug abuse among the youth, yet drug dealers continue to operate with impunity, thanks to their connections within the police force. This corruption and lack of accountability exacerbate the province's already dire safety situation.

But let me assure you, the vision for a better Kimberley is still alive. Just as our hope for a better South Africa remains steadfast. We, the EFF, are committed to fighting for a future where the people of Kimberley have access to jobs, quality education, healthcare, and a dignified life. We envision a Northern Cape where the wealth of this land benefits its rightful owners – the people.

GNU and The Progressive Caucus

Fellow fighters, if the white capitalist establishment wanted to wipe away or reduce the progressive voice in the parliamentary benches by funding liberal and right-wing formations of the Moonshot pact, then they have dismally failed.

The collective strength of the Moonshot pact in parliament is only 122 seats, representing 29% of the votes. The progressive forces associated with the liberation movement are 70% of the house with the ANC included. Without the ANC, and with the current progressive caucus outside of GNU, we stand at 27%.

Before the joining of MK the progressive voices were not more than 12% (EFF, UDM, ATM). Today we have multiplied and we stand at 27% - this is a victory of the working class and we must unite as the opposition to fight the white capitalist government of national unity.

The unity of oppressed people must be above political party identities. We must never, due to ego or personalities, stand in the way of progress for the economic emancipation of the working class.

Nothing demonstrates the maturity and composure of the EFF than our total embrace of MK Members of Parliament. We welcomed them with excitement because we know how it feels to be in that parliament and be an isolated voice.

No one was holding our hand in 2014 because they all were irritated at us. They despised us and wished us away. But we grew in strength in 2019 and they realised we are going nowhere. Therefore, we will not allow any ill-treatment of MK which speaks the same language of liberation as we do.

We will be there to make sure they gain strength in the position of official opposition. We are going to do this because we must amplify the voice of the oppressed against the GNU.

The GNU is a coalition of the ANC and the DA masquerading as national unity; South Africa is not united and cannot be united by people who want to privatise SOEs. Who refuse expropriation of land without compensation. Who refuse minimum wage and hate trade unions.

South Africa cannot be united by people who are racists and celebrated the killing of Chris Hani. We cannot be united by people who protect "Die Stem", salute the apartheid flag and protect apartheid statues.

We cannot be united by people who steal money meant for students in NSFAS. Who lie every day and never fulfil any promise. We shall never mask the inequalities, poverty and unemployment in our country for the sake of driving blue lights. We will expose them and always speak truth to power.

Ramaphosa lives a lie and he has been living this lie since the days of his youth. He sold out his peers by claiming they put communist ideas in his head. Apartheid police released him and sent his comrades to Robben Island.

We have never insulted him and we will not be patronised into silence. We will do our constitutional duty; a revolutionary responsibility to speak truth to power.

The GNU orientation remains deep in the continuity of neo-colonial economics of liberalism and neoliberalism. They hold deep faith in the private sector and markets resolving the inequalities of our country, chronic unemployment, and poverty.

But they will fail because the white capitalist establishment is not interested in the development of this country. If they did, South Africa would have been developed by now over the past 30 years.

What we need is state led and labour absorptive industrial development. The state must use its procurement capacity to stimulate local manufacturing of the products that it consumes.

All the uniforms of learners, nurses, police and military personnel must be locally produced. The food being eaten in prisons, hospitals, and schools must be locally produced.

Then the state must use its tariff regime to protect infant industries like the plastic sector and help with local beneficiation of chrome and other minerals.

The state should pass laws that secure shelf space for locally produced products in big retailers like Macro, Pick n Pay, Shoprite etc.

Industrialisation must be the centre of government macroeconomic planning; if we do not industrialise, there is no hope in creating jobs. The collective consumer market of BRICS, which is growing by the year, is upward of 3.4 billion people. That is over 45% of the world population, compressed in 5 countries and growing. If you add Africa as a whole, it will be over 50%!

South Africa should maximise trade networks within BRICS as a destination of its own finished products. As things stand, we know that the economic relations between Europe and Africa is one in which they extract our minerals and bring finished products.

We need to look to China for accelerated public infrastructure development, particularly in transport. China has demonstrated to be the world's leader in infrastructure development and we can give them on the basis of Build Operate and Transfer terms.

The GNU does not see these things. It has, in its ranks, people who worship Europe, former colonisers who created a racist world with brutal violence and genocide.

On Domestic Conditions

Fellow fighters, the conditions confronting us as a people require a leadership that is honest to itself about the mess our nation is in, and the collapse of our economy and State Owned Enterprises

Transnet has gone from having over 22,000 kilometers of railway lines, by far the largest railway company in Africa over 7,500 wagons and over 4,500 locomotives; and running the longest production train in the world, while transporting over 200 million tonnes of goods.

Today, with the same railway lines, same wagons, and same locomotives, this once glorious public asset is struggling to move a mere 50 million tonnes of goods. The enterprise is rife with corruption and currently, its former executives are facing fraud charges of over R34 million.

To recover, Transnet procured a loan with the African Development Bank Group of R18.85 billion (\$1 billion) corporate loan to Transnet for its recovery and growth plans.

When it comes to SAA, the reversal of the Takatso deal occurred without scrutiny, after the entire enterprise had been sold to them for a mere R53. Pravin Gordhan is yet to account for the deal and the details of what it entailed. Earlier this year, National Treasury reported a SAA loss of R771 million in the airline business and R51 million in the red at SAA Technical.

The South African Post Office has run at a loss every year since 2013 and has failed to compete with private couriers, while also failing to disburse social grants on time. It has since recorded over R19 billion in losses.

The current business rescue practitioners have recommended the retrenchment of thousands of workers, with no promise that they will receive their full retrenchment packages. 235 post offices are due to close across the country, with most of them situated in the Free State and North West – followed by North Gauteng, Limpopo, and Mpumalanga.

At Denel, from the 2019/20 to 2023/24 financial years staff personnel dropped by 60% as they are struggling to pay salaries. The last time we were told that the company, that had an order book of billions at some point.

Over the last year South Africa has seen violent crime increase as the state fails to protect our citizens. Murders increased by 11,5% between the first and second quarter of 2023 another 11% into the third, to 7 710 murders in the space of only three months. Almost 3 000 more people were raped between October and December 2023 than between April and June 2023.

In the first quarter of 2023, 37 491 people were violently assaulted. By the third quarter, this number increased to 53 513. 4 577 people were kidnapped between October and December of last year, adding to the other 3 854 kidnappings in the first quarter.

When it comes to GBV, over 43,000 reported cases of rape last year alone. Yet, these statistics merely scratch the surface. With only one in nine cases of rape reported in the country a more accurate picture is that close to 400,000 women were raped last year, this excludes the number of women who were assaulted physically and in other ways.

During July to September 2023, 10,516 rapes, 1,514 cases of attempted murder, 14,401 assaults and 881 murders against women were reported. The report for the last three months of 2023 recorded 12,211 rapes.

When it comes to water, nearly half of all water supply systems in South Africa pose human health risks because of bacteria or other pathogens in the drinking water supply. More than two thirds of all wastewater treatment works are close to failure. On top of this over 47% of all clean and treated water is lost through leaks, or cannot be accounted for.

Water plants across the country lack technical and management capacity and competency, with 67% of water treatment works staff having no training at all. There is a dire need for professionals in this sector.

According to Stats SA, there has been an increase of 330,000 unemployed people in the first quarter of 2024, marking the largest increase in unemployment since the COVID-19 national lockdown in the second quarter of 2020.

Of particular concern is the grave impact on the youth, with approximately 35.5% of young people aged 15–24 years not in employment, education, or training.

Even more disturbing is that individuals with higher educational qualifications still face significant barriers to employment. In quarter one of 2024, graduates experienced an

unemployment rate of 11.8%, representing an increase of 2.3 percentage points compared to the previous quarter.

With all of these challenges Ramaphosa, because he is obsessed with looting slush fund money, has adopted intelligence into his office, even though our people do not have water.

There is a problem of violent crime and gender based violence in South Africa, yet Ramaphosa has not characterised these departments as in crisis enough to belong in his office.

Instead of adopting critical sectors under his supervision, he has chosen to create a bloated cabinet, with Deputy Ministers we do not know, so that he can accommodate his faction and the racists he is in a pact with.

We have the biggest cabinet in history, meaning more must be spent on security and blue lights, and less on fighting crime and providing water to our people.

That is the crisis of leadership we are faced with as a nation, a selfish leadership that does not care about the people.

On 2024 Elections and EFF Organisational Posture

Fellow fighters, it is a fact that the 2024 elections were the most difficult yet. The outcome was the lowest point in our history as an organisation. We must commend all fighters and commissars for putting up a fight.

Here, in Northern Cape, we are proud of the increase in support that the EFF received. We recorded the same increases, however modest, in Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Free State.

However, we continue to lose votes in other provinces, a worrying phenomenon which must be arrested before it destroys this important weapon in the hands of the working class and the poor. The losses have been witnessed in the Limpopo and North West, particularly Bojanala. The provinces of Gauteng, Mpumalanga, and KwaZulu Natal have seen the biggest decline of the 2024 elections.

The formation of uMkhonto WeSizwe swept across these provinces, weakening our electoral gains. The comrades in KwaZulu Natal, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga put up a

big fight and we can see that the organisational integrity of the EFF did not get destroyed.

We should however, comrades, note that for the first time since 1994, the former liberation movement was reduced below 50% and even struggled to get to 40%.

The decline of the former liberation movement is something we saw and predicted 11 years ago when we met in Soweto to launch the EFF.

When we met in Soweto 11 years ago, we did not say that our aim is to kill the ANC. We used proper ideological tools of analyses and guide to action to foretell that the ANC will die a natural death and that we as the economic emancipation movement must ready ourselves to pick up the spear and fight for the true liberation of our people.

Every ideological and political prediction we made about the politics of South Africa, including what is happening now, we said in our founding manifesto is going to happen.

Special attention has to be given to the provinces that have declined the votes of the EFF and a much more dynamic diagnosis is required. Overall, fellow fighters, we must answer the difficult questions in productive ways so that we do not collapse the organisation of the poor masses of our people.

We must pay attention to entrenching the EFF in branches and VDs. Is it not time to rethink our organisational model and redirect everything to centring the branch and the VD in everything we do?

Perhaps even the financial model of the EFF should move away from big events, to branch based activities that have direct impact in our communities.

We have to strengthen and grow our political education unit so as to develop a cadre that is not gullible. This weakness in political consciousness is supported by the fact that even in the highest ranks of the CCT are generally ideologically weak individuals.

You see this when those who had been in leadership structures at the highest level leave the EFF and then start explaining as to why they have left; you realise that part of our problem is ideological training in the founding documents, schools of thought, and history of the EFF.

Perhaps the next decade of the EFF should be the decade of the branch; we must come from lively branches that are steeped in community struggles.

The only measure as to whether you have a good branch or not is the election results; nothing else. Many amongst us come from branches that claim to have 100 or more members. But on election day, the EFF received less than 100 votes.

A demonstration that such membership was either fake, or it was only paid for on the eve of the BPA so that you get elected and then it never had any life thereafter.

Our new organisational model must be able to track the life of our organisation ward by ward. And in real time. Moreover, we have to rethink the regional structure, and perhaps think of subregions as the better coordinating model. This is how we fight elections and perhaps it is how we should structure the organisation.

There must be a constituency office of the EFF in every town for ease of access. Leaders of the EFF, in particular Public Representatives must have time for our people. Many in the EFF spend time with themselves only.

We have to open the organisation to be active with constituencies; traditional leaders, religious leaders and congregations, sport and art communities, business forums, trade unions, cultural formations.

The EFF leaders must be humble, and never be boastful. The culture of conspicuous consumption isolates, is a put off, and isolates our people. There is never a need to post the food you eat, or the nice life you are enjoying, holidays, and festivities.

We must choose modesty, humility, and firmness of principle. Our people must experience an EFF leader as a warm, respectful, and humble person who will be able to fight firmly for their interests. The holy scripture says “be humble as a dove, yet wise as serpents”.

The white capitalist establishment which participated directly through millions of rands trying to buy the elections, has targeted the EFF. It seeks to erode our voice and influence. But if we win the hearts of our people, no amount of propaganda and billions of election funding will turn our people against us.

The establishment tried hard to do this in Cuba, Venezuela, China and Brazil. But the leaders of the working class always triumph because they win the hearts of the people.

Comrades it has never been more important for us to build a solid weapon of the left and the poor, than it is today, in the face of the alliance between white supremacy and the former liberation movement.

The EFF, and all of its members, now have the duty and responsibility to build a formidable movement, led by committed and selfless individuals, who prioritise the people and the movement over self-interest.

The grand coalition of oppression between the ANC and the DA, requires a strong movement, which is ideologically grounded, and strong at a grassroots level. We need to organise our people towards revolution, now more than ever before.

The current moment requires honest organisational reflection, but most of all, this moment requires us to close ranks and protect our organisation, as we head into the third phase of our struggle for economic freedom in our lifetime.

The current moment, as our organisation heads towards its 3rd National People's Assembly, does not need fanatics, it does not need people who are easily excitable, and it does not need position-mongers.

Our organisation will, over the next few months, be engaged in the process towards an electoral conference in December, a process that very few political parties go through to exercise internal democracy.

Those who call the EFF a fascist organisation or a cult, do not appreciate the fact that the EFF is one of few organisations that practices internal democracy, without the influence of money and vote buying.

Many of your darling organisations do not go through this process, and sit in a boardroom and select themselves as leaders, but no one ever calls them a cult. That is the hypocrisy we deal with in the captured media in South Africa.

Fellow fighters we want to tell you now that the enemy is going to try to destroy this EFF, through infiltration, through money, and by attempting to sow divisions within our movement.

It is our responsibility to protect our organisation, from the enemy that sees our process of internal democracy, as an opportunity to destroy us.

Fighters the clarion call must be one, Let Us Close Ranks In Defence of the Struggle For Economic Freedom! Let us close ranks against the enemy agents, let us close ranks against infiltration, let us close ranks against factionalism, and let us close ranks against opportunism.

Comrades, we want to tell you now that the EFF's National People's Assembly will be attended by the branches that have contributed to the electoral performance of the EFF.

Only branches that received *10% of the votes cast in their ward* will qualify to send *ONE* delegate to the EFF's 3rd National People's Assembly because it means that EFF is present in that ward. If a branch cannot, after 10-years, obtain at least 10% of the votes, it simply means that we do not have a Branch Command Team. It cannot be that we have branch delegates deciding on National leadership in the absence of reasonable EFF presence in their wards.

The qualifying wards for the NPA, as per our EFF Constitution, must have a minimum of 100 members in good standing having successfully held its BPA.

The leadership will strategically ensure that provincial representation at the NPA is balanced, while refusing to reward those responsible for the decline in votes in their respective provinces.

Branches must elect leaders of high quality, leaders with integrity who have demonstrated diligence through the ranks of our revolutionary movement and it is the branches that will elect people who will add value in the struggle to liberate our people.

Fighters, we have entered a highly volatile political era. Imperial forces supported by the white establishment are out in full force to crush your movement. Therefore, fighters, detest and resist selling your vote for airtime, KFC, alcohol, and fancy hotels. Your vote must deliver leadership that will lead fearlessly, principally, and loyally from the front.

On International Conditions

Comrades, we remain firm in our solidarity with the people of Palestine, a people who have been subject to the most painful genocide and ethnic cleansing, at the hands of the Apartheid-Israel regime. We commend the International Court of Justice for finally officially calling this an illegal occupation, although it is many years and lives too late.

We call on sanctions and boycotts to be implemented against Israel, by all nations and all institutions so as to show our displeasure at the murder of innocent women, children and the destruction of hospitals and religious sites of the Palestinian people. What is happening in Israel is not a war between two nations, it is a genocide by Israel against the people of Palestine

We commend the University of Western Cape which has instituted an academic boycott on the Israeli State and its military, and also obliging all of its academics not to associate with Israel in any shape or form.

All institutions of higher learning in South Africa must follow this example, and the EFF Students' Command must be at the forefront of this struggle.

We have noted that Joe Biden, the President of the United States has pulled out of the election race to become President. This man, who is now able to concede that he is unfit to run for office, is the same man who is approving billions of dollars to fund the war against the people of Palestine.

The strongest ally of Apartheid Israel, is the USA, who just the other day allowed the murderer Netanyahu to enter and address their Congress where they welcomed him with open arms. Confirming what we have always said that Israel is merely an extension of Western imperialist, colonialist and racist interests. The blood of the Palestinians is as much in Netanyahu's hands as Joe Biden's.

When it comes to Africa, comrades, we reiterate our call that our soldiers must be withdrawn from the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and all conflicts in the continent as they have been set up for failure.

While the DRC is suffering from the curse of their own rich mineral resources, Western countries continue to create and exploit conflict in the country in order to access these resources for free. Now this has led to a genocide, rebels, violence against women and children, as well as slave labour.

However, this situation is bigger than the SANDF, who are facing well-armed rebels. The SANDF is severely financially strained that they are sending our soldiers to their death, because they do not have food, their camps are a mess and the rebels in these countries undermine them to the point of attacking them in their own bases

To make matters worse, the South African army is now being presided over by a Minister who led the Basic Education department that saw many children fall to their

death in pit toilets, and a former revolutionary who has become a collaborator because he did not want to end his political career without receiving blue-lights.

Fighters, I do also want to emphasise the immense hope that thrives across our continent. We've seen the unstoppable force of unity in action through the youth of Kenya. Their relentless activism has obliterated President Ruto's neo-colonial IMF and World Bank-driven finance bill, forced him to sack his corrupt cabinet, and now, they are demanding his resignation. This is the power of the people in motion!

Similarly, I want to salute the member states and leaders of the newly formed Alliance of Sahel States: in Mali, Colonel Assimi Goita, in Burkina Faso Captain Ibrahim Traore, and in Niger, General Abdourahmane Tchiani.

These three countries, have, by any means necessary, rejected the exploitative structures imposed by former colonial powers and their proxies. They have refused to be controlled, and they are forging new political alliances that prioritise the development and autonomy of their people.

They have ejected exploitative French companies, French diplomats, US Naval bases, and begun to enact nationalisation laws to bring back their land and minerals to the benefit of their people. They have refused to be chastised by ECOWAS, which is a proxy for the West, and removed themselves to form their own union.

Fighters, as we applaud these leaders for their commitment to their people and their courageous defiance of neo-colonialism, let us take lessons from Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, on how the youth still have power to fight for economic freedom and self-determination across the continent.

We have the power to be at the forefront of ridding our continent of all imperialist worshipping leaders, and elect and install African leaders guided by Pan-Africanism.

Conclusion

Fellow fighters, you have come out here today and sent a strong message that no matter what the doomsayers want to say, the EFF is here to stay.

We are now entering another decade of existence, and are presented with an opportunity to build this movement towards 20-years of existence, and we must give ourselves the target of becoming a government of the people in the next 10-years.

The next 10-years must be marked by an aggressive war against the forces of white supremacy and capitalism. We must wage a principled war in defence of the poor and the forgotten masses of our people.

The next 10-years must be our timeline to bring back the land and the economy to its rightful owners! The next 10-years must be the decade of free education, free housing, and free quality education.

Comrades the next 10-years must be the decade of nationalising the strategic sectors of the economy, and all of this will only be possible if we build a strong and dependable weapon of the poor, and that weapon is the EFF.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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