



## **THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS CELEBRATES THE 80th BIRTHDAY OF CHRIS HANI.**

28 June 2022

The Economic Freedom Fighters celebrates the 80th Birthday of Chris Hani who was born on the 28th of June 1942 as Martin Thembisile Hani in Sabalele Village, Cofimvaba in the then Transkei, now Eastern Cape Province.

Chris Hani was the most principled, dedicated, selfless, and revolutionary Freedom Fighter who understood that the attainment of political freedom without the attainment of economic power to defeat the poverty and unemployment of the oppressed masses was meaningless.

Chris Hani became politically conscious at a very young age, joined the ANC Youth League at the age of 15 and the South African Communist Party at the age of 20. After completing his studies at the University of Fort Hare.

Chris Hani went to exile in 1963 at the age of 21 to join a military struggle against colonialism and apartheid. Chris Hani dedicated his entire life to the war for the total emancipation of the oppressed and exploited masses of our people.

As a soldier, Chris Hani is amongst the first armed combatants who confronted enemy forces in Wankie/Sipolile offensive. Chris Hani survived several assassination attempts from the apartheid regime.

Chris Hani was the voice of combatants in the camps of uMkhonto weSizwe who spoke against the lack of clear plan and strategy to confront the apartheid regime. He understood internal democracy and democratic centralism, and that is why he objected to the cessation of armed struggle without consulting the soldiers.

Chris Hani was a true revolutionary socialist who despite the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s accepted a leadership role in the Communist Party. Chris Hani patiently educated the whole of society about socialism and said "Socialism is not about big concepts

and heavy theory. Socialism is about decent shelter for those who are homeless. It is about water for those who have no safe drinking water. It is about health care, it is about a life of dignity for the old. It is about overcoming the huge division between urban and rural areas. It is about a decent education for all our people. Socialism is about rolling back the tyranny of the market. As long as the economy is dominated by an un-elected, privileged few, the case for socialism will not exist.”

Chris Hani was not an opportunist and was never a Careerist. When his less capable peers were positioning themselves for State power and Career opportunities, Chris Hani chose to go and connect with the masses and build a Communist Party, which was later destroyed by opportunists and Careerists.

There is absolutely no doubt that if he was not cowardly assassinated on the 10th of April 1993, Chris Hani would have in his life led South Africa as a President to common prosperity. Chris Hani would have prevented the rightward shift of the former liberation movement and liberals would have never assumed any significant role of responsibility in the movement and government.

As the generation of Economic Freedom Fighters, we fully embrace and stand by what Chris Hani stood for. We as a generation refuse to accept the death of Chris Hani and will always say CHRIS HANI WILL NEVER DIE.

We have picked up the spear and will fight with everything in our power to achieve economic freedom in our lifetime because that is what Chris Hani stood for. Chris Hani is us and we are Chris Hani! Happy 80th Birthday Commander Chris Hani. Happy Birthday 80th Birthday to a True Revolutionary! A Socialist and Fighter for Economic Freedom!

**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

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