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DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE MEMORANDUM

TO THE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

NORTHERN CAPE

25 JANUARY 2019

CALL FOR FAIR ACCESS TO REAL, LONG-TERM JOBS

The Northern Cape is a province of great potential, populated by people who are passionate about the future of South Africa and who want to build towards building One South Africa For All.

We have fertile land for thriving agriculture and agribusinesses to take root, thereby creating jobs for our people and supplying healthy foods for our tables. Our soil is rich in minerals which can be extracted, processed and exported. Great biodiversity, scenic routes along the Vaalriver and Oranjeriver, two unique UNESCO World Heritage sites as well as a rich cultural history provides plentiful opportunities for the hospitality and the hunting industries. With the developments at the Square Kilometre Array, there is also great potential for research and development.

The greatest resource in our province, however, is our people.

Yet the expanded unemployment rate continues to hover above 40%, with youth unemployment rates remaining among the highest in the country.

The devastating impact of unemployment and the subsequent lack of income can be seen by the fact that the Northern Cape is the province where households are the most likely to run out of money to buy food before the end of the month – and this includes households who skip meals in a desperate attempt to stretch the food budget. Poor nutrition and inadequate access to food leads to poor health, stunting and underdevelopment of our children's minds and bodies.

FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY.

LEADER: Mmusi Maimane | **CHAIRPERSON:** Athol Trollip

As the Democratic Alliance, we know that unemployment and its destructive consequences can be reversed. We can realise the Northern Cape's potential for greater economic growth and fair access to real jobs through fostering opportunity for as many of the residents as possible.

We have seen far too many examples in the Northern Cape provincial government of how employment opportunities and economic potential is manipulated for the gain of a politically connected elite. Examples range from Trifecta to Wataka and while government funds are channeled towards sustaining a network of political patronage, entrepreneurs and small businesses suffer from a lack of support.

We call for a well-coordinated, urgent effort by the Northern Cape provincial government under the stewardship of the Office of the Premier to create fair access to real jobs, specifically through:

1. Providing skills development for school-leavers and young graduates;
2. Creating job centres that provide information, advice and free internet access to job-seekers;
3. Growing small business opportunities through increased funding assistance combined with the reduction of blockages and red tape which hinders the development of small businesses in the province;
4. Prosecuting and eliminating the practice of 'sex for jobs' and carpet interviews, especially for perpetrators appointed in government who abuse their positions;
5. Prosecuting and eliminating the practice of 'cash for jobs' and corruption in allocating jobs, especially for perpetrators appointed in government who abuse their positions.

We believe that our residents deserve to be freed from the oppressing effects of unemployment.

SUBMITTED BY:

MMUSI MAIMANE
DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

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