

Good morning South Africa

I don't think that it is by coincidence that we are gathered here today, On the day that young people came together and shook the entire country, the entire world and reminded it of the power of young people in ordinary conversations they decided to take the torch forward.

This moment reminds us of the power within us to stand together as South Africans and young people in particular. It forces us to take a hard look at our country. Both young and old, all of us, we cannot afford to give up now. We have to push forward and decide what future we want. A future where 3.3 million young South Africans are not unemployed. A future where young people are not only work seekers but job creators, A future where more than half of us are not depressed. A future where graduates are not sitting at home. A future where you do not have to bribe to get funding for your business idea.

Sidiniwe gamasela.

Onse is moeg vir mense wat steel

When I think about my generation, the generation that knew that at 5pm it was time to watch Dragonball Z, the generation that knew that after 5pm you lost control of the remote because it was time for Days of Lives and subsequently followed by the Bold and the Beautiful, the generation that watched phones evolve from green screens to iPhones, the generation that knew missing school meant that all you could watch on tv was commercials basically the whole day. That generation and the many generations that followed have been let down by this government.

The truth is South Africa is the tension between being trapped by the past and wanting a better future. It is the tension of hope and fear. It is the tension of our experiences and the possibility of what we could achieve. It is the tension of stagnant frustration and our ability to turn up for our future. But I believe through our ability to understand that with 60% of young people who are registered to vote we can make our voices count. We can turn it around.

This is the time we going to talk about how it is that over 27 years after this democracy we are sitting with the highest unemployment rates in the world. This is the time we going to talk about 3 in 4 of young people that sitting at home with nothing to do. This is the time we need to start having a serious conversation about how young people in this country are seeing flames under this ANC government. Its basically Dala what you must at this point. This is the time we talk about youth left behind in Sterkspruit, Zastron, Buhle Park, Tembisa, Meadowlands, Bushbuckridge and many other places across this country.

We cannot be a generation dependent on grants for the rest of our lives. We cannot be spoken about as if we are not in the room. All we ask is for a capable state that will provide an environment for the economy to grow. A government that provides basic services like water and electricity. A government that delivers on its promises and in so doing grows the economy which creates job creation.

I spent the month of April and May travelling throughout the country visiting NYDA offices. I wanted to see first-hand the challenges faced by many young people with services of the NYDA. I went to East London and found an NYDA office operating with 2 staff members. The office was on the 2nd floor and very hard to access for people who are differently abled. I went to Johannesburg where I found the NYDA office completely closed at 12pm midday. It was in Witbank where I realised that if you wanted to apply for funding for a business idea or further support to grow your business you can't submit your application online, you have to go to an office.

It was in Bloemfontein that I learnt that if you are blind or deaf there are absolutely no services to interpret and assist you. It was in Klerksdorp where I learnt that 1 of 2 drug rehabilitation centres in the province was at risk of closing and only had one month before they closed. It was in Polokwane it became clear that young entrepreneurs with informal businesses had been completely left out in regards to relief funds because they did not have a bank statement. It was in Durban where I realised that the majority of equipment in these offices that are supposed to help young people don't even work.

It was in Middleburg assisting Pieter Greybe whose business was hit hard by the lockdown restrictions and had had zero feedback about his application for the Youth Micro Enterprise relief fund that it was clear that government officials don't respond to emails. He eventually got his relief after a strongly worded email to the CEO. It was clear that we need the DA difference. A party that gets things done.

The DA's plan is already working in the Western Cape we need it to move into the rest of South Africa. Where we create job centres throughout South Africa that provide information, advice and free internet to job-seekers. Grow small business opportunities through increased funding assistance and removing blockages and red-tape. Prosecute and eliminating the practice of 'sex for jobs' and carpet interviews including 'cash for jobs' and corruption in allocating jobs.

Lowering data costs to make it easier for young people to connect and have access to the internet. Provide bursaries to learners from low-income families will cover the comprehensive cost of study so as to ensure that learners have the necessary tools, on time, to pass. We will develop work and study apprenticeship programmes, substantially increasing the involvement of companies to provide opportunities in new and existing fields.

The task that is being required from this generation is to find ways to move forward. We have no choice but to keep fighting to fix this country. We have no choice but to keep moving forward because we definitely cannot stay still. We can only do this by voting out this pap government out. They don't have the answers for this generation. On the 16th and 17th of July I call on all young people to register and vote for a future we can actually imagine. Because on the 27th of October we can make history and get the ANC out!