

No hope for Youth and Businesses

Speech by Sello Seitlholo MP, DA Member of the Portfolio Committee on Transport

Dear Mr. President

Never has a government cared so little about young people as this ANC government which you lead.

Mr. President, you may have forgotten about Thando Makhubo, the entrepreneur from Soweto whom you hailed a success for starting an ice cream business using the R350 SRD grant. Well, because of your government's failure, his business is melting away as he struggles to keep it going due to the ongoing load-shedding disaster.

Ismail Pheku aka MaSeun, a car wash owner in Ikageng, Kanana, is losing much-needed income and has had to let go of two people because the number of cars he washes per day has drastically declined due to load shedding and water shedding.

Tebogo Lekaota, yoo rona re mo itsing jaaka Guluva, o ne a na le kgwebo e e rekisang Diphatlho ko Kanana, Mandela, ebile a thapile basha bale bararo mo kgwebong ya gagwe. Go utlwisa botlhoko gore gompiano yana kgwebo yaga Guluva, mmogo le dikgwebo potlana tse di ntsi tseo di tsamaisiwang ke basha, e phutlame, se ele ka ntlha kgaolo ya motlakase e e tswelletseng go bolaya dikgwebo potlana mo nageng.

Mnr. Die President, u het gepraat oor mislukte munisipaliteite. Ek wil u regstel. Dis is munisipaliteite onder jou party. Meer spesifiek jou mislukte plaaslike ekonomiese ontwikkelingsdepartemente wat steeds ons jeug faal.

Perhaps you have equally forgotten about the local textile workers at the House of Monatic here in Saltriver, Cape Town. The very local company whose designer suite you wore in this house back in 2019.

Ke bo Thando Makhubo's b aba kae mo nageng ya rona Mr. President?

Hoeveel Ismael Pheku's is daar Mnr. President?

How many Tebogo Lekaota's are out the Mr. President?

Mr. President, lware basha ke bone baeteledipele ba lefatshe le ba kamoso, mme wena le ba puso ya gago ya ANC ga le kgone go lemoga ditlamorago tsa go kgaola motlakase le metsi mo dikgwebong tsa bone.

There is no business, big or small, that can thrive under the current state of the disaster created by your government.

Mr. President, labour market participation in South Africa is heavily influenced by education and is skill-biased. However, your government lacks the political will to invest in our TVET Colleges to meet the demand for skills-based employment in our country.

In November 2022, the department of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation held a stakeholders briefing on the state of readiness for the 2023 academic year. During this briefing, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) stated in no uncertain terms that they are grappling with the accurate projection costs needed to fund students enrolled in TVET Colleges. In 2021, more than 140 000 university and TVET college students had their applications rejected by NSFAS. The majority of those rejected applicants being from TVET colleges.

In the same briefing, it was indicated that the projected number of students who qualify for TVET Bursaries will increase by 48%, from 227 110 in 2022 to 337 224 in 2023, resulting in a budget shortfall of R1.9 billion in the TVET sector.

This is despite the fact that the White Paper for post-school education and training proposes increasing enrolment from about 700 000 to 2.5 million by 2030 to ease pressure on universities. But overcrowding takes it's toll on infrastructure.

President, nnete ke gore puso ya gago ya ANC ga ena sepe le di college, ke ka moo o bonang di khampas tse dintse dile mo maemong a utlwisang botlhoko jana.

Fa e le gore President ga a ntumele, kene ke kopa gore nna le wena reye ko di khempaseng tsa Vuselela. E katswa e le e o ko Pudomong in Taung. Kgotsa e e ko Matlosana le yone e e ko Potchefstroom.

Gaan kyk wat is die huidige stand van die Potchefstroom Lanboukollege.

Die infrastruktuurtoestade is genoeg rede om potensiele student weg te stuur.

Ha re fetsa reipotsa gore goreng basha ba batla goya ko di universiting e seng di college.

A lack of equal opportunities in South Africa's education system has led to a surplus of non-skilled workers, while there is a high demand for workers with specialized skills.

To all the young South Africans out there, please do not fear. We do have solutions to bring this beautiful country of ours out of darkness and into the light. As of November 2022, the DA-run Western Cape had the lowest unemployment figure, which stood at 29.5%, 13.6% lower than the National average which stood at 43.1%.

To prove the point as to why TVET Colleges need to be prioritized, here are the industries in the Western Cape which saw the biggest increase in employment:

- Manufacturing;
- Construction;
- Transport; and
- Agriculture

Mr. President, nna lwena a re dumelane gore National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) ke another ANC created disaster mo nageng ra rona, segolo thata yang ha re lebeletse di palo palo tsa basha ba ga jaana ba senang ditiro.

In his Youth Day celebration speech on 16 June 2022, DA Interim Federal Youth Leader, Nicholas Nyati, urged your National government to immediately scrap the NYDA - a R500 million ANC slush fund. Mr. Nyati argues, correctly so, that with half a billion rand, the NYDA employs ANC cadres in high-paying positions but creates no real jobs and opportunities for unemployed young South Africans.

You said that there are no easy solutions to dealing with the ongoing challenges facing our country. Well, we disagree.

To foster job creation and create opportunities, the National government must:

- Establish Youth Work Opportunities and Innovation Hubs across the country to service job seekers, small businesses, and young entrepreneurs; and
- Implement a tax incentive for small businesses to encourage employment

Furthermore:

- Restructure the Department of Small Business Development to include functions of employment and the youth;
- Scrap the race-based job-killing legislation that discourages investors;
- Cut red tape to allow for the formalization of informal business and to make it easier to do business – kom ons maak die lewe vir kleinskaalse boere in landlike gebiede beter;
- End cadre deployment;
- Privatise failed State Owned Enterprises.

Mr. President, your ANC has melted away the dreams, aspirations and hope of millions of young people in this country, leaving them to fend for themselves.

Well, come 2024, the Youth of this country will rise and they will switch the lights off on the ANC.