

## **Political freedom in 1994, no economic freedom today**

### **Speech by Sibongiseni Ngcobo MP, DA Additional Member on Higher Education, Science and Innovation**

Thank you, House Chairperson!

A few days ago, South Africans celebrated Freedom Day and commemorated the first post-apartheid elections which were held on the 27th of April 1994. This historic day came as a great beacon light of hope for millions of South Africans who wanted to see our country move forward. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of racial tensions and injustices.

But sadly, the political freedom achieved in 1994 did not bring economic freedom. 29 years later, millions of South Africans are still suffering. 29 years later, millions of South Africans are still locked out of opportunity. 29 years later, millions of South Africans are unemployed. 29 years later, we still have learners falling into pit toilets because of the failures of an uncaring ANC government. 29 years later, South Africans do not feel safe because crime is rife.

This is why we need a new government next year. A government that will give us economic freedom. A government that will give us job creation at scale. A government that will protect us.

House chairperson,

In 2024 South Africans have an opportunity bring about the government we need and it is time for young South Africans, like myself, to rise up and say, 'enough is enough'. To quote the DA Youth Federal leader, Nicolas Nyathi, "Let us no longer fold our arms and watch a match we are supposed to be playing".

2024 is our 1994 and we must register in our numbers to vote. In 1994, our parents and grandparents voted for freedom and in 2024, as young people, we have an opportunity to vote for our survival and real freedom. Time for voter apathy is over. We must take ownership of our own future.

As Barack Obama reminded, "change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for and we are the change that we seek."

As young people let us make our own contribution in turning 2024 into another seminal moment in South Africa's history by replacing the ANC with a DA-led Moonshoot Pact government.

The DA is the only party in South Africa with a proven track record of good, clean governance. The DA-led Western Cape and the City of Cape Town are doing everything possible to give people economic freedom. They do this by making it easy for businesses to operate and create jobs and by making massive investment to end loadshedding and to ensure a sustainable water supply. That is why in the last quarter of 2022 the Western Cape was able to create 98% of the new jobs, while the 8 ANC-run provinces together contributed just 2%.

House Chairperson,

I would like to end off by quoting a paragraph from the Preamble to constitution to remind the ANC of what the government should be doing.

“We, therefore, adopt this constitution, so as to;

Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;

Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;

Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and

Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.”

Thank you, House chairperson