

ANC corruption continues to steal the future of young people

Speech by Sello Seitholo MP, DA Shadow Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure

Honourable house chairperson,

Every year we gather in this house to debate historical events that led to the liberation of our people and the democracy which we so enjoy today.

Every year we hear from those on my right how young people fought for the liberation and subsequent democracy, more specifically the youth of 1976.

How tragic that those on my right have done everything in their power to undermine and spit on the legacy of those who tragically died fighting for democracy. The democracy which we so enjoy today.

What a shame a sorry excuse of a government continues to kill the dreams, hopes and aspirations of young people in this country through corruption that has contributed to one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world.

Honourable Chairperson,

Corruption is a cancer that eats away at the heart of society. It undermines public trust in institutions, fosters cynicism and apathy, and most importantly it robs the youth of opportunities.

The facts, as we know them today, are that we have an ANC government that is more interested in lining their own pockets than in serving their communities. It is the youth who suffer the most.

Promising jobs and contracts go to those with connections rather than to those with talent and integrity. The poster boy of corruption and the killer of opportunities, one Edwin Sodi is a perfect example of just how this ANC can never and will never have the interests of young people at heart. The ANC is incapable of advancing the interest of young people because, to you, young people are an inconvenience.

The corruption that exists within the governing party has systematically led to a society that is unfair, and unequal, where the rules are rigged against those without wealth or influence.

Chairperson,

South Africa has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, and regardless of the hot air and rhetoric from all ANC speakers here today, it is the youth who are hit particularly hard.

Despite the depressing state of affairs created and enabled by this ANC government, I know for a fact that young people in this country are resilient. I know for a fact that young people are tired of hearing about the millions and billions sent back to National Treasury by ANC-run provinces and municipalities. I know for a fact that young people are tired of the hot air and rhetoric from by ANC speakers year in year out. They are tired of hearing about the struggles of the youth of 1976 when this very government has manufactured and systematically created every struggle faced by a young person in this country. Young people are tired because whatever is said here on this podium by ANC speakers, they cannot relate to.

But that's the ANC for you. Forever living in the past and talking about the past without any idea of how to build for the future.

Young people are tired of the ANC.

Young people deserve a government that will tackle corruption head-on.

They deserve a government that will demand that our public officials act with integrity and transparency, and that accountability be the order of the day. They deserve a government that will create job opportunities, particularly in those areas that have been hardest hit by the economic downturn.

Young people deserve a government that will provide training and education opportunities that prepares them with the skills they need to succeed in the job market.

Young people deserve a government that will create an environment where entrepreneurship can thrive, which will help create new businesses and new jobs.

In 2024, young people deserve a DA-led national government, because whether those on my right believe it or not, the Moonshot Pact is exactly what young people have been waiting for.

In fact, young people are going to be active participants in removing the ANC from power.

I thank you.