



A Message of Hope for South Africans to Unite and Rise

SOUTH AFRICA and the WORLD is *IN TURMOIL*

Fellow South Africans have a unique OPPORTUNITY based on our Resilience.
Demand capable Governance that is Just and Accountable
Instil a new *Patriotic Consciousness* in everything that we do.
Let us differ in our Politics with Compassion and Consideration.

Let us be fair in our dealings with our Fellow South Africans and all who visit,
work here or are seeking to become citizens.

Let us Proudly Uphold our Dignity no matter whatever our circumstances.
Let us uplift entire society and build a Prosperous future for South Africa for
the benefit of all who live in it.

Let us differentiate.
Let Our Leadership and Representatives Uphold the highest standards of Trust,
Ethics and Professionalism.

Let our Media Reports and our Social Media engagement be thorough,
accurate and Honest.

Let us make INTEGRITY our personal Branding.

Confronting Difficult Times

We are living in extremely difficult and uncertain times. Majority of South Africans are struggling to survive. Citizens often feel helpless, deflated and frustrated amidst circumstances often beyond their control or in the face of unresponsive and negligent governance.

Political Parties and Government itself seems helpless in the face of global economic forces, organised crime, social fracture and upheaval. There is global instability and divisive politics domestically and globally that is tearing society's apart. ***There seems to be a general loss of compassion to lead and act with Justice.***

These difficult times have to be confronted with the resilience that we know as South Africans. It requires greater solidarity and better organisation. Communities have to take charge of self-driven development supported by accountable government service delivery.

As a country we have to take greater responsibility to change the fortunes of our people and secure our own future as a prosperous nation. More so, we can present a transformative vision for ourselves and rest of the world of how more equitable, harmonious, compassionate and diverse societies can function on a socio-economic justice platform based on our liberation tradition and codification of such in our Constitution.

A mindset shift is required so that we pursue home-grown solutions and more imaginative economic policies and financial systems that tie in with developmental objectives of optimising societal well-being and not only on maximising production especially of goods and services that are either harmful to environment or to livelihoods of people.

Stand Firm for Justice

The hope of renewing our country and decisively building our society and economy is constantly challenged. It is easy to lose hope. Yet citizens and civil society have to be resilient for the sake of improving lives and securing the future of our children. We have the power to stand firm and recalibrate our society and nation.

This can be done on the platform of **Socio-Economic Justice** where on a day-to-day basis we reinforce the social and moral values enshrined in our Constitution and demand the highest of conduct from each other that reflects the best of our humanity and human nature at all times.

All citizens can become more conscious in promoting socio-economic justice whether at home, work, school, university, on the sports field, within religious institutions, community organisations or any circumstance that one finds themselves in. Am I acting fairly in whatever situation I find myself in? Am I promoting good values and good conduct? Am I acting selflessly and in consideration of supporting and uplifting the next person no matter my own circumstances? Am I taking responsibility for my own material, emotional and spiritual development?

Take Care of Citizens Basic Needs

We must demand that **All** State policy, resources and action must be directed first and foremost at ensuring that basic needs of citizens are met, safety of citizens is guaranteed, and people's lives are dignified. This should be a common basic minimum goal for all South Africans irrespective of differing ideological perspectives.

Ideological contestation should not immobilise us but should rather energise us as a progressive, dynamic and enlightened nation seeking solutions.

Sincerity and Genuineness

The most important thing is to ensure that there is sincerity and genuineness in building a better country and nation on the basis of socio-economic justice. This must underly the greater cooperation, dialogue and solution-seeking between government, business, unions and civil society. Relationships have to be built across sectors, race and class interests.

There has to be a shift away from rhetoric, sloganizing, labelling, self-righteous dismissal of others, toxic politics, constrained policy perspectives and fixation on ideologically entrenched positions without practical viable solutions to positively impact on people's lives.

The causal problems such as State weakness and negligence and lack of ethical selfless leadership across public and private sectors and across citizenry in general have to be fixed. There has to be immediate and swift accountability. Greater commitment and innovation are required from the private sector and all citizens to contribute more meaningfully to reconstruction and development of the country to crowd out ill-intentioned forces.

Self-Enforcement of Universal Social Values

Political parties, business organisations, community-based structures, faith-based communities and trade unions can set up programmes to help direct and promote self-enforcement of universal social values and commitment to the Constitution by all citizens in progressing rights and responsibilities to uplift the entire country and engender social solidarity and social cohesion.

All behaviour and conduct by politicians, business, civil society and union leaders and in general all citizens must be in line with the Constitution and aimed at fostering nation building so that various race, religious, class and ethnic communities can co-exist in harmony on the basis of a level playing field and a patriotic mission to build a prosperous country.

There must be community and civic pride and zero tolerance for all forms of criminal conduct and violence. Professional community-based proactive policing must be undertaken with urgency to ensure basic security, protection of life, property and rights. This lies at the core of ensuring stability and protection necessary for communities to develop and engage in greater economic activity.

Harness Transformative Consciousness

A transformative consciousness can be harnessed across society to enable change and innovation in public policy, delivery and more community self-reliance that ensures sovereignty and prosperity of South Africa as a nation. People have to be challenged and supported to live to the best of their humanity, human nature and talent potential.

There must be a focus beyond material progress to emotional and spiritual upliftment. The State must be compassionate and caring to ensure the most vulnerable and marginalised are assisted and the dignity of all people is advanced.

The purpose of the economy and management thereof must be to create well-being for society and not maximisation of production at all cost that can be harmful to environment and people's livelihoods. Economic resources and the financial system should be directed primarily at production in the economy that ensures basic needs of the population is catered for such as decent shelter, nutritious food, clean air and water and affordable energy.

In this regard and in this context, there can be impactful programmes shaped from a transformational mindset:

- a. A time bound ***adequate basic income grant*** (as a social safety net and investment in capability of our people as well as stimulus into local economies) for unemployed that are actively seeking employment and engaged in skills programmes as a hand up rather than hand out measure.

This can be funded by savings in current wasteful expenditure, non-essential budgetary items, unemployment insurance fund and possibly a voluntary wealth tax encouraging solidarity. The viability must be judged according to a more comprehensive socio-economic cost-benefit model rather than a narrow financial one.

Many resources are already being channelled voluntarily by a generous public through various humanitarian and relief organisations. These organisations can become part of an innovative partnership-based delivery model to avoid duplication of resources and management systems and enable more effective community and household level targeting. This can be further linked to community-based or ward-based planning and funding systems.

Current opposition to a basic income grant must be rejected as it is framed within classical economic theory that does not take into account the unique inequality situation in South Africa which requires a developmental intervention. It also does not pay particular attention to changing economic and job creation circumstances due to various shifts and transitions that are taking place due to technology, climate change and consumer preferences. It does not embrace the fact that the key factors of production have changed from labour and land etc., to ***Talent, Technology, Governance and Finance***.

- b. ***Interest-free micro-lending*** and support to small and micro enterprises on a large scale with smooth and easy approval and access processes that supports financing basic assets to stimulate trade and entrepreneurship.
- c. A massive ***urban planning, development and reconstruction programme*** to ensure clean, safe, functional and liveable neighbourhoods with interest-free home loan programme for low-income households.

The Reserve bank can introduce a differentiated interest rate model that can support lower or zero-interest lending into certain sectors for transformational objectives. This programme can have massive sustainable job creation potential. It has to be accompanied with a special bulk infrastructure funding and procurement model and urban asset and integrated human

settlement/neighbourhood management system supporting the functions of local government.

Make the South Africa we Want

We can rise up and create the country we want. **Let us commit to Socio-Economic Justice and Transformative Consciousness!** Live with hope and determination to make things better. Every community in every neighbourhood, city, township, informal settlement or village must stand up and raise the bar for their own development.

Every person whether in the private or public sector can make a difference.

We can commit to helping make every school, health facility, police station, municipality or sporting club a centre of excellence where there is accountability for professional, ethical service and support by ourselves as local communities for improvement and sustainability. Let us ensure protection of public infrastructure and resources.

Let us be committed and determined to uplift ourselves at personal and societal level on the basis of moral and ethical principles and human solidarity!

The Movement for a United South Africa (MUSA) is A Transformative Civil Society Movement Uniting South Africans in Advancing Socio-Economic Justice and New Socio-Economic Models

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