



MOVEMENT FOR A UNITED SOUTH AFRICA

93-97 Bowling Avenue Morningside Johannesburg 2025 South Africa email: info@musa.org.za
www.musa.org.za +27(0)82 458 1150 / 061 565 2135

In the Names of The Loving Creator, The Ever Merciful, The Dispenser of Grace

29 October 2021

Your Excellency
The President of the Republic of South Africa
President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
Union Buildings
Private Bag X1000
Pretoria
0001

Dear Mr. President,

Shaping the Future of our Beloved South Africa

We trust that this correspondence finds you in peace and we pray for your continued strength and courage in leading the Nation.

We write to you as the Movement for a United South Africa (MUSA) in the context of the Local Government elections. It is our sincere hope that a new era of local governance can be ushered in as a critical part of the renewal process of our country where solutions in relation to the following three *interrelated* areas are paramount:

1. **Restoration of Values** across society through transformative consciousness and promotion of a moral/ethical, selfless and active leadership and Constitutional Citizenry;
2. **New Economic paradigm** and new socio-economic model; and
3. **Urban Planning and Development programme** undertaken in concerted and coordinated way to ensure well-serviced, functional and sustainable towns, cities and villages across the country.

MUSA envisages that solutions in these three areas will rest on addressing the current malfeasance and culture of impunity in the country with more decisive action through your leadership of Government. The priority is to have a fully functioning and effective Security Cluster that must include a community-based policing system reconfigured within a community safety and development approach.

This has to be accompanied by transformative social and economic programmes that can bring hope and opportunity for a better future for *all* South Africans who must be united in diversity and resolute in solidarity to alleviate and eradicate the plight of inequality, unemployment and poverty besetting the historically exploited who are presently most vulnerable and marginalised in our society.

As a transformative civil society body, MUSA advances Social Cohesion through Socio-Economic Justice, using socio-economic models aimed at bringing about a fair, ethical and prosperous society wherein there is dignity for all. We are of the view that through the President's leadership there can be solution-seeking in a partnership with social actors that will extend beyond narrow party political or sectoral loyalties and perspectives. It ought to rather be based on a patriotism that empowers people with opportunities within a framework of building a successful country and nation.

1. Restoration of Values across society through transformative consciousness and promotion of a moral/ethical, selfless and active leadership and Constitutional Citizenry

It is suggested that the moral regeneration initiative that was started some time back be revived as a process for the entire country driven across all sectors of society and not restricted to the faith-based sector. The ethos of MUSA in relation to this as a national movement to reinvigorate hope in a better future for all, as envisaged in our Constitution, the National Development Plan and a myriad of Government policies and Programmes can be embraced collectively and inclusively by all the people of our beloved country.

This ethos is about a new mindset and orientation that encapsulates a transformative socio-economic consciousness and a mission to promote solidarity and hope amongst all citizens to arise and strive to build a better future collectively. This can be attained through a social contract process drawn in partnership with ethical, capable and selfless leadership from within the public, private and civil society spheres, with all sectors of society and all citizens taking it on as a responsibility to directly contribute and make critical sacrifices to co-create constitutional coexistence towards the overall well-being of society, thereby – the Nation.

This transformative consciousness is about imbibing awareness of living to the best of our human potential as equal responsible citizens working together to build their neighbourhoods, protect their infrastructure and enable big change and better ways of doing things by putting people and their basic needs and aspirations first. It is about embracing excellence and not tolerating selfish, negative and

toxic behaviours and actions that undermine the public good. It is about impact; utilizing limited resources in innovative, efficient ways that address inequality and secure upliftment of society in its entirety so that in the end, no one is left vulnerable or marginalised.

The vast challenges that South Africa faces, especially the persistent conditions of poverty and inequality with attendant failure to meet basic needs, which is related as well to the failing local government system, can be turned around into an opportunity through this reignited vision of transformative consciousness and activism to galvanize our common humanity and shared identity as the premise for collectively building a South Africa that works for everyone.

We must overcome race, class, religious, ethnic, gender and spatial divisions to uplift ourselves as a collective. This must be underpinned by socio-economic justice which includes both redress of the past *and* addressing current injustices presenting in forms of discrimination, underdevelopment, and lack of opportunity brought about by erosion of values and ethics across society, poor governance and poor leadership, and a pervading culture of impunity and break down in law and order where across the board some people in positions of economic and political access embezzle the public purse with little accountability and consequences.

The break down in societal values and the break down in law and order is the cause of all the challenges and problems that we face in the country including ongoing heinous crimes as well as the scourge of Gender Based Violence. There has to be swift justice for victims and visible action that serves as a deterrent and brings confidence to the public in the law enforcement system.

Restoration of Values must happen through education, transformative consciousness, role modelling of good character, good governance and engagement with the entire society to become responsible and patriotic Constitutional Citizens.

2. New Economic paradigm and new socio-economic model

The legacy of colonialism and apartheid is perpetuated by current poor governance, all forms of state capture and lack of vision for State and economic sovereignty. To confront this legacy in a rapidly changing world characterised by urbanisation, climate change and technological advancement, a new economic paradigm and new socio-economic models are necessary to change the fortunes of South

Africans towards future well-being and prosperity.

MUSA strongly believes that the current liberal and exploitative economic framework has to be dismantled so that macro-economic policy and economic growth and development strategy of the country is directed at emancipation and upliftment. The financial system can be made more inclusive and can be directed towards production that addresses basic needs first and foremost of South Africans and enables interest free lending in critical areas such as social/affordable housing and finance for micro-enterprises. This must be accompanied by social safety nets including a basic income grant cushioning unemployment within a framework of responsible citizenship wherein grants are designed as temporary instruments to support people as they uplift themselves and become self-sustaining.

The national economy must be strengthened by supporting and integrating micro and local economic development initiatives and made specific for different district and metropolitan areas in the country through the intergovernmental coordination of the District Development Model that has to be driven more forthrightly.

The infrastructure led approach that is prioritised in the Economic Recovery Plan of the country is not sufficient by itself. Focus on upskilling and uplifting people as well as supporting communities to become more self-reliant is crucial. The infrastructure led approach relies on critical public and private financial investment that can only be mobilised and secured if there is high confidence in ethical State governance and implementation capability. Contract and project management skilled people need to ensure that the procurement systems are working effectively, efficiently and fairly. Assurance needs to be given that there is no interference and manipulation of tenders to suit personal or particular interests. In effect, tenders awarded need to ensure that work is carried out by ethical and capable companies and SMMEs. There has to be proper supervision, due diligence and business procedures in overseeing the work of service providers and contractors. The tender system can also yield in favour of more in-sourcing that creates jobs both in the build as well as operation and maintenance of infrastructure.

3. Urban planning and development programme undertaken in a concerted and coordinated way to ensure well-serviced, functional and sustainable towns, cities and villages across the country

MUSA is of the view that Local Government has to be elevated in its aspirations and in the way it functions as part of a cohesive State. Local Government, in performing its core functions well and coordinating effectively with provincial and national spheres of government, must ensure well-serviced,

functional and sustainable places.

The role of Local Government needs to be understood in relation to the management and technical capability required to undertake proper spatial and urban planning and land development and land use management. **Municipalities must have capable people and expertise to undertake these functions and Local Government councillors need to understand and appreciate that their role in representing communities goes beyond ensuring municipal officials respond to basic service needs and issues.** It includes bringing communities together and generating cohesion and a vision for sustainable long-term development of local areas and remaining committed and accountable to realising the vision.

The breakdown in governance and societal values is generating a vicious cycle of poor service delivery, lack of payment for services, and lack of civic pride and pride in local places and infrastructure by communities. This, together with the resultant poor performance and orientation of the economy including lack of effective infrastructure coordination and delivery all have a bearing on coordinated urban development programme and ability of Local Government to perform effectively. It compromises the ability to build an adequate and sustainable rates base that is critical for the viability of municipalities and long-term prospects for residents.

Poor governance is demonstrated in the misuse of resources and in utilisation of resources that does not achieve desired outcomes and impacts. It is further characterised by blatant and unabated corruption that siphons resources away from the needs of communities affecting the marginalised and vulnerable the hardest, obfuscation of party and state roles, and inability to build a professionalized public service that puts people first. There is often a lack of transparency. Consultation with the public and communities is often done in a compliance manner and not for genuine solution seeking purposes. Poor consultation with civil society and private sector has paralyzed the economy and stagnated social development and mobility so that public confidence in the state has been reduced.

National and Provincial government and all Political Parties have to ensure that a conducive environment is created for all municipalities to be supported and to function effectively, and that there is well coordinated and cohesive delivery of programmes across government that addresses the spatial and socio-economic transformation of local areas.

Greater responsibility and commitment is required by all Political Parties to choose, train and monitor their appointees to be capable and ethical leaders that understand their roles and responsibilities

in serving communities and working together with communities to build functional, more liveable and sustainable places. They have to be accountable to the communities they serve and have to work for the greater public good at all times, having a good appreciation of the spatial and urban planning, development and management systems needed to run municipalities effectively. There has to be appreciation and application of long-range strategies and plans to transform places over time with clear short, medium and long- term milestones. Constant monitoring of progress must be done. Basic services ought to be delivered by Local Government seamlessly when commitment to carry out functions diligently and with due care is in place.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we view it essential that the renewal of our country and shaping the future of our beloved South Africa through the three interrelated priorities - **restoration of values, new economic paradigm and urban planning and development programme** - has to be implemented by ethical, transformative and capable leadership across all three spheres of government and all sectors of society in conjunction with every community, and by all Political Parties not as a Party Politics perspective but as an aspiration of the Constitution.

We look forward to your response and engaging the Honourable President through a physical or virtual meeting on best ways to advance solutions in the three interrelated priority areas highlighted in this correspondence.

We are determined to shape the future of our beloved South Africa so that all the children of this beautiful land and future generations live in a just, sustainable and prosperous society where there is dignity for all.

Yours in Peace and Development



Faizel Katkodia

for and on behalf of Movement for a United South Africa (MUSA)

MUSA Volunteer Steering Group: Abu Karolia, Faizel Katkodia, Aymna Fakude, Sharmiela Garnie, Salim Hattia, Ikbal Kolia, Fawzia Peer, Yusuf Patel, Aslam Bava, Ebrahim Bardien, Ebrahim Mphutlane Bofelo, Faisal Suliman, Yusuf Dindar, Aqeela Hoosen, Madiny Darries, Malik Arafat, Rashid Chopdat, Shabier Dabhelia, Shokat Khan, Imraan Seedat, Hidayatulla Harnekar, Thourhaan Massoun, Fatima Dildar, Haroon Mohamed, Hoosein Ismail, Anwaar al-Moola, Zaakirah Vadi, Ishaq Ebrahim, Aasif Mangera, Anwar Jetham, Goolam Kolia, Younus Amod, Yousuf Cajee, Zaakir Mayet