

Our Vision for a Socialist South Africa

A united Socialist South Africa, free of oppression and economic exploitation.

Such a South Africa is one in which racism, patriarchy, national domination and class exploitation have been vanquished and all its people enjoy the highest possible material and cultural development, are happy and live in peace.

Such a South Africa must be free from poverty, unemployment and inequalities!

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1. The fate of the majority

South Africans, twenty three years after 1994

With twenty four years of a black government, millions of South Africans are hungry and poor, cannot find work and suffer the effects of extreme inequalities in our society.

Millions of our children, a majority, have no future because their education is either very inferior, and does not prepare them for the world of work or are simply not educated and trained for the life of work.

Millions of South African women, a majority, both in our urban and rural areas lead miserable lives under the yolk of male dominance, without decent work, and suffer the burden of bringing up children alone in poverty, and are regularly sick, hungry and victims of domestic violence and abuse.

Millions of South African men cannot find work, suffer helplessness, endure lives swinging between alternating moods of madness and suicide, because of extreme poverty.

Millions of South Africans have no decent houses, do not eat regularly let alone eat healthy food, struggle to get clothes, suffer a backward public transport system when they travel and are regularly sick, and die early from curable diseases.

Twenty three years after 1994, South Africa is a neo-colony. Foreign financial, mining, industrial, manufacturing and commercial interests dominate and suppress local economic activity and development.

All these bad conditions are worse in our rural areas in which human life for the majority has deteriorated very badly, especially since 1994.

And yet South Africa is not a poor country. We are rich in minerals including gold, platinum, diamonds, copper, coal, iron, and many others. We have a vast coastline which endows us with fabulous marine wealth. Despite its recent erratic behaviour, our climate is relatively good for agriculture, there are excellent soils in most parts of the country, we have a rich biodiversity and a rich diversity

among our people who could be welded into a mighty creative force for good.

Our natural resources including land, water, natural game areas and minerals are largely concentrated in a few South African hands and foreign capitalists, even if they have South African frontmen and women.

In short, the majority of South Africans' life is short, brutish and very miserable, twenty four years after 1994.

The root cause of all these ills is South Africa's capitalism and global imperialism.

South Africa is trapped in a vicious historical vice of racist capitalist colonialism and a ruthless neoliberal grip by our national and world capitalist systems who are determined to continue to under-develop our productive forces, exploit our cheap labour, extract our raw materials and place us in the condition of permanent dependence on the world capitalist system.

All these ills and many more, we are convinced, can only be tackled and abolished by the South African working class organised as a united and revolutionary socialist fighting bloc against capitalism.

To achieve this organisation for Socialism, the working class must play their vanguard role in the struggle for a Socialist South Africa. The South African capitalist class - white and black - have failed us.

We, the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party, are determined to organise, educate, mobilise and unite all South African workers for socialism.

2. We are Revolutionary Socialists

We, the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party declare for all our country and the world to know: that we are Revolutionary Socialists and have a socialist programme for South Africa, Africa and the world!

We believe only Socialism, as espoused by Karl Marx and developed by subsequent genuine revolutionary Marxists such as Lenin, is the only viable alternative to the ongoing global savagery of the world capitalist system.

That the Programme of the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party is the abolition of the supremacy of the capitalist class, the organisation of workers into a revolutionary working class and the conquest of political power for a truly democratic, united, free and prosperous Socialist South Africa.

The people of South Africa will never be materially and culturally prosperous, equal and free until our land, all our natural resources and human talent and labour are placed at the service of the benefit of all our people instead of the private interests of both local and foreign capitalists.

Such a Socialist Republic shall have the fulfilment of the needs of all the people of South Africa in general, and all the working class throughout South African in particular – as its primary responsibility.

Such a Socialist South Africa shall place a premium on protecting our land and natural resource resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Notwithstanding the political settlement of 1994, the majority of South Africans have been robbed of their economic freedom, and therefore have no political freedom either, through the mechanism of continuing racist colonialism, neo-colonialism, and foreign and local capitalist domination in the ownership of finance and the major means of production and land. We will abolish this state of affairs.

Only a Socialist democratic state, fully responsible to all the people of South Africa and all human beings within our borders, rather than being beholden to imperialism, can secure and restore to all South Africans their full socio-economic rights.

We are confident that only a Socialist socio-economic base for South Africa can eliminate all forms of discrimination including that based on race, sex, age, religion, and social status.

And therefore, we, members of the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party, rural and urban working class, working class women, working class students and working class youths, give ourselves this Socialist Manifesto, for ourselves and our country.

We know that at the root of our mass poverty, unemployment and extreme inequalities is the South African racist and colonial capitalist system aided and defended by the global capitalist system that ensures that our productive forces remain massively underdeveloped and our people materially and culturally poor.

We pledge ourselves to work together in unity, always uniting all South Africans and all people in South Africa in general and the working class in particular, sparing neither risk nor toil, avoiding neither small nor large sacrifices, until the final victory of the South African working class for a Socialist South Africa!

3. Full Democracy and Equality

All South Africans Shall Enjoy Democracy and Have Full Equal Political Rights!

Every South African and resident of South Africa, of appropriate legal age, who qualifies shall have the right and duty to vote. To this end, the voting age shall be reduced to 16 years.

Every person residing in South Africa who so freely desires, of appropriate age for the office and who qualifies, shall have the right to stand as a candidate for all bodies which make

laws, without hindrance of financial and other resources. The state shall abolish and or regulate private funding for elections and design a system in which all those who wish to participate in elections do so without being discriminated and disadvantaged by resources.

All South Africans and non-South Africans who so qualify shall be entitled to, and fully facilitated by the state, take part in the administration of the country.

The rights of all people in South Africa shall be equal, regardless of origins, race, belief, sex or sex orientation. The state shall take measures to guarantee and enforce equality.

Women must have equal rights to men. All cultural and other forms of discrimination of women must be abolished.

All administrative, judicial and police bodies of the state – local, provincial, national – must be popularly elected organs and functionaries of the state, freely accessible, democratic, and accountable to the population in their jurisdiction and/or areas of operation.

4. Full Cultural Rights

South Africans and people residing in the country shall have Equal Cultural Rights!

There shall be equal access, treatment and status for all people in South Africa in the organs of state, in the courts, in the schools and in all social services and facilities.

All South African languages shall be treated equally and developed. There shall be no discrimination of any language for any reason. The current dominance of English in the courts, schools and universities and commerce shall be ended.

Every South African shall have equal rights to use any South African language of their choice anywhere in the country, and to freely participate in the development of any folk culture, customs and traditional practices.

All linguistic and cultural groups shall be protected by law against insults to language, culture and traditional practices

as long as these are not in conflict with basic Socialist values, any written law, and the Constitution.

Tribalism, regionalism, provincialism, xenophobia, homophobia, racial or any similar discrimination and contemptuous treatment of other human beings shall all be punishable crimes.

The Socialist government of South Africa shall ensure that the histories of all the peoples of South Africa are scientifically, accurately and properly recorded and taught in schools, colleges and universities in the country.

5. Land and Natural Resources will serve all South Africans

South African land and all natural resources and wealth derived from these belong to all South Africans, and not to local, national and foreign capitalists!

The Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party shall end poverty, unemployment and inequalities in South Africa by ensuring that the wealth of South Africa benefits all South Africans, equally.

Twenty four years after the negotiated political settlement, the wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, remains concentrated in few South African hands and foreign capitalists. The Socialists government shall reverse this ugly reality. There shall be expropriation without compensation of land and strategic economic sectors and firms in order to abolish poverty, unemployment and inequalities.

The restoration of South African wealth to all its people shall be a primary focus of the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party.

South African land, waters, vegetation, animals, mineral wealth, mines, banks, strategic and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the South African people as a whole. By this means, racism, poverty, unemployment and inequality shall be abolished.

The Constitution shall be amended and legislation shall be passed to ensure that all commerce, industry and trade are regulated and controlled to assist the rapid material and cultural development of all the people of South Africa and to end poverty.

Our Socialism is not state capitalism! The state shall create the necessary conditions and provide infrastructure to harness the full potential and talents of all people in South Africa for the rapid development of the whole country and revolutionary abolition of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

All South Africans and residents, working cooperatively and individually, shall enjoy equal rights and be encouraged to trade where they choose, to enter manufacturing and all trades, crafts and professions for the good of their communities, families and themselves. An appropriate property regime shall be crafted by the Socialist State to enable this to happen.

The Socialist State and government shall pass legislation and make resources available to abolish the Apartheid social geography and distribution of communities. Such measures shall include legislation and direct state participation in the abolition of shacks and townships and the construction of integrated communities with all the necessary social services and amenities including education and health facilities, everywhere in South Africa, in the shortest possible time.

The Socialist state shall undertake to abolish the distinction between urban and rural areas by equalising, rapidly, social, economic and cultural conditions.

The Socialist state shall promote, within the shortest possible time, the full racial and geographical integration of all the people in South Africa to truly build a united country.

6. Abolish private ownership of land

South African land shall be restored to South Africa: it shall be owned and administered by the Socialist State on behalf of all of South Africa!

Foreign imperialist and local capitalist ownership of South African land shall be abolished.

All land shall be administered by the South African socialist state for the benefit of all South Africans and people resident in South Africa. The Socialist state shall amend the Constitution and pass enabling legislation for this to happen.

All land ownership on a capitalist private basis shall be abolished: land shall neither be speculated nor traded in.

The South African Socialist state shall help the South African agricultural communities both in the urban and rural areas with science, technology, implements, seed, tractors, dams, irrigation systems and markets and shall ensure our soils and natural vegetation and fauna are protected.

All South Africans desiring to participate in combating hunger and living by farming shall be assisted by the Socialist South African state to do so.

Agriculture shall be linked, connected and integrated to education, training, culture, science, technology, industry, finance and socialist markets to ensure the development of all six, in an integrated and harmonious manner.

No community shall be arbitrarily deprived of their right to use land communally and co-operatively, for settlement, for productive and cultural purposes.

The rights of farm workers shall be the same as the rights of all other workers and the state shall undertake special measures to rapidly improve the protection of farm and agricultural workers.

7. The State shall serve the People

All people in a Socialist South Africa shall be protected by law and shall enjoy full equality in law!

The Socialist state shall guarantee that no one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without a fair trial.

No-one shall be abused, victimised, have their dignity violated or condemned by the order of any government official, or politician.

The courts shall be accessible, use language understood by ordinary people, and be representative of all the people of South Africa. Further, all South African languages shall have equal status in law and in all our courts.

Imprisonment shall be only for serious crimes against the people, and shall aim at re-education, integration into society and not punishment and banishing individuals out of society. Prisons shall uphold human dignity in their operations, functions and treatment of all prisoners.

The police, army and all security services of a Socialist South Africa shall be open to all on an equal basis and shall be the helpers, protectors and defenders of all the people in South Africa. Women in particular, and the members of the LGBT community shall be encouraged to join and to fully participate in the work and life of these helpers, protectors and defenders of the people.

The Socialist State shall **encourage Community policing and support it with resources and links with local, provincial and national policing and other relevant state security apparatus.**

No constitutional provisions, laws or practices which discriminate on any grounds including origins, race, sex, sex-orientation and or beliefs shall be permitted in a Socialist South Africa.

8. Living with dignity as full human beings

All human beings in a Socialist South Africa shall have their human dignity respected and protected, and shall enjoy democracy, equal and full human rights!

The Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party government shall guarantee to all their full democratic rights to express themselves, to speak, to organise, to associate, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children.

The privacy of the individual, the family and the home shall be protected from cyber snooping, cyber attacks, and police raids, by law. The state shall take special measures, and pass laws, to protect the individual, family and communities from cyber interference of whatever nature in their lives and businesses.

All shall be free to travel without restriction from rural to urban areas, to and in towns, from province to province, and in and outside South Africa. To achieve this freedom of movement, the Socialist South African government shall guarantee access to free passports and provide decent, modern transport, with modern communication facilities wherever possible, throughout South Africa and facilitate travel outside South Africa.

The Socialist state of South Africa shall not permit laws to be passed restricting these freedoms.

Non-South Africans shall be protected and enjoy the same human rights as everyone else, in a Socialist South Africa.

Refugees shall be treated with dignity and not be denied the right to stay in South Africa, and the state shall ensure that their applications for asylum are processed within reasonable time.

9. Work and Security for All

Only a Socialist South Africa shall ensure that there is work and security for all human beings in South Africa!

All who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their officers and to make wage agreements with their employers, and in this work of trade unions it shall be illegal to interfere with trade unions.

Professions legally allowed to exist in South Africa shall be permitted by law to form professional associations to further their aims and purposes.

The Socialist State established by the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party shall **recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to receive full life support from the state**, when not in employment.

Women, just like men, performing the same kind of work, shall receive equal pay for equal work.

No state law or regulation shall be passed before being audited for gender equality.

Our Socialist South Africa shall guarantee a forty-hour working week, and with improved productivity and technology, and even this should gradually be reduced.

Our Socialist South Africa shall make laws to **create a genuine national minimum wage pegged at the cost of sustaining a life with dignity.**

The Socialist government of South Africa **shall guarantee paid annual leave, sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers.**

Fathers, who so wish, shall have the right to apply for paternity leave on full pay.

Domestic and farm workers and civil servants shall have the same rights as all others who work.

The use of children in work places, labour brokering and long term casual unprotected employment shall be abolished in a

Socialist South Africa.

All workers shall have the right to demand safe, conducive and healthy work environments.

All work environments shall take special measures to protect the rights of women workers.

All work environments shall take special measures to protect the rights and interests of babies, children, the elderly and the disabled.

All racist and apartheid wage, skills and education disparities and discrimination shall be abolished.

10. Life-long learning, Education and Culture

A Socialist State of South Africa shall guarantee lifelong Learning, Education and Culture for all, for free!

The Socialist South Africa government shall discover, develop and encourage national talent for the enhancement of our cultural life.

In order to accelerate the cultural development of all our people, all the cultural treasures of humanity in general, and those in South Africa in particular, shall be open to all, by the application and use of communication technology, free exchange of books, ideas and contact with other lands.

The aim of education shall be to promote equality, solidarity, co-operation and to teach all South Africans in general and the youth in particular, to love work and their people, their history and their culture, to honour humanity, liberty and peace.

The Socialist state shall take special measures to ensure that education, as a public good, shall be free, compulsory, decolonised, of high quality, universal, equal and accessible to all.

The Socialist State shall ensure that science, higher education and technical training shall be opened to all by means of state allowances and scholarships awarded to all who so wish to

acquire it.

Every adult shall have access to free, life-long state provided basic education to combat illiteracy.

Teachers shall have all the rights of other citizens and enabled to play their cultural leadership role in dignity, in society.

A Socialist South Africa shall abolish all discrimination in cultural life, in sport and in education. **Girls and boys, men and women shall have equal access to cultural life, sport and education.**

Socialist education shall aim at the all-round development of the individual and rapid material and cultural improvement of all our people.

11. Decent living conditions for all Houses, Health, Security and Comfort and Fun shall be available and provided for all!

Our Socialist state will guarantee to everyone the right to live wherever they want to, the right to have a decent house, and to provide comfort, fun and security to families: the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party shall work to deliver on this promise!

All unhoused people shall have the right to access government support to secure decent housing.

Shacks and all unhealthy dwellings shall be abolished.

Where rent and selling of houses is permitted, these shall be regulated by the Socialist government and be at affordable rates.

Food shall be plentiful and no-one shall go hungry. The right to food shall be guaranteed.

Our Socialist government shall ensure there is free and universal access to quality preventive, treatment and curative health services maintained and run by the state. The distinction between private and public health services provisions shall be abolished.

Universal free medical care and quality modern hospitalisation shall be provided for all, with special care for mothers and young children, orphans and the elderly.

Shacks and slums shall all be demolished, and new decent and healthy living quarters built **where all have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, nurseries for babies and all essential social services.**

The Socialist state shall take special measures to ensure it takes care of the aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick.

Peace, fun, rest, leisure and recreation and lives of genuine happiness shall be the right of all in our Socialist State.

Exclusive housing developments for the rich and shacks for the poor shall be abolished, and no effort shall be spared to ensure families are not separated because of lack of houses, transport and other social services, and distance from work.

12. Peace and Friendship

We will work for Peace and Friendship, at home and abroad!

A Socialist South Africa will be an independent, unitary sovereign state free from capitalist and imperialist interference in its pursuit of full development of its people and natural resources.

A Socialist South African will work for a Socialist Africa and Socialist world as the only true guarantee for lasting world peace.

A Socialist South Africa will promote international respect, the rights and sovereignty of all nations and their freedom to choose their own development path.

A Socialist South Africa shall work to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation and not war.

A Socialist South Africa shall work to abolish all nuclear arms.

A Socialist South Africa shall recognise and work for

international peace and friendship amongst all our people and promote the idea that permanent international security must be the inevitable result of securing and upholding the equal rights, opportunities and status of all of the world's peoples.

A Socialist South Africa shall **democratise and devolve all power to the lowest denominator of human society – the individual and the family** and shall not be afraid to let communities fully participate and determine their development, within a well thought out and democratically determined Socialist national development strategy and plan.

A Socialist South Africa shall work towards the unity of Africa and the abolition of the current imperialist imposed borders and artificial nation states in Africa under a continent wide Socialist programme for all the peoples of Africa. We believe this is the only viable way to move Africa out of its current state of permanent underdevelopment and backwardness.

13. Fight for Socialism

We call on all the workers of the world to support us in our work to fight for a Socialist and truly democratic South Africa!

We call all the South African working class, black and white, in our urban and rural areas, our working class youth, our working class women, our self-employed people, our socialist intellectuals and academics and all true lovers of freedom and justice, to join us in our struggle for a Socialist South Africa!

We are confident that united under the banner of revolutionary scientific Socialism, the South African working class shall win the fight for a Socialist South Africa!

In pursuit of a Socialist South Africa as elaborated in this Manifesto, we commit ourselves!

We are the Socialist Revolutionary Workers Party,

March 2019, South Africa