



AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

TO: THE MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE & TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

FROM: AZAPO

DATE: 2022-07-26

SUBJECT: AZAPO ASINAMALI PROTEST ACTION

Dear Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma

South Africans believed that the introduction of democracy in 1994 would transform their lives for the better through equality of opportunities. This has not happened but instead we have a callous government that despite the ailing economy, the current 34.5% unemployment rate, and the loss of jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic has instead imposed an unjustifiable hike in municipal rates.

Despite unsettling economic times, and inflation at a 13 year high of 7.4%, as of 1 July 2022 all municipalities have imposed increases on property rates, electricity, water, and waste removal with most increases above CPI. These indiscriminate increases are levied despite the state knowing that the stagnant economy, the rising cost of food and petrol has put enormous pressure on the poor and working poor masses of South Africa, who we know are Black. The FY22/23 municipal rates increase will further burden the black and poor majority and increase their indebtedness as they seek to service these high costs of living against insufficient income and the rising inflation.

The third tier of the state, which we all know is inefficiently managed continues to illegally and unilaterally make decisions that impact negatively on the citizens' rights to access basic municipal services by switching off access to electricity and water to force communities to pay for the inefficient delivery of services and corrupt officials.

It is against this background that AZAPO submits the below stated demands:

LIST OF DEMANDS

- A moratorium on municipal tariff hikes on water/electricity/waste recovery services and property rates
- A moratorium on cutting services to people households who are not in a position to service municipal bills
- A review of household services bills – to enable municipalities to consider an affordability-based rates programme – (tax those with higher income brackets more)
- A blanket amnesty on municipal debt
- Impose eradication of bucket toilet system and pit latrines targets for municipalities
- Penalise municipalities with ill maintained public service infrastructure

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