



AZAPO
AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

TO : TO ALL MEDIA HOUSES

FROM : OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON

DATE : 21 FEBRUARY 2023

RE : AZAPO GAUTENG RESPONSE TO 2023 SOPA

AZAPO Gauteng Statement on the State of the Province Address by the Premier of Gauteng

Mr Lesufi, the Premier of Gauteng, delivered his maiden State of the Province Address and outlined his vision board for the Province.

He ticked all the expected boxes on the subjects of concern for the Province. The unrealistic execution of his vision ,as he tabled how these will be achieved, gave an outright indication of how out of touch with the reality of the Province his plans are .

On Poverty: nothing tangible to deal with this devastating disaster that black people are confronted with on a daily basis. The food parcels that he talks about will never be a solution to perpetual abject Poverty faced by residents of Gauteng.

The residents of Gauteng need long term and sustainable solutions to take them out of poverty, not food parcels handouts.

The Premier does not understand what Poverty is and therefore failed to come up with a plan to deal with this.

On Unemployment: the vision board of the premier acknowledges the high unemployment in the province but fails to make urgent intervention plans to deal with this. The Presidential youth employment programme that pays a stipend to the participating youth, is not a viable solution to Unemployment. Unemployment is a deeper and grave matter that needs a solid solution. The Premier displays a lack of understanding of the value chain disaster that Unemployment wrecks in households and families.

On Crime: Gauteng has become a warzone and the hub of crime. The office of the Premier has over the years been failing to curb and prevent the escalating crime that is ravaging the province. Criminal syndicates with suspected collusion with government officials must be addressed and dealt with to eradicate crime. That even the President of the country is allegedly involved in money laundering tells of the so-called will to fight crime by government.

The digitization of crime prevention resources implementation thereof is a different and unrealistic matter. The ePanic buttons concept is just a grandstanding stunt by the Premier. With no plans to deal with the energy crisis, the ePanic buttons will be useless and another failed expensive project. The collaboration with private security companies to deal

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with crime is evidence that the provincial government is failing in doing its duty. Encouraging the mushrooming of these vigilante groups in our communities will have devastating effects.

Drugs are a major problem in the Province, but the Premier is focused on rehabilitation of addicts, which is good. The major problem is not addressed: the drug peddlers and drug lords. Before our children become addicts there is a supplier that introduces them to drugs. The Premier is silent on this. That drug addicts will be given free education is shocking when we look at the number of children who have passed Matric and others already in higher education institutions but lack funds to continue with their studies. The message that he is passing is dangerous and will have

Gauteng riddled with drug abusers aiming at getting free education.

On housing: the revamping and restructuring of hostels in the province shows how the government has failed and still is in providing black people with proper and dignified housing. The size of the land to be given to youth is very crucial.

On Township economy: he doesn't outline how the spaza shops, informal and small businesses will survive the current heavy competition from big conglomerates in the form of shopping malls that are invading townships and collapsing these small businesses.

On the energy crisis. The solar system projects that he is promising and his emphasis on collaboration with private

business to provide these have strong inclinations to the privatization of state organs that must be dealing with this national problem.

On transport: He mentions building taxi ranks of the future but doesn't mention the death traps that passengers travel in, in the form of taxis on a daily basis.

The state of Gauteng roads and the damages they cause on ordinary Gauteng residents' lives and cars is another issue that the Premier doesn't have plans on.

The Municipalities in Gauteng are on the brink of collapse because of inter political battles, corruption and poor service delivery. The Premier doesn't have any plans in sight to deal with such issues because he is also part of the continuing destabilization of some of these

Municipalities.

The scrapping of eTolls is a convenient political stunt at this time when elections are in sight.

The state of the Province Address by Premier Lesufi remains just that, an address, a lackluster address with no convincing implementation plan, with no time-lines and with nothing new.

END.

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