



AZAPO

AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: AZAPO SECRETARY FOR PUBLICITY & INFORMATION

DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2024

SUBJECT: AZAPO RESPONDS TO MINISTER MOTSOALEDI'S UTTERANCES ON THE FOREIGN NATIONAL OWNED SPAZA SHOPS

AZAPO is shocked to learn of the unaffected responses by Minister of Health, Aaron Motsoaledi, to the outrage shown by residents in various communities, "All spaza shops in the country are illegal, the reason they are in existence is because municipalities do not enforce By-Laws."

The Minister said this in response to residents' violent outrage in areas like Sharpeville, Gauteng - following the reported deaths of people, allegedly after consuming food products bought from local spaza shops.

AZAPO views these utterances by Minister Motsoaledi, an esteemed medical doctor, to merely relegate a crisis of this magnitude to a matter of municipalities failing to implement by-laws; as callous and further evident of the South African government's unapologetic detachment from the citizens of this country and their struggles in everyday life.

Azanians are screaming out loud for help, they cannot afford making trips to shopping malls to buy food supplies and purely rely on the so called "My Friend" shops, that are not friendly to them.

While they put their trust in "My Friend", to be able to live day-by-day, until the next social grant benefit, or kindness from friends and relatives to buy food - the spaza shop owners are taking advantage and endangering their lives by selling allegedly untested, unverified and deadly food supplies.

It is quite clear to **AZAPO** that there is neither attempt nor intent with the inept government to decisively deal with the crises we are in, as a people.

AZAPO believes there is no urgency to tackle issues that continue to put the country and its citizens at risk. The government needs to act with urgency and address the litany of recurrent crises the country faces.

There is zero intent to fight crime that engulfs our communities, we remain entrapped in a crime ridden country and permanently live in fear in our own backyards.

Our view as **AZAPO**, is that with the multitudes of unemployed citizens, many would be able and willing to undergo training as health inspectors, albeit on a voluntary basis with a decent stipend.

Not only would this assist in reducing the unemployment that is breaking new high record levels every month, but it will deal heads on with the crisis of rouge spaza shop owners and their suppliers, that feed the nation with deadly food.

Whatever the government believes it is doing to take us to a better country, **AZAPO** remains convinced that whatever they are experimenting with, has no interest in seeing the Black people of Azania reach a point of emancipation and rising out of the misery and strife engulfing them.

AZAPO's main concern is that Minister Motsoaledi had been placed "strategically", in his past portfolios - first as Minister of Health and later Home Affairs - to deal with crucial challenges of improving health status through prevention of illness, disease and promotion of healthy lifestyles... while Home Affairs is mandated to be a key enabler of national security, coupled with citizen empowerment.

Both portfolios were platforms at his disposal to make a difference in aptly resolving the glaring challenges with Spaza shops, their owners' legal status in the country and saving the citizens from their deadly products.

If Minister Motsoaledi received stripes through his purported successful fight against big companies like Enterprise, on Listeriosis infections, why is he now taking the stance of a helpless and removed manager?

AZAPO deems it crystal clear that the living standards of our people will remain as they always are, devastatingly tough and eroding under all past and current governments in South Africa. Unless black people take matters into their hands and vote consciously for an AZAPO government, the words of Steve Biko, that we are on our own, shall remain hollow.

END

Issued by **AZAPO** Department of Publicity and Information (DPI).

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