

The South African Dream – ActionSA’s Vision for an Inclusive and Prosperous South Africa

ActionSA represents all South Africans who are determined to set our country free from the restraints of a broken political system and mend our painful past to build an inclusive, prosperous, non-racial and secure future for all its people.

We seek to unite the good, hard-working, law-abiding, community-oriented and freedom-loving people of our beloved nation behind the project of fixing South Africa.

The time for talking is over; to achieve our vision for an inclusive and prosperous South Africa, it is now time for action!

Imagine a future South Africa...

Imagine a future South Africa where our country is healed from its painful past. A South Africa defined by hope and prosperity, a country that its people are proud to call their home. A nation where race, gender, sexuality or any other demographic factors are no longer an indication of the barriers people are likely to face in life. All citizens live in dignity, with equal opportunities for upward mobility.

This is a South Africa that has reclaimed its position among the leading developing economies of the world. It has been freed from the grip of corruption, and is led by an ethical, competent and efficient government and civil service that puts the needs of residents ahead of their narrow political agendas. A government that believes that the best way out of poverty is through expanding access to quality education, removing historical barriers and unlocking economic opportunity.

Imagine a government that prioritises the implementation of innovative, decisive and just economic policies that enables opportunity and empowers businesses to create jobs. Ample economic opportunities provide households with the dignity that comes from earning an income so that they do not have to rely on inadequate social grants to survive, yet a social safety net exists for the most vulnerable amongst us.

In this South Africa, economic growth is measured not only in terms of material wealth, but in terms of the tools and resources it provides citizens to live a prosperous life. This is a nation of narrowing inequality, where all South Africans are not only equal on paper, but genuine counterparts in a dynamic and vibrant economy.

This nation is led by a pro-poor government that ensures the state executes its role in protecting the marginalised and most vulnerable through the delivery of reliable basic services, quality healthcare,

and sufficient social assistance to those in need. In this South Africa people can strive for a life of prosperity secure in the knowledge that their basic needs are met.

Imagine a country where residents feel safe in their homes and trust the South African Police Service to protect them. A South Africa where everyone is treated equally before the law, and crimes are prosecuted fairly, without fear or favour. This is a South Africa led by a caring government that understands that dealing with crime, violence and abuse means addressing the underlying socio-economic causes of lawlessness – not merely addressing the symptoms. A government that is dedicated to addressing the hopelessness and desperation caused by poverty and unemployment.

This South Africa is home to a society built on a foundation of strong families, and communities that work in partnership with government to provide social stability and support the most vulnerable among us. A society based on mutual respect that prides itself in our diversity and embraces our differences.

At the centre of this South Africa is a world-class education system that provides equal access to quality education for all citizens, both urban and rural, starting with universal access to early childhood development programmes. This education system will not only prioritize academic outcomes, but also focus on empowering young people with the tangible skills required to be active participants in the economy, enabling them to take control of their destinies.

In this South Africa, citizens are empowered to exercise the full extent of their Constitutional rights and freedoms. All South Africans have access to quality services, and live in safe and secure communities that care for each other in the spirit of ubuntu. This is a South Africa led by ActionSA.

South Africa is being held back from reaching its potential:

South Africans are all too familiar with the many challenges we face – lawlessness, crumbling public infrastructure, persistent load-shedding, rampant unemployment, inequality and an education system that does not empower young people with the skills they need to succeed.

Our Vision for South Africa necessitates addressing the key constraints that prevent us from making progress toward an inclusive and prosperous future for all. ActionSA's long-term plans for South Africa will be focused on addressing these key constraints to ensure that future generations inherit a South Africa with strong societal foundations.

Morally bankrupt leadership

- Our democracy inherited a broken society from the Apartheid-regime, but by virtue of their election through a free and fair democratic process, the current governing party accepted the mandate to lead all South Africans and uphold the values of our Constitution.
- The current governing party has however abandoned their constitutional obligations to the people of South Africa. They have actively promoted unethical, corrupt, divisive and incompetent leadership and forsaken the spirit of ubuntu in favour of self-preservation, political profiteering, patronage and rent-seeking.

- The current governing party has repeatedly demonstrated that they make decisions in the interest of their party, and not the South Africa people. This has led to the breakdown of our institutions, rendering the government entirely incapable of meeting its mandate.

Service delivery failures

- The current governing party's approach of focusing on equality of outcomes rather than on equality of opportunity has been wholly unable to reverse the inequality caused by the Apartheid-regime, and in some instances increased disparity.
- While gains have been made in expanding access to basic services, our government has been unable to provide everyone with the quality, reliable basic services they require to live a life of dignity and have the prospect of upward mobility.
- Inequality has grown over the past three decades, and access to opportunities continues to manifest along racial lines. This is perpetuated by a failing government that has not invested in the infrastructure needed to uplift marginalised communities.
- The almost complete break-down of the country's railway infrastructure, and lack of public transport alternatives have kept the marginalised communities from accessing opportunities while entrenching inequality.
- Without access to quality education, healthcare, housing, safety and nutrition, millions of South Africans are left without hope of escaping poverty.

A broken and exclusionary economy

- The exclusionary and discriminatory nature of the economy built by the Apartheid-regime under international isolation has not been reversed despite numerous efforts over the past 30 years.
- This has been perpetuated by a grossly inadequate education system that continues to disproportionately disadvantage black South African children.
- Our economic infrastructure such as our railways and ports are crumbling, our industries and homes are without electricity for hours every day, and little has been done to remove the barriers to economic opportunity for those that were traditionally excluded from the mainstream economy.
- Due to the lack of basic service delivery, draconian labour laws, and the stranglehold that trade unions have over our government, our labour force productivity is constrained. Government's over-regulation is stifling private sector innovation and inhibiting the creating of sufficient job opportunities.
- Save for an increasingly concentrated corporate minority, South African companies simply cannot compete on the international stage, and the cost of doing business is ever increasing – leaving our country behind in the global race for economic competitiveness.

Policy confusion and uncertainty

- The hope for an explosion of opportunity for all South Africans after the fall of Apartheid has not been realised.

- The current governing party policies have been driven by a confused combination of capitalist, socialist and communist ideologies, driven by political expediency and self-enrichment rather than rationality. This has left our economy rudderless.
- The government policies have been anti-poor, unable to spur job creation or ignite innovation while at the same time entrenching economic concentration and monopolies.
- Additionally, the link between policy and implementation is non-existing, resulting in an inefficient allocation of resources and inadequate outcomes.

The rise of lawlessness

- South Africa has one of the highest levels of crime in the world. Law-abiding citizens live in fear while criminals operate with impunity.
- Increasing economic inequality, a lack of opportunity, poor service delivery and corruption are all contributing to a growing feeling of hopelessness and the deterioration of the rule of law in South Africa.
- The feeling of hopelessness has given rise to substance abuse in our communities, which fosters increasing levels of gangsterism, gender-based violence, theft and murder.
- South African courts are overburdened, and correctional services fail to rehabilitate criminals that have been sent to prison. The resulting rise in lawlessness, crime and violence undermine our social stability and economic potential.
- Our security forces, from the department of home affairs to the state security agency, have abdicated their roles in keeping our people safe, leading to a borderless nation where our own public servants ignore our laws and communities take the rule of law into their own hands.
- Greed and corruption in the state and private sector are amongst the greatest obstacles to overcoming the legacy of our past. Combined with rising crime, it is damaging our nation's international reputation and eroding business confidence.