

## **DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS**

### **REMARKS BY THE HON. MR VUYOLWETHU ZUNGULA MP PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN TRANSFORMATION MOVEMENT**

**Cape Town City Hall: 13 February 2024**

Madam Speaker, Mr. President, and Honourable Members,

The stark reality is that our country is in a worse state than it was in 2019. Unemployment, poverty, load shedding, crime, and the cost of living have all increased.

Madam Speaker, to prevent the collapse of our nation and restore the dignity of our people, we must take decisive action.

The recognition of AmaHlubi is crucial for restoring the dignity of Africans. iNgonyama Langalibalele I, the first political prisoner in Robben Island, emphasises the urgency of acknowledging the King and the nation of AmaHlubi in our country.

Madam Speaker, the government must address establishments selling fake foods. Employing and deploying Environmental Health Practitioners to inspect and remove unsafe foods is imperative.

Mr. President, your visit to a foreign trader selling fake and expired foods, while neglecting the families of those who suffered, reveals a disregard for South Africans. The government must act on illegal immigration and foreign domination in the township economy.

Madam Speaker, The government must secure our borders to ensure legal movement of people. Mr President the rate at which illegal immigration is happening in the country, cannot be characterised as illegal immigration anymore. IT IS AN INVASION.

Securing borders, charging companies employing illegal immigrants, and ending load shedding are immediate priorities.

A commission of inquiry into Rand Manipulation and accountability for unethical banking practices is also essential.

Madam Speaker, employing all Police Reservists, combating drug and human trafficking, and addressing the protection fee phenomenon are critical for public safety.

The government must aggressively deal with the protection fee phenomenon. Poor people who are trying to make an honest living can't be held ransom by criminals. Mafias who forcefully demand 30% fee from local projects and local businesses, this must be brought to a stop.

Madam Speaker, Regulating the digital industry and transforming the film and television sector to promote educational content are imperative. An aggressive local manufacturing drive is needed to transform the township economy and restore citizens' economic activity.

Madam Speaker, prioritising Skills development centres, libraries, and arts centres over taverns in townships is vital for combating social ills.

Access to healthcare, a basic human right, requires employing unemployed doctors and initiating a farming revolution for food security.

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Above all, I call on South Africans to rescue our beloved country by voting for a people-funded and people-centered party that puts South Africans first.