



**2024 ELECTION  
MANIFESTO**



**ONLY  
ACTION**

**WILL  
FIX SA**

# Foreword from **HERMAN MASHABA**

Dear Fellow South Africans,

It is my great privilege to unveil ActionSA's inaugural manifesto for a national election campaign. The unveiling of our 2024 election manifesto signifies a historic milestone for ActionSA on our mission to fix South Africa. It is the culmination of over three years of engagement with the South African people because we believe that by tapping into the lived experiences of South Africans, we can ensure that our plans align with our capacity to execute them, rather than producing mere aspirational documents.

Thirty years into democracy, ActionSA's manifesto offers hope to millions of South Africans disillusioned by the political establishment. It will meaningfully improve the lives of our people to finally achieve the dreams those who fought for democracy fought for.

The manifesto we are unveiling is not a list of unattainable promises but a pragmatic plan aimed at addressing some of the country's most pressing issues. It aims to generate millions of new jobs, foster safer communities, secure our borders, ensure access to quality education and healthcare for all, and, for the first time, promote the inclusive empowerment of all previously disadvantaged South Africans, as well as those hindered by three decades of neglectful, unethical, and unpatriotic governance.

Starting with The People's Dialogue, where we engaged with millions of South Africans, consultation with the South African people has always been integral to ActionSA's approach. Leading up to our inaugural policy conference last year, we not only conducted 14 expert policy discussions but also received numerous submissions detailing what our members and the South African people deem essential for the prosperity of our nation.

We adopt this approach because we firmly believe that solutions for South Africa will arise not from politicians but from everyday South Africans facing and overcoming our most pressing challenges. Furthermore, while plans and policies are crucial, their effective implementation is the genuine driver of change and progress.

We take immense pride in unveiling our 2024 Elections Manifesto, as we believe it offers South Africans the most credible plan to steer South Africa towards prosperity. On behalf of ActionSA, I wish to express heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated teams involved in its creation, as well as the numerous individuals who contributed throughout the development journey.

ActionSA believes our manifesto offers the most credible alternative to the failed politics of the establishment. It will inspire millions of South Africans to take action by going to the polls on the 29th of May and voting for an alternative that prioritises the needs of our people. Because only action will fix South Africa.

Yours in service of South Africa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Herman Mashaba', written in a cursive style.

**Herman Mashaba**  
ActionSA President



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As we celebrate South Africa's 30th year of democracy, we stand at a pivotal crossroads that will shape the future of our country. This year's national and provincial elections will serve as the key driver for change – a change that is necessary to fix South Africa.

South Africans continuously face pervasive inequality, rising unemployment, rolling blackouts, poor educational outcomes, violent crime, brazen corruption, and poor service delivery. Citizens and residents can no longer be expected to endure the problems that have been exacerbated by poor political leadership.

ActionSA presents this Manifesto for the 2024 National and Provincial Elections and our plans to fix South Africa. Our approach focuses on nine priority intervention areas which have been shaped by our values and are aimed at addressing the most pressing challenges we face as a society.

## **Economic growth that creates job opportunities**

### **Small business development**

An ActionSA-led government will support business innovators and potential job creators, not needlessly restrict them. We will invest in entrepreneurial funding by allocating 30% of all income generated by ActionSA's Opportunity Fund towards this initiative. Additionally, we will enhance SMME investment by introducing targeted investments with lower capital gains tax rates.

An ActionSA government aims to transform South Africa's cities into hubs of entrepreneurship by reclaiming and repurposing hijacked buildings and unused factories for private sector development. Buildings will be developed for mixed-use and provide affordable rental opportunities for businesses.

Empowering the informal economy is an important aspect of our plans to support the development of small businesses. We will invest in economic infrastructure, improve community safety, and launch entrepreneurship mentoring programmes to support the informal business sector.

## **Investment and trade expansion**

Foreign investments and international trade grow our economy. We will reform the Protection of Investment Act of 2015 to reduce bureaucratic barriers and remove excessive limitations on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). We will support South African industries to increase the profits gained from our exports. These industries will include manufacturing, green energy, cannabis, aviation fuel, mining, and agriculture.

ActionSA will enhance the global competitiveness of our economy by developing telecommunications infrastructure for underserved communities. We will accomplish this by partnering with the private sector to deliver broadband internet connectivity to low-income households, so that more people can leverage the economic and self-development potential of being connected to the global community.

## **Economic inclusion that achieves economic justice**

### **Inclusive Economic Empowerment**

We will introduce the Inclusive Economic Empowerment Act to empower historically disadvantaged South Africans. This includes

establishing an Opportunity Fund to increase access to opportunities for inclusive economic empowerment and ensure equality of opportunity, as opposed to equality of outcome. The proceeds from the Opportunity Fund will be used to invest in programmes that promote the empowerment of black, coloured, Indian, and Asian South Africans who remain disadvantaged.

We will replace the compliance costs of existing empowerment legislation, estimated at 4%-6% of company profits, with an Opportunity Fund Levy. This introduces a 5% company tax for all companies, excluding SMMEs, and is projected to raise about R55.7 billion annually for the Fund's inclusive empowerment initiatives.

We will allocate Opportunity Fund income as follows: 10% to tertiary education, 30% to entrepreneurial funding, 35% to infrastructure in underserved communities, and 25% to further investment.

## **Universal Basic Income Stimulus**

We acknowledge that seeking employment or building a business costs money. For this reason, we will introduce a Universal Basic Income Stimulus (UBIS) to alleviate poverty and support citizen's participation in the economy. We will provide cash payments to all South Africans who register to receive the UBIS to invest in their economic empowerment and stimulate economic growth.

The Universal Basic Income Stimulus Grant will be provided to all adult South Africans and permanent residents who register as UBIS recipients. The UBIS, which is linked to poverty bands, will initially be paid for a period of three years through monthly cash transfers consisting of R790 in the first year, R1101 in the second year, and R1622 in the third year. This will increase the growth of South Africa's economy by at least 2 additional percentage points measured against projected GDP growth and create an additional 1.6 million jobs.

## **Social grants**

ActionSA will ultimately work towards eliminating broad reliance on social grants. ActionSA will ultimately aim to reduce broad reliance on social grants through the achievement of economic prosperity and justice for all. However, we will increase existing social grants alongside the introduction of the UBIS, to protect the most vulnerable in society from the effects of poverty. We will additionally improve the fair and timely distribution of social grants by implementing prioritised institutional reform programmes at the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) to eliminate corruption, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and to improve access to social grants.

## **Quality education for all**

### **Basic Education**

Numeracy and literacy are essential skills that need to be fostered during the Foundation Phase (grade R – grade 3) of a child's education to ensure they are well prepared for their academic journey. We will introduce training to improve the ability of existing Foundation Phase teachers to teach numeracy at age-appropriate levels. We will implement teaching methods for numerical skills development that have been scientifically proven as successful. Technological tools such as educational software and digital maths games will also be introduced in classrooms to improve children's mathematical abilities.

Reading for meaning is a foundational literacy skill that learners must develop to obtain a good understanding of the materials they study throughout their educational journeys. ActionSA will ensure that 90% of South African learners will be able to read for meaning by the age of 10 by 2035. We will allocate a sufficient budget to cover the cost of reading interventions and reading materials in all Foundation Phase classrooms. Foundation Phase teachers will be provided with training on how to teach children to read for meaning at least once every



quarter. ActionSA will further facilitate parental reading initiatives to empower parents to help their children read for meaning.

School inspectors will be reintroduced to ensure that these interventions are being successfully implemented in classrooms.

## **Curriculum reform**

Local education should be situated within a global context. ActionSA will review and align the content of our educational curriculum with global skills requirements, international educational trends, and technologies. This will empower our young people through education to participate in the global economy.

We will additionally introduce a skills-based vocational stream of education after grade 10 alongside the traditional academic stream. This will enable high school learners to have more choices in their education and economic empowerment.

## **Developing skills aligned with the needs of our economy**

No academically qualifying student should be excluded from higher education due to funding constraints. An ActionSA-led government will expand access to tertiary education by ensuring that fully funded bursaries are provided to all South African students who cannot afford their tuition fees. In addition to the reprioritisation of wasteful government expenditure on luxuries, this will be accomplished through ActionSA's Inclusive Economic Empowerment policy, which specifies that 10% of the Opportunity Fund must be allocated towards tertiary education.

Expanding access to tertiary education goes beyond increasing student funding. There are currently not enough available seats at public universities to absorb all matriculants who qualify to study. An ActionSA-led government will build more public universities to ensure that all matriculants who wish to study can do so. We will additionally build Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges – including artisanal, teaching, nursing, agricultural, and policing colleges – to provide alternative further education opportunities and to



increase the critical skills needed in South Africa.

University attendance should not be the only determiner for achieving financial success. It is for this reason that we will provide alternative options for people who wish to further develop their skills. ActionSA will enhance the economic participation of those completing vocational training by facilitating entrepreneurial skills development and aligning training programmes with the current and future needs of the South African economy. We will additionally invest in community centres and infrastructure to provide venues for adult education classes.

Finally, ActionSA will introduce a voluntary year of service for young people without a path to education or an immediate job offer, helping them to gain additional skills to enter the job market and to address our disastrously high youth unemployment.

## **Resolving the Energy Crisis**

Establishing a competitive and decentralised energy market is the most efficient solution to South Africa's energy crisis. Independent power producers and private sector competitors will join Eskom in electricity generation to boost South Africa's electricity supply.

ActionSA will introduce a legal framework that allows private companies to build small, local energy grids to serve clients in a limited geographic area. These micro-grids will be self-sustainable and generate power through renewable sources, thus reducing the demand on the national grid.

Demand on the national electricity grid will further be reduced by gradually increasing the use of solar power. We will invest in providing low-income houses with universal access to rooftop solar panels and solar-powered geysers.

The gradual shift to renewable energy technologies will be managed responsibly, ensuring support for citizens engaged in the fossil fuel energy value chain through a Just Transition framework.

# Establishing law and order that upholds a just society

## Anti-corruption

An ActionSA government will assign a fixed percentage of the annual national budget towards our fight against corruption. This will ensure that officials and investigators tasked with combatting corruption are sufficiently equipped and resourced to identify and prosecute corrupt acts effectively. We will also establish specialised courts to deal with corruption and create an independent Chapter 9 anti-corruption agency that has the authority to investigate and prosecute corruption.

## Police and justice reform

South Africa needs a more expansive and committed police service. We will launch a recruitment drive to expand the police service and implement strict physical condition requirements for entering the police service.

The presence of police in vulnerable communities acts as a powerful deterrent to crime. We will reduce the government's expenditure on VIP protection and reallocate these funds towards crime prevention and visible policing.

ActionSA will establish more specialised crime units because combatting different crimes requires specialised tactical approaches and expertise. This will include investigative units specialising in anti-gangsterism, financial crimes, organised crime, and economic sabotage.

We will establish more specialised courts to deal with specific crime categories, such as organised crime and corruption, to increase the efficiency of convictions and so increase accountability.

ActionSA will increase criminal prosecutions by empowering the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to employ more prosecutors. We will significantly increase the NPA's budget by allocating funds directly from Parliament.

# An effective approach to legal immigration

## Secure borders

Increasing control over our borders ensures that all goods and people entering South Africa do so lawfully. We will improve the surveillance and management of our country's borders by deploying the Border Management Authority (BMA) to reduce crime and harmful illegal trade in South Africa.

ActionSA will enhance collaboration efforts between the SAPS, SANDF, and the BMA to ensure our borders are monitored effectively. In addition, we will implement technological solutions to better monitor the transnational flow of goods and people between South Africa and its neighbouring countries.

## Home Affairs and Regulatory reforms

We want the people of the world to come to South Africa, but they must do so by following our laws. Alongside securing our borders, ActionSA will reform the Department of Home Affairs by addressing structural deficiencies to ensure improved and efficient enforcement of immigration regulations. We will additionally implement e-governance processes that allow citizens and immigrants to do their business online.

We will review the scarce skills list to ensure that it aligns to our economic needs, and then streamline the process of applying for scarce skills visas to ensure we are attracting talented individuals that can assist in growing our economy.

Tourism promotes the growth of our economy. ActionSA will expand the list of countries that can enter South Africa for tourism without visas and we will extend the time that tourists may remain in South Africa per entry. Visa applications will be simplified with the introduction of e-visas for tourists.

Finally, ActionSA will improve deportation processes related to foreign nationals found guilty of committing crimes in South Africa, as well as undocumented foreign nationals who cannot prove that they have a legitimate claim to residency or asylum.

## **Building an inclusive and cohesive society**

Building a unified and inclusive South African society requires effective communication between diverse groups, especially during times of conflict. It is important that citizens are educated about diversity to foster greater understanding between different social groupings.

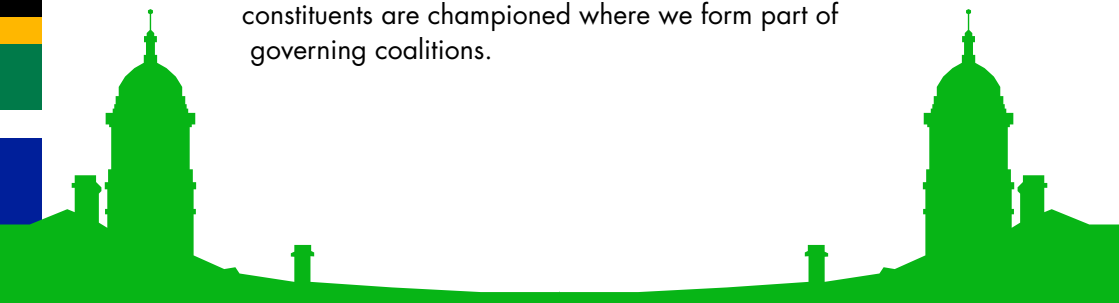

ActionSA will ensure that our children and young people are central to the formation of an inclusive South African society. We will incorporate the importance of ethical and moral behaviour in the education curriculum. Youth engagement programmes that provide after-school activities will be implemented to strengthen community ties and teach young people the value of teamwork, particularly in vulnerable communities.

Community leaders are important role players in resolving community conflicts. ActionSA will provide training to community leaders that focuses on non-violent dispute resolution to facilitate productive communication between communities, businesses, and the government.

## **Coalition Approach**

Coalition government is the future of South Africa. ActionSA remains committed to achieving the shared vision of a new government to build a just, inclusive, and prosperous South Africa based on opportunity, freedom, and security for all its citizens.

ActionSA will lead negotiations in the period following the conclusion of the 2024 elections to ensure that our entry into any coalition agreement is determined by a shared vision for government programmes that prioritise the interests of South Africans.



Importantly, we will ensure that our organisational values are not compromised and that the interests of our constituents are championed where we form part of governing coalitions.

# THE SOUTH AFRICAN DREAM

## — Our Vision for The Future

As we celebrate South Africa's 30th year of democracy, we stand at a pivotal crossroads that will shape the future of our country. This year's national and provincial elections will serve as the key driver for change – a change that is necessary to fix South Africa.

South Africa is characterised by the resilience of its people in the face of adversity. However, this ability to withstand and overcome the constant trials we face should not be used as an excuse to turn a blind eye to the unresolved challenges that confront our country.

South Africans continuously face pervasive inequality, rising unemployment, rolling blackouts, poor educational outcomes, violent crime, brazen corruption, and poor service delivery. Citizens and residents can no longer be expected to endure the problems that have been exacerbated by poor political leadership.

An ActionSA government will achieve our South African Dream by building an inclusive and prosperous society.

We ask you to imagine a future South Africa where our country is healed from its painful past. A South Africa which is defined by hope and prosperity. A nation where all citizens live in dignity, with equal opportunities for upward mobility. Imagine South Africa as a country that its people are proud to call home.

ActionSA will reclaim South Africa's position among the leading developing economies of the world. We will free the country from the grip of corruption, and we will lead with an ethical, competent, and efficient government and civil service that puts the needs of residents ahead of narrow political agendas.

An ActionSA government will prioritise the implementation of innovative, decisive, and just economic policies that enable opportunity and empower businesses to create jobs. Ample economic opportunities will provide households with the dignity that comes from earning an income so that they no longer must rely on inadequate social grants to survive. ActionSA will lead a nation of narrowing inequality, where all South Africans are not only equal on paper but are genuine counterparts in a dynamic and vibrant economy.

ActionSA will ensure that South Africa has a world-class education system that will provide 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 prioritise academic outcomes but also focus on empowering young people with the tangible skills required to be active participants in the economy and enable them to take control of their destinies.

ActionSA will ensure that 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. This will ensure that South Africans can strive for a life of prosperity secure in the knowledge that their basic needs are met.

An ActionSA government will prioritise restoring law and order so that residents feel safe in their homes and trust the South African Police Service to protect them. We will strengthen South Africa's criminal justice system so that everyone is treated equally before the law and crimes are prosecuted fairly, without fear or favour.

ActionSA will establish a South Africa that is built on a foundation of strong communities that work in partnership with the government to provide social stability and support the most vulnerable among us. We will build a society based on mutual respect that prides itself on our diversity and embraces our differences.

In this new South Africa, citizens will be empowered to exercise the full extent of their Constitutional rights and freedoms. All South Africans will have access to quality services and good healthcare and live in safe and secure communities that care for each other in the spirit of ubuntu.

In the pages that follow, ActionSA presents our 2024 National and Provincial Elections, our plans to fix South Africa. Our approach focuses on nine priority intervention areas which have been shaped by our values and are aimed at addressing the most pressing challenges we face as a society.





# OUR LEADER, HERMAN MASHABA

Herman Mashaba's journey commences in the dusty streets of Hamman-skraal, a small South African town overshadowed by the harshness of apartheid. Born in 1959, Herman encountered the trials of growing up fatherless, seeking solace and wisdom in his grandfather's teachings. His grandfather's lessons on self-reliance, education, and determination would shape Herman's core values.

Despite apartheid's limitations and injustices, Herman's determination propelled him towards higher education. Yet, apartheid's constraints eventually thwarted his university ambitions. Rather than succumbing to despair, this pivotal moment redirected him towards entrepreneurship.

Before delving into business, a significant milestone in Herman's life unfolded: his marriage to Connie. Blossoming amidst his early struggles, Herman and Connie's relationship forged a bond of emotional and practical solidarity that would withstand the test of time. Their union, at a tender age, laid the groundwork for a shared life journey through myriad endeavours and challenges.

With Connie as his companion, Herman embarked on his entrepreneurial odyssey. His entry into the business arena transcended mere economic ambition; it stood as a form of resistance against the oppressive regime. In 1985, he established "Black Like Me," a hair care enterprise. This venture symbolised more than commerce; it represented a bold statement of defiance against apartheid, embodying black empowerment and achievement.

As South Africa emerged from apartheid, Herman, along with many others, threw his support behind the African National Congress, envisioning an era of transformation and prosperity. Yet, subsequent years yielded disappointment, as the anticipated economic and societal changes failed to materialise.

Disillusioned yet undeterred, Herman embarked on a new path as he ventured into the political sphere. In 2016, he assumed the role of Mayor of Johannesburg. His tenure was characterised by endeavours to revitalise the city, earning him acclaim as one of South Africa's foremost and impactful servant leaders.

Nonetheless, Herman faced a new hurdle. His mayoral tenure, while significant, illuminated the shortcomings and barriers entrenched within the failing political framework. This spurred him and a select few towards a path of action.

Amidst a global pandemic, Herman exhibited resilience by adapting to the prevailing circumstances. He established ActionSA, a political entity embodying his vision for South Africa. Despite adversity, the party garnered substantial support, emerging as the 6th largest party in its inaugural election in 2021, despite competing in only six municipalities.

Today, Herman Mashaba leads ActionSA into its inaugural national and provincial election in 2024. His trajectory from a humble beginning in Hammanskraal to a prominent political figure underscores resilience, adaptability, and steadfast dedication to his principles and aspirations for South Africa.



# OUR VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES



## **Non-racialism**

ActionSA dreams of a South Africa where people's potential to thrive is based on their ingenuity and hard work, not the colour of their skin.

While we strive for a non-racial South Africa, we recognise that a strong correlation remains between race and socio-economic standing. We must fix this historical inequality.



## **Economic Prosperity**

Fixing South Africa requires that we build a prosperous, growing, and sustainable economy that provides meaningful employment to more South Africans. Inclusive economic growth is vital to addressing the legacy of our past.

We support a competitive, market-based economy with minimal government interference, in which entrepreneurs and the private sector are treated as valued and trusted partners.



## **Social Justice**

We will fix South Africa through a pro-poor governance agenda that will ensure that the most vulnerable in our society can live a life of dignity with the opportunity for upward social mobility.



## **Respect for the Rule of Law**

No country can flourish, and no economy can grow in a state of chaos. Tackling crime and violence in South Africa requires addressing the underlying socio-economic drivers of crime while ensuring that a capable Criminal Justice System prosecutes all offenders.

Greed and corruption in the state and private sector are the greatest obstacles to overcoming the legacy of our past, and we must fix this problem with urgency.



## **Quality Education**

Quality Education will unlock South Africa's economic potential and reduce inequality by ensuring that all South Africans can succeed in life.

Our education system must teach critical thinking and entrepreneurial skills that will empower young people to be active participants in the economy.



## **Ethical Leadership & Public Service**

We build a dynamic, efficient, and citizen-orientated public service that serves the interests of the South African people.

We must depoliticise and professionalise the public sector. Appointments should be based on merit, competence, and a commitment to ethical service.

# ACTIONS SA'S PRIORITIES TO FIX SOUTH AFRICA:

## **1. Economic growth that creates job opportunities:**

We will prioritise the growth of our economy by improving economic infrastructure, enhancing support for businesses, and enabling job creation.

## **2. Economic inclusion that achieves economic justice:**

We will achieve true economic justice by increasing the participation of previously disadvantaged people in the economy. We envision a future where all South Africans can achieve financial freedom and have the opportunity for upward mobility.

## **3. A sustainable energy system that ends load-shedding:**

We believe that access to affordable and reliable electricity is a prerequisite for a quality life. We will end the era of load-shedding by establishing a competitive energy market that provides affordable, reliable, and sustainable electricity.

## **4. Quality education for all:**

We will reform our education system by focusing on getting the basics right first. We will expand support for our learners and educators and invest in South Africa's future.

## **5. Establishing law and order that upholds a just society:**

We will strengthen our criminal justice system and police force to protect South Africans from the effects of crime and corruption.

## **6. A fair approach to immigration:**

ActionSA will resolve South Africa's immigration crisis by reforming immigration policies to be more efficient and promote legal entry into our country. We will harness the potential of immigration trends to increase economic growth and promote prosperity.

## **7. Protecting South Africa's water security and natural environments:**

ActionSA will increase South Africa's water supply to ensure water and food security. South Africa's wildlife and ecosystems will be safeguarded from harmful environmental practices.

## **8. Inclusive social support:**

We will protect vulnerable members of our society by providing access to quality healthcare and social support services.

## **9. Implementation Framework:**

We will improve service delivery by strengthening our state institutions with a capable and ethical public service, and by always putting the needs of South Africans first.

## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

BMA	Border Management Authority
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
ECD	Early Childhood Development
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FSCA	Financial Sector Conduct Authority
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
LLB	Bachelor of Laws
NEF	National Empowerment Fund
NHI	National Health Insurance
NPA	National Prosecuting Authority
NYDA	National Youth Development Agency
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADTU	South African Democratic Teachers Union
SANDF	South African National Defence Force
SAPS	South African Police Service
SASSA	South African Social Security Agency
SETA	Sector Education Training Authority
SMME	Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprise
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UBIS	Universal Basic Income Stimulus
VAT	Value-added tax



# 1.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT CREATES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

South Africa's lack of economic growth has worsened the pervasive poverty and wealth inequality in our country. Over 40% of South Africans, or almost 12 million jobseekers, cannot find work. We must prioritise the expansion of South Africa's economy to enable job creation. ActionSA envisions a responsible free-market economy that is concerned with growth and prosperity for all South Africa. Achieving this means that the barriers to economic growth must be removed to encourage entrepreneurship and new job opportunities.

### Improved economic infrastructure

**Economic infrastructure that supports business:** The success of our economy depends on maintaining critical infrastructure. We will ensure that South African businesses prosper by investing in projects that develop reliable electricity supply, transport, and telecommunication. ActionSA will improve economic infrastructure by:

- A) Instituting regulatory reforms.** We will enhance the value derived from investments in public infrastructure by reforming the Protection of Investment Act of 2015 to reduce bureaucratic barriers and remove excessive limitations to foreign direct investment (FDI). We will reform preferential procurement regulations to reduce corruption and procurement inefficiencies by focusing solely on efficient service delivery criteria. This will improve the investment environment and attract more international and local investments into public infrastructure projects.
- B) Upgrading transport infrastructure.** We will launch a public works programme to upgrade high-volume rail networks and national and provincial roads. ActionSA will integrate rural roads that serve agriculture and mining sectors with rail networks to improve the transport of goods.

- C) Advancing telecommunications infrastructure.** We will develop network infrastructure for under-served communities by partnering with the private sector and improving existing government programmes to deliver broadband internet connectivity to low-income households. This will empower people to develop their digital skills and increase access to economic opportunities.
- D) Investing in catalytic projects.** ActionSA will implement a targeted public works programme by investing in projects that have a high potential for job creation, economic growth, and economic competitiveness.

### **ActionSA's plans to increase economic growth with catalytic projects:**

- ✔ We will invest in the extension of the Sishen-Saldanha and Limpopo-KwaZulu Natal rail lines to increase exports and economic activity in the mining and industrial sectors.
- ✔ We will expand and improve seaports in Durban and Richard's Bay to increase local and international trade.
- ✔ We will utilise South Africa's partnership with the SADC and free trade measures established by the AfCFTA to expand South Africa's sea and rail corridors. This will improve South Africa's trade with markets in East and West Africa.



## Small business development

- A) Entrepreneur-led growth:** An ActionSA-led government will support business innovators and potential job creators, not needlessly restrict them. We will invest in entrepreneurial funding by allocating 30% of all income generated by the Opportunity Fund towards this initiative.
- B) SMME funding:** We will enhance investment into SMMEs by introducing targeted investment vehicles that have reduced capital gains tax rates.
- C) Empowering the informal economy:** We will invest in economic infrastructure and increase community safety to improve the informal business environment. We will enforce an increased police presence in informal settlements to prevent crime and maintain safe environments for businesses and their customers.
- D) Affordable business spaces:** An ActionSA government will transform South Africa's cities into inclusive economic centres by reclaiming hijacked buildings and unused factories for private sector development. Buildings will be developed for mixed-use and provide affordable renting opportunities for businesses.

## Labour reforms

- A) Labour market reform to increase employment opportunities:** Stable employment is one of the best ways to achieve financial success. We will make it easier for employers to hire new staff members by reforming the Basic Conditions of Employment Act of 1997 to reduce employers' burden regarding the dismissal of non-performing employees.
- B) SMME exemptions:** We will exempt SMMEs within their first two years of operations from restrictive labour and financial reporting requirements. This will allow businesses to allocate more of their time and resources towards becoming profitable and expanding.
- C) Minimum wage reform:** We will reform the national minimum wage regulations to encourage the employment of young South Africans who are struggling to gain employment. ActionSA will implement a minimum-wage system that calculates wages based on the upper-bound poverty line relative to years of work experience
- D) Reforming the roles of unions:** ActionSA acknowledges the important role unions must play in our economy. While we will

continue to treat unions as a valued partner, they will no longer be allowed to have a veto right over economic policy decisions. .

## Global trade expansion

- A) Investment and trade:** Foreign investments and international trade grow our economy. We will reform regulations to encourage foreign investment into our economy and we will develop South African industries to increase the profits gained from our exports.
- B) Global competitiveness:** We will ensure that South African professionals can participate in the global economy by promoting skills development for South African youth and ensuring that they have access to digital technology and internet connectivity.
- C) Support strategic domestic industries:** ActionSA will support key sectors, such as manufacturing, to improve South Africa's domestic production capacity, enhance job creation, and increase our international competitiveness.
- D) Promote regional supply chains:** We will improve South Africa's trade linkages with other African countries to enhance regional prosperity and reduce trade costs.

## Rural Economic Development

- A) Agricultural land reform:** We will transfer unused arable land owned by the state to emerging farmers. Farmers will be presented with long-term leases that permit them to buy the land after five years of successfully operating their farms.
- B) Agricultural skills development:** We will implement agricultural internships and mentorships that build commercial farming skills among emerging farmers to encourage the successful growth of agricultural businesses.
- C) Expand trade in rural areas:** We will invest in road, rail, water, electricity, and fast internet infrastructure that serve rural economies. This will establish stronger trade connections between rural farmers and producers with markets where they sell their goods.
- D) Diversify rural economies:** Farming is important to rural economies, but there is room for more diverse employment opportunities. We will implement programmes in rural communities to fully develop the economic potential of agriculture (including agro-processing), mining, and energy industries.

- E) Rural tourism:** Local tourism supports local economies. We will increase rural tourism by collaborating with provincial tourism agencies and improving public transport to enhance the accessibility of remote tourist destinations.

## Private sector partnerships

- A) Enhanced support for public-private partnerships:** We will allow the private sector to play a more involved role in infrastructure by reducing the legal and regulatory complexity of public-private partnerships. We will adopt a private sector participation framework that empowers the private sector to be involved in transport infrastructure, renewable energy, and expansion of telecommunications infrastructure.
- B) Business-friendly urban centres:** We will provide tax incentives for new businesses and international companies establishing operations in our cities. Governmental and municipal processes related to doing business will be simplified by removing red tape.
- C) Improved collaboration:** We will ensure that upskilling and the transfer of knowledge are incorporated into public-private partnership projects.

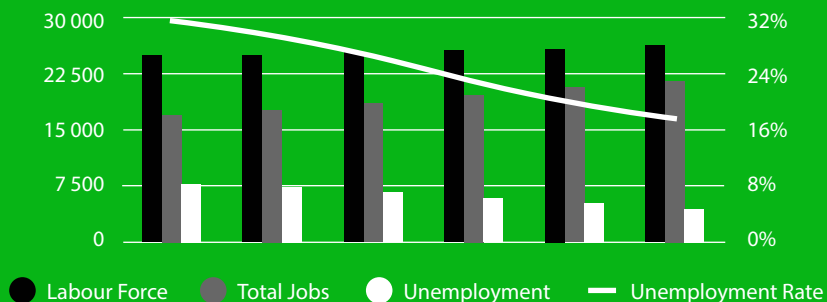
## Roadmap to 4.8 million sustainable jobs created by 2029.

Once in government, ActionSA will implement a broad range of economic reforms to create a conducive environment for economic growth, largely driven by increased performance of the private sector. Together, we expect these initiatives to result in 4.8 million new jobs by 2029.

- ✔ In 2024, ActionSA will immediately implement priority regulatory reforms that address restrictive labour laws, adopts a strategic infrastructure investment masterplan, and launches a

- ✔ comprehensive plan to address corruption in the public sector. Increased business confidence is expected to lead to a 2% increase in year-on-year jobs created compared to Q4 2023.
- ✔ In 2025, ActionSA will pass its first national budget, reprioritising government spending to strategic infrastructure and improved service delivery. The wide-spread capacitation of the state and entrepreneurship support mechanisms is expected to result in another 4% growth in job creation.
- ✔ By 2026, the economic impact of regulatory and fiscal reforms, the pace of infrastructure developments and increased business confidence that improves South Africa's trade balance sheet, are expected to result in a 5% growth in year-on-year job creation.
- ✔ Job growth should peak in 2027 at 6%, as South Africa's reestablishes itself as a leading developing economy, attracting significant FDI that boosts local companies.
- ✔ By 2028 and 2029, the economic reforms, infrastructure investments, skills development programmes, industry support mechanisms and improved market access reforms mature, resulting in year-on-year job growth stabilising at approximately 5%.
- ✔ In total, 4.8 million new, sustainable jobs will be added to the South African economy, resulting in a record-low unemployment rate of 17.5%.

## Employment growth under an ActionSA Government



# 2.

## **ECONOMIC INCLUSION THAT ACHIEVES ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

South Africa is the most unequal society in the world. The legacy of Apartheid has left many citizens trapped in poverty. Despite the progress we have made, there is still a clear correlation between race and wealth in our country. The long-implemented empowerment policies have done little to empower the majority of South Africans. The time has come for a new and more effective solution.

These socio-economic issues can be resolved by restoring economic justice to historically marginalised groups, which requires that we address the barriers to economic participation by focussing on equality of opportunity, not equality of outcome. ActionSA will create a future where all South Africans can achieve financial freedom and have the opportunity for upward mobility.

### **Inclusive economic empowerment**

ActionSA fully supports the economic empowerment of historically disadvantaged South Africans. We will address the legacy of apartheid and the increasing economic inequality faced by marginalised South Africans with the introduction of the Inclusive Economic Empowerment Act. This includes establishing an Opportunity Fund to increase access to opportunities for inclusive economic empowerment and ensure equality of opportunity, as opposed to equality of outcome. The proceeds from the Opportunity Fund will be used to invest in programmes that promote the empowerment of black, coloured, Indian, and Asian South Africans who remain disadvantaged.

We will replace the compliance costs of existing empowerment legislation, estimated at 4%-6% of company profits, with an Opportunity Fund Levy. This introduces a 5% company tax for all companies, excluding SMMEs, and is projected to raise about R55.7 billion annually for the Fund's inclusive empowerment initiatives.



## Overview of the Opportunity Fund

- ✔ Introduce the Opportunity Fund Bill into Parliament to establish the fund as an independent, tax-exempt legal entity, registered with the FSCA.
- ✔ Appoint qualified and experienced professionals to manage the Opportunity Fund and ensure the Board of Directors functions without political interference.
- ✔ Secure funding by introducing the Opportunity Fund Levy which is a 5% company tax for all companies excluding SMMEs. This will raise approximately R55.7 billion per year for inclusive economic empowerment initiatives.
- ✔ The levy will be implemented for a maximum of 30 years and will replace the compliance costs of existing empowerment legislation, estimated at 4%-6% of company profits.
- ✔ Secure additional funding through donations and low-interest-rate loans.
- ✔ Redirect grants paid to entities such as NYDA, the NEF, SETA to the Fund.
- ✔ Empower previously disadvantaged South Africans by allocating 10% of the income generated by the Opportunity Fund to tertiary education, 30% towards entrepreneurial funding, 35% towards infrastructure projects, and 25% towards further investment.



## Universal basic income stimulus

We acknowledge that seeking employment or building a business costs money. For this reason, we will introduce a Universal Basic Income Stimulus to alleviate poverty and support vulnerable citizens' participation in the economy. We will provide cash payments to all South Africans who register to receive the UBIS to invest in their economic empowerment and stimulate economic growth.

### The Universal Basic Income Stimulus will:

- ✔ Be provided to all adult South Africans and permanent residents who register as UBIS recipients.
- ✔ Be initiated through legislation and be implemented in 2025 with the passing of the new administration's first budget.
- ✔ The implementation of the UBIS is subject to the adoption of financing mechanisms that will ensure financial feasibility and sustainability.
- ✔ The UBIS, which is linked to poverty bands, will initially be paid for a period of three years through monthly cash transfers consisting of R790 in the first year, R1101 in the second year, and R1622 in the third year.
- ✔ Through the multiplier effect, this is expected to increase the growth of South Africa's economy by at least 2 additional percentage points measured against projected GDP growth.
- ✔ This is calculated to create an additional 1.6 million jobs.



## The rationale of ActionSA's UBIS payments:

- ✓ UBIS payment amounts have been calculated based on the most recent 2023 national poverty lines and have additionally been adjusted to account for inflation in 2024 prices of consumer goods.
- ✓ The payment of R790 in the first year of our implementation of the UBIS is consistent with South Africa's food poverty line. This refers to the amount of money a person needs to afford to feed themselves daily.
- ✓ The second year of UBIS payments will consist of R1 101, which is based on the lower-bound poverty line. This figure accounts for money spent on both food and non-food items at the lower-bound poverty level.
- ✓ The third year of UBIS payments will be R1622, based on the upper-bound poverty line. This accounts for the amount of money required for spending on food and non-food items at the upper-bound poverty level.
- ✓ ActionSA will ensure that UBIS payments are increased over time to account for inflation and adjustments to the national standard for poverty lines.

## Social grant expansion

**Maintain social grants:** ActionSA will ultimately work towards eliminating broad reliance on social grants. ActionSA will ultimately aim to reduce broad reliance on social grants through the achievement of economic prosperity and justice for all. However, we will increase existing social grants alongside the introduction of the UBIS, to protect the most vulnerable in society from the effects of poverty.

**Distributing social grants:** ActionSA will improve the fair and timely distribution of social grants by:

- Implementing prioritised institutional reform programmes at the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) to eliminate corruption and bureaucratic inefficiencies and improve access to social grants.
- Implementing technological solutions, such as mobile payments and e-wallets, so grant recipients can access their funds more easily.
- Conduct regular reviews of the grants system to ensure our people continue to have access to the social support grants they need.

- D) Prosecuting any individuals, businesses, or organisations that exploit, steal from, or financially abuse grant recipients and holding individuals who abuse the grants system to account.

## Empowering marginalised groups

**Gender and racial equality:** We will eliminate racial and gender biases in the workplace by enforcing harsh penalties on companies found guilty of racism, sexism, and discriminatory practices.

**Youth empowerment:** We will use proceeds from the Opportunity Fund to implement youth training programmes focused on developing skills aligned with the needs of the economy. ActionSA will also introduce a voluntary year of service for young people without a path to education or an immediate job offer, helping them to gain additional skills to enter the job market and to address our disastrously high youth unemployment.

### ActionSA will expand access to economic opportunities for our youth by:

- ✔ Ensuring that young people have access to further development opportunities by expanding access to zero-rated (not requiring data allowances) educational websites and applications.
- ✔ Implementing mentorship and leadership programmes to equip the future generation with the necessary leadership skills that will benefit society.
- ✔ Organising skills development workshops and social events at schools, libraries, and community centres.
- ✔ Introducing a voluntary national service year for all South Africans when they turn 18 to provide work opportunities for all young people.
- ✔ Expanding access to tertiary education by ensuring no academically qualifying student should be excluded from higher education due to funding constraints.

## Insourcing

**Insourcing core functions:** The outsourcing of core services by government departments and entities results in unfair and exploitative labour practices faced by workers. ActionSA will resolve this issue by ensuring that workers at all levels of government that performing core functions of a permanent nature are made permanent employees of relevant government entities, subject to the necessary feasibility studies.

### ActionSA will end exploitative outsourcing practices by:

- ✔ Implementing insourcing programmes across government departments for core services of a permanent nature, including cleaning and security work.
- ✔ Ensuring that all insourcing programmes are subject to financial feasibility analyses that prove cost-neutrality.
- ✔ Limiting insourcing programmes to core government competencies and jobs of a permanent nature.
- ✔ Compelling government departments to perform feasibility studies before outsourcing any functions and instead focus on building on internal capacity as far as possible.

## Housing

**Affordable urban housing:** We will accelerate public housing developments in our cities, especially high-rise buildings in urban centres. This will ensure that everyone has access to affordable housing that is close to employment opportunities and quality services.

**Release of hijacked and abandoned buildings:** We will implement a national property release programme which will focus on reclaiming and repurposing hijacked buildings and unused factories for private sector development. Buildings will be developed for mixed-use and provide affordable rental opportunities for businesses.

## ActionSA's plans to reclaim hijacked and abandoned buildings:

- ✔ Identify all buildings in South Africa's cities that have been abandoned or hijacked by criminal organisations.
- ✔ Reclaim these properties using within the existing legislative framework, including the use of expropriate where appropriate.
- ✔ Release identified properties to the private sector for development. All developments will be required to include affordable housing units.
- ✔ Buildings must be developed for mixed-use and provide affordable renting opportunities for businesses where feasible.
- ✔ New developments will be required to comply with environmental efficiency standards.
- ✔ All bids will be required to include a business proposal identifying the number of housing and business units in the development and how many jobs will be created.

**Homelessness:** People who are homeless are especially vulnerable in society and require increased social support. We will transform unused and neglected state-owned properties to provide dignified shelter for people struggling with homelessness.



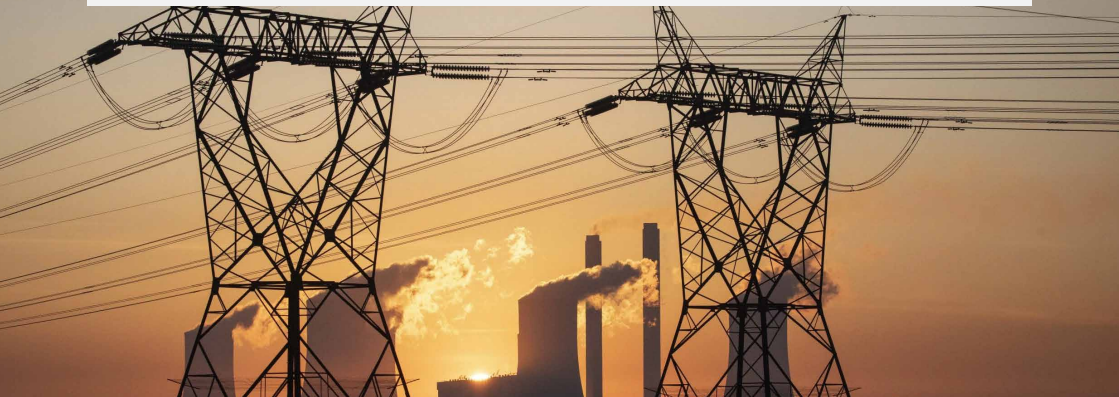
# 3.

## A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SYSTEM THAT ENDS LOAD SHEDDING

Eskom has repeatedly failed to efficiently supply the country with electricity – an essential resource in the modern world. Some economists estimate that South Africa's GDP could have been 8% larger if we never experienced load shedding. Due to the country's high rates of poverty and unemployment, it is crucial to reform our energy system to attract foreign investments and promote local economic growth.

ActionSA views access to electricity as essential to having a quality life, and we must ensure that every South African household has access to reliable and affordable electricity. The most efficient way to resolve our energy crisis is to begin to integrate our energy system into a competitive and decentralised energy market.

Our electricity system should not only be stabilised in the short term, but it should also be environmentally sustainable for future generations. South Africa's vulnerability to the effects of climate change and our role as a responsible global player means that we must gradually transition away from generating energy in ways that cause global warming.





## End load shedding

**Energy supply:** We will increase the supply of electricity to exceed electricity demand by establishing a competitive energy market. Independent power producers and private sector competitors will participate in electricity generation alongside Eskom to increase South Africa's electricity supply.

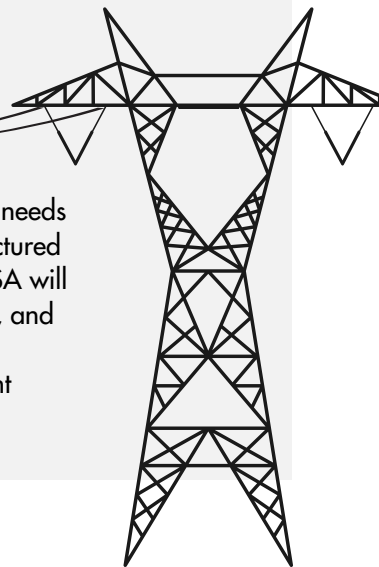
**Microgrids:** We will introduce a legal framework that allows private companies to build small, local energy grids to serve clients in a limited geographic area. These micro-grids should be self-sustainable and generate power through applicable sources. This will alleviate demand on the national grid and enable microgrids to supplement the national electricity system. We will incentivize municipalities to decrease their reliance on Eskom by utilising microgrids powered by renewable energy sources.

**Solar power:** We will reduce demand on the electricity grid by incentivizing the public to install solar panels through tax rebates. We will additionally invest in providing low-income houses with universal access to rooftop solar panels and solar-powered geysers.

**Critical service delivery:** We cannot allow for the continuous disruption of critical service delivery due to rolling blackouts. We will ensure that hospitals, clinics, fire stations, and police stations are protected against load shedding so that essential workers can serve citizens effectively.

## Reform Eskom

**Improve Eskom's performance:** Eskom's debt needs to be addressed and the power utility must be restructured to improve its electricity generation capacity. ActionSA will separate Eskom's electricity generation, transmission, and distribution entities; and we will appoint competent leadership to oversee these institutions and implement future-oriented management practices.



**Dismantle Eskom's monopoly:** The most efficient way to combat load shedding is to implement regulatory reforms to allow independent power producers to generate electricity in a competitive energy market. We will also allow independent power producers to build new energy generation plants to increase electricity supply.

**Crime and corruption in the energy system:** We will eliminate crime in the energy system by improving security measures through technological monitoring to protect the energy grid against cable theft and malicious damage to infrastructure. We will introduce legal amendments to classify the sabotage of the electricity grid as economic treason and capacitate law enforcement agencies to treat it as such. Instances of corruption will be identified, and we will enforce prevention and accountability measures against corrupt conduct.

## Energy Future and the Just Transition

**Renewable energy:** We will implement the gradual transition from relying on fossil fuels to using more renewable energy sources for electricity generation. We are committed to promoting environmental sustainability and economic justice in our transition to renewable energy and we will carefully consider the impact of renewable energy generation on the economy and mining communities.

**Public participation:** We will proactively engage with communities affected by the transition to renewable energy sources to ensure that community interests and needs are considered, and we will empower communities to participate in planning and implementation processes related to the transition.

**Socially responsible transition:** The gradual shift to renewable energy technologies will be managed responsibly, ensuring support for citizens engaged in the fossil fuel energy value chain through a Just Transition framework. This will include reskilling programmes to allow them to take up employment in other sectors.

**Global collaboration:** The transition to renewable energy generation will require the knowledge of experienced energy experts. We will work closely with international partners to ensure that South Africa has the necessary skills and knowledge for a successful energy transition.

**Skills development:** The renewable energy transition will create more diverse job opportunities in the energy sector. We will introduce training programmes that focus on building the skills required to maintain South Africa's energy grid, now and in the future.



## ActionSA's nine-point plan to end load-shedding:

1. End cadre deployment at Eskom and ensure that the entity is staffed with highly skilled staff who are appointed based on merit and competency, not political affiliation.
2. Combat crime in the energy system.
3. Shield critical services from load shedding.
4. Decentralise the energy market. Decentralised microgrids are the future of energy, especially for rural communities.
5. Establish a competitive energy market.
6. Harness solar power.
7. Gradually transition to using more renewable energy sources in our energy system to promote environmental sustainability while safeguarding communities reliant on the coal mining industry for survival.
8. Engage with communities affected by the renewable energy transition to ensure that the needs of our people and economy are always prioritised.
9. Enhance skills development by introducing specialised training programmes that focus on building the skills needed to maintain South Africa's energy grid.

# 4.

## QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

The education system in South Africa is failing our children. Low levels of literacy and numeracy are setting up children for failure in their educational and employment journeys. The school curriculum does not equip young South Africans with the knowledge and skills required to participate in the economy.

These problems are worse in historically disadvantaged areas and rural areas, leaving millions of young South Africans excluded from the economy and trapped in a cycle of poverty and unemployment.

We believe that quality education is the key to a better future. We see the transformation of our educational institutions as one of our highest priorities. Only when all South Africans are empowered through quality education can we hope to achieve shared prosperity and economic growth.

### Early Childhood Development (ECD)

**1. Expanded support for ECD:** Supporting children's development is especially critical in early childhood. This is when children develop strong cognitive and social foundations to serve them later in life. We will enable the Departments of Social Development and Health to ensure that our ECD centres provide comprehensive services to support children from indigent households. ActionSA will ECD by:

- A. Increasing the budget allocation for ECD and increasing funding for ECD centres so that parents of young children have affordable options for childcare and can participate in the economy productively. This will include funding for nutrition programmes (feeding schemes) to ensure that young children receive adequate nutrition in their formative years.

- B. Removing bureaucratic hurdles to ECD registration so that more ECD centres can legally register and access formal support and funding from the government.
- C. Ensuring that there is adequate alignment between formal ECD initiatives so that children begin their learning journeys as young as possible.
- D. Providing further training opportunities to ECD practitioners, especially for those working in informal ECD centres.
- E. Expanding partnerships with the private sector to allocate more resources to ECD centres in indigent areas.

## Ensuring equal access to schooling

- 1. Access to schools:** No child should be prevented from getting an education because of financial or geographic limitations. We will implement learner transport programmes to ensure children spend no more than an hour travelling to school, and we will further invest in the development of boarding houses so that children from remote areas can access quality education.
- 2. Learning materials:** ActionSA will ensure that learners whose families are unable to provide learning materials are not left behind in their educational journeys and are provided with the necessary educational resources. ActionSA will streamline the delivery of study materials to ensure that learning and teaching schedules are not delayed unnecessarily.
- 3. School infrastructure:** Children deserve to attend safe and well-resourced schools that foster an environment conducive to learning. We will eradicate pit toilets and mud schools by providing safe and dignified bathrooms in all educational institutions. We will also invest in broadband internet access for all learners and ensure that all schools have running water and electricity.



## Improving the quality of our education

- 1. A single Department of Education:** Improving the quality of South Africa's education system begins with institutional reform. We will merge the Departments of Basic and Higher Education and Training to improve the alignment of educational outcomes for learners across their educational development.
- 2. Removing undue union influence:** trade unions, particularly SADTU, have been allowed to exercise undue influence over our education system for too long. Under an ActionSA government, SADTU will no longer be allowed to hold the education system and the future of our children at ransom.
- 3. Teacher support:** We will increase the number of teachers and allocate more resources to schools by prioritising an amendment of the salary structures for educators and allocating a sufficient budget to attract skilled professionals to the teaching profession. ActionSA will aim to reduce the teacher-to-pupil ratio to 1:25 across South Africa's public schools by supporting the growth of the educational workforce to improve the quality of teaching. This will be accomplished by reintroducing teacher training colleges that provide Bachelor of Education courses and further training for teachers.
- 4. Principal performance:** Principals play an essential role in managing our schools. To ensure that our educational institutions are well managed we will enforce strict compliance with minimum requirements for principals, including completion of school management training programmes.
- 5. Ethical education:** Children should be encouraged to adopt moral values and ethical behaviour in school to break the culture of crime and corruption in South Africa. ActionSA will ensure that schools provide time at the start of each day for learners to practice quiet reflection and prayer.
- 6. Numerical skills:** Numeracy is an essential skill that needs to be fostered at the Foundation Phase. We will introduce training to improve the ability of existing Foundation Phase teachers to teach numeracy at age-appropriate levels, and we will implement evidence-based teaching methods for numerical skills development.
- 7. Reading for meaning:** Reading for meaning is a foundational literacy skill that learners must develop to obtain an adequate understanding of the materials they study throughout their educational journeys. ActionSA will ensure that 90% of South Africa's learners will be able to read for meaning by the age of 10 by 2035.

# ActionSA's plans to improve basic educational outcomes

## Numeracy

- ✔ Introduce in-service training to improve the numerical skills of existing Foundation Phase teachers to empower them to teach children numeracy at an age-appropriate level.
- ✔ Implement evidence-based teaching methods for numerical skill development.
- ✔ Introduce technological tools to classrooms to improve children's numerical skills.
- ✔ Encourage school partnerships with the private sector and civil society to get involved in numeracy training for young children.
- ✔ Offer numerical skills development support to parents to empower them to help their children develop numerical skills.

## Reading for meaning

- ✔ Establish a presidential task team of independent experts to implement the National Reading Plan.
- ✔ Allocate a sufficient budget for reading interventions and resources in Foundation Phase classrooms.
- ✔ Ensure that Foundation Phase teachers receive training on teaching children how to read meaningfully at least once every quarter.
- ✔ Provide access to parental reading training initiatives to empower parents to help their children read for meaning.
- ✔ Create a culture of reading by launching community reading programmes.

## Curriculum reform

- 1. Foundation Phase (grade R – grade 3):** The current Foundation Phase curriculum will be reviewed to ensure that there is adequate focus placed on language, reading, basic numerical skills, and creative subjects.
- 2. Local education in a global context:** We will review and align the content of our educational curriculum with international educational trends and technologies. This will empower our young people through education to participate in the global economy.
- 3. Dual-stream education:** We will introduce a vocational stream of education after grade 10 alongside the traditional academic stream. This will enable learners to have more choices in their education and economic empowerment.
- 4. Collaboration:** South Africa's educational outcomes need to align with the needs of the economy. ActionSA will facilitate collaboration between the Department of Education and other government departments, the private sector, and civil society to gain valuable insights about how to prioritise the improvement of our education sector and curricula.

## Expanding access to tertiary education

**Funding:** Many young people cannot complete their higher education because they cannot afford the tuition fees. We will implement a sustainable tertiary education funding model that provides appropriate funding for students, including free and subsidised education. ActionSA will ensure that no academically qualifying student is excluded from higher education due to funding constraints.





## ActionSA's plans to expand student funding:

- ✔ An ActionSA-led government will ensure that fully funded bursaries are provided to all South African students who cannot afford their tuition fees. This will be accomplished through ActionSA's Inclusive Economic Empowerment policy, which specifies that 10% of the Opportunity Fund must be allocated towards tertiary education.
- ✔ ActionSA will additionally prioritise and increase the tertiary education budget by redirecting funds from state-owned enterprise bailouts and the VIP protection budget towards tertiary education.

**Expanding the number of tertiary institutions:** The number of matriculants completing their schooling with a bachelor's pass is on the rise. Whilst this is a marker of progress, there are currently not enough available seats at public universities to absorb all those who qualify to study. An ActionSA-led government will build more public universities to ensure that all matriculants who wish to study can do so.

**Increased opportunities for further education and skills development:** ActionSA will build more TVET colleges, and we will reintroduce teacher, nursing, agricultural, and policing colleges. This will provide South Africans with alternative further education opportunities and will increase the critical skills needed in South Africa.

**Student housing:** We will identify, and release abandoned and hi-jacked buildings near educational institutions to the private sector for the development of affordable student housing. We will include basic allocations for housing in bursaries and education loans and we will introduce rent control measures in buildings allocated for student housing to ensure the affordability of accommodation.

**Employability and entrepreneurship:** University attendance should not be the only driver of achieving financial success. It is for this reason that we will provide alternative options for people who wish to

further develop their skills. ActionSA will enhance the economic participation of those completing vocational training by aligning training programmes with the current and future needs of the South African economy. We will additionally invest in community centres and infrastructure to provide venues for adult education classes.

## 5.

# ESTABLISHING LAW AND ORDER THAT UPHOLDS A JUST SOCIETY

The criminal justice system is failing law-abiding South Africans. Instances of rape, murder, and assault have become widespread, and the corrupt abuse their power in leadership positions for greed and self-enrichment at the expense of South Africans. These criminal actions often go unpunished due to low prosecution and conviction rates, which ultimately results in public distrust of an over-burdened criminal justice system.

ActionSA will reform the criminal justice system to ensure that criminals receive harsher punishments for the damage they cause to our communities. We will establish a South Africa where respect for the rule of law is entrenched at all levels of society. We will eradicate corruption and ensure that every cent of the state's money is spent on delivering services to the people of South Africa in the interest of building a prosperous and inclusive society.



## Increased policing

**A committed Police Service:** We will launch a recruitment drive to expand the police service and establish it as a desirable career opportunity to ensure that talented and committed people join the police service. ActionSA will support the professional development of South Africa's Police Service by:

- A) Improving recruitment and vetting practices in the police service to appoint competent and committed individuals.
- B) Implementing strict physical condition requirements for entering the police service and maintaining compliance with these fitness requirements.
- C) Improving training programmes for new officers in the police service to establish a culture of discipline and respect for the uniform.
- D) Providing access to continuous professional development programmes for security personnel to ensure they maintain high standards of professional performance.
- E) Enforcing strict weapon safety standards for all law enforcement officers to enhance accountability and public safety.
- F) Increasing access to support programmes for law enforcement officers, including psychological counselling and career development counselling.
- G) Acknowledging the dangerous work performed by police officers by providing a standardised danger allowance to all SAPS members.
- H) Ensuring that the family members of SAPS officers who have died while in service are fairly paid the deceased gratuity to which they are entitled.

**Increased police presence:** The presence of police in vulnerable communities acts as a powerful deterrent to crime. We will reduce the government's expenditure on VIP protection and reallocate these funds towards crime prevention and visible policing.

**Expand police stations:** An ActionSA-led government will invest in the construction of more police stations, and we will introduce mobile police infrastructure so that more people have access to police services

in remote areas. This will increase the capacity of our police service to prevent and investigate crime more effectively.

**Specialised crime units:** Combatting different types of crime requires specialised tactical approaches and expertise. We will establish more specialised units to combat crime. These will include investigative units specialising in rural safety, anti-gangsterism, financial crimes, organised crime, and economic sabotage.

**Police reservists:** ActionSA will enhance support for the increased participation of police reservists in South Africa's fight against crime. Experienced police reservists deserve to be fairly compensated and recognised as valuable contributors to the police service.

**Crime prevention:** We will implement reforms to remove political interference from crime intelligence agencies and ensure that crime intelligence agencies are well-resourced to effectively monitor and halt criminal activities.

**Provincial policing:** Crime prevention and crime response are most efficiently handled by authorities who are most familiar with the context of the crimes. For this reason, we will decentralise more functions to competent provincial police departments to empower context-based crime prevention and response.

## Deter violent crime

**Harsher criminal punishment:** Violence has become widespread and normalised across South Africa. An ActionSA-led government will increase penalties for violent crimes to deter future acts of violence in our society. The crimes of murder, rape, aggravated assault, narcotics manufacturing and trafficking, human trafficking, and armed robbery will receive longer prison sentences.

**Restricted rights for violent criminals:** We will remove the possibility of parole for those found guilty of multiple rape and murder charges. Criminals sentenced to life in prison should remain in prison.

We will also lobby to withdraw the right to vote from violent criminals serving life sentences.

**Advocate for people's right to self-defence:** An ActionSA government will reform self-defence laws to allow citizens to use appropriate force when their lives are threatened by criminals carrying firearms.

**Firearms control:** Acquiring a firearm legally is a lengthy process whilst the illicit firearm trade enables criminals to obtain guns with little difficulty. It is for this reason that we will make it easier for law-abiding citizens to legally obtain firearms while enforcing stricter sanctions for the possession of illegal firearms.

**Gangsterism:** ActionSA will ensure that anti-gangsterism programmes are implemented in prisons and communities with high levels of crime to combat the normalisation of violence among these population groups. Programmes will be selected and implemented based on their contextual relevance, proven efficacy, and associated costs. One such programme is the Cure Violence approach which has proven to significantly reduce incidences of murder and assault in South Africa and across the globe.

## **Uncompromising criminal and civil justice**

**Penal justice reform:** Offenders who do not serve life sentences need to be successfully re-integrated into society so that they do not continue committing crimes when they are released from prison. ActionSA will introduce prisoner work programmes that focus on public works. This will increase the likelihood of offenders successfully re-integrating into their communities by providing them with work experience and the opportunity to repay their debt to society.

**Empower the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA):** ActionSA will significantly increase the NPA's budget by allocating funds directly from Parliament. We will introduce more prosecution-specific subjects into LLB programmes and increase access to candidate attorney

opportunities at the NPA. This will empower the NPA to employ more prosecutors and will ultimately result in higher conviction rates.

**Expand support for the State Attorney's Office:** ActionSA will increase funding to the State Attorney's Office to ensure that the institution is adequately resourced and capacitated.

**Expand court capacity:** We will speed up criminal investigations and convictions by building and acquiring more court facilities. ActionSA will establish more specialised courts to deal with specific crime categories, such as organised crime and corruption, to increase the efficiency of convictions. Criminal and civil investigations and prosecutions will further be expedited by:

- A) Expanding the authority of municipal courts to hear designated criminal and civil matters.
- B) Increasing resource allocation to enhance the number of judges, clerks, and judicial support staff.
- C) Modernising the handling of court cases by adopting technological solutions for improved management of criminal and civil proceedings.
- D) Increasing the use of virtual court proceedings where feasible.
- E) Criminal law: We will implement a legal review programme to analyse South Africa's existing criminal laws to ensure that our laws are robust enough to hold criminals accountable.



## ActionSA's plans to tackle crime:

- ✔ Implement harsher prison sentences for violent criminals.
- ✔ Remove the possibility of parole for those found guilty of multiple rape and murder charges.
- ✔ Expand South Africa's police service and increase visible policing in vulnerable communities.
- ✔ Mobilise specialised crime units and build specialised criminal courts.
- ✔ Invest in independent crime intelligence agencies to increase crime prevention.
- ✔ Speed up criminal prosecutions by expanding financial capacitation of the NPA.

## Zero-tolerance for corruption

**Declare grand corruption as a crime against humanity:** We believe that corruption that destroys state institutions and the social fabric of a nation ('State Capture') should be condemned to the highest degree. ActionSA will use its presence in international bodies to lobby for the recognition of grand corruption as a crime against humanity.

**Redefine Corruption:** We will expand the definition of corruption by amending all legislative definitions of corruption to ensure that the abuse of political power for personal or political gain, price-gouging in public procurement, and gross negligence in exercising government authority are deemed acts of corruption.

**Criminal classification of corruption:** ActionSA will introduce new criminal classifications for corruption, including establishing the

contravention of the Executive Ethics Act and abuse of political influence as a criminal offence. We will amend the Prevention and Combatting of Corrupt Activities Act to include the unlawful activities of the construction mafia and economic infrastructure damage as criminal offences.

**Corruption detection:** Eliminating corruption begins with identifying corrupt acts. We will provide training to state officials, financial managers, and decision-makers on how to detect corruption. We will also implement surveillance and monitoring systems to proactively identify corruption, bribery, and illegal transactions.

**Focus on prevention:** We will foster a culture of ethics and integrity through education to ensure that corruption is deemed a crime that should be reported, rather than accepted or ignored.

**Protection of whistleblowers:** We will provide immediate security protection to whistle-blowers after exposing corruption and we will ensure that journalists are protected from intimidation by state institutions when doing investigations into corrupt activities.

**Recovery of proceeds and asset forfeiture:** Corrupt individuals should not be allowed to benefit from their criminal activities. We will amend asset forfeiture legislation for cases of corruption to strengthen the state's ability to recover the proceeds of corruption.

**Anti-corruption organisation:** We will establish an independent Chapter 9 anti-corruption agency that has the authority to investigate and prosecute corruption.





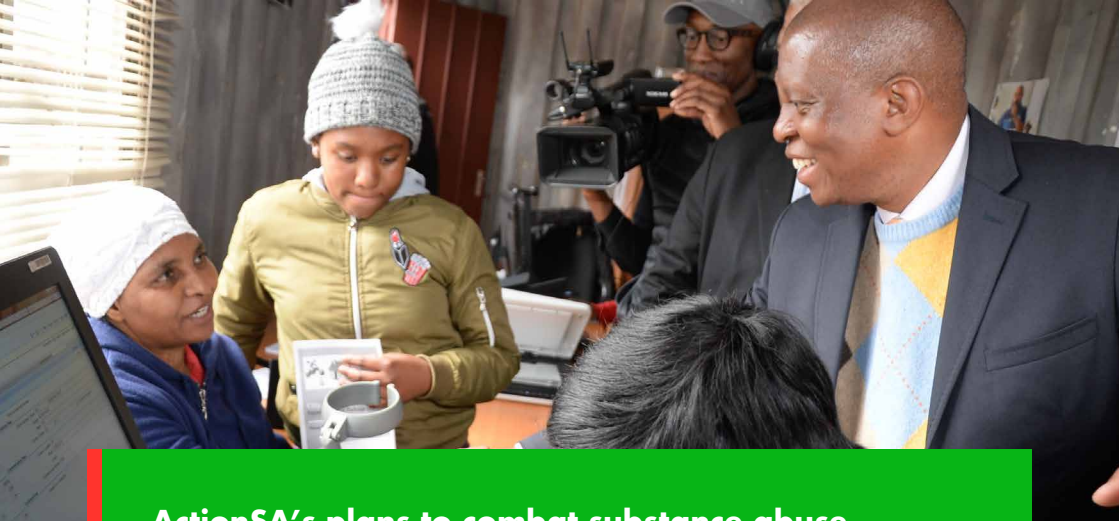
## ActionSA will establish a Chapter 9 Anti-Corruption Institution by:

- ✔ Lobbying for the amendment of the Constitution to establish an independent anti-corruption agency.
- ✔ Ensuring the institution is specialised in combatting, investigating, and prosecuting corruption.
- ✔ Staffing the institution with officials who are adequately trained in combatting corruption.
- ✔ Setting a clear legislative mandate to ensure the institution's independence from political influence or interference.
- ✔ Assigning a fixed percentage of the annual national budget to the institution to ensure it is sufficiently resourced to effectively combat corruption.
- ✔ Entrenching security of tenure of office in legislation to allow for the prosecution of corruption without fear or favour.

## Address substance abuse, combat drug trafficking

**Drug abuse reforms:** ActionSA will maintain the illegality of the narcotics trade whilst providing medical support and increased access to rehabilitation treatment to people suffering from substance abuse addiction. This is because we see addiction as a healthcare issue and people who suffer from addiction as victims of the illicit narcotics trade. We will target the drug dealers and traffickers, not their victims.

**Dismantle narcotics syndicates:** Syndicates and individuals found guilty of engaging in the narcotics trade will be criminally prosecuted. ActionSA will focus on tightening control over South Africa's borders and mobilising specialised law enforcement units to dismantle drug syndicates.



## ActionSA's plans to combat substance abuse

- ✔ Treat substance abuse as a medical condition and focus on harm reduction.
- ✔ Provide people suffering from addiction with access to treatment and rehabilitation facilities.
- ✔ Introduce harsher criminal punishments for the manufacturing, distribution, and sale of narcotics.
- ✔ Strengthen South Africa's borders to inhibit the transnational trade of narcotics (drug smuggling).
- ✔ Form a specialised and intelligence-driven law enforcement unit tasked with combatting the drug trade and dismantling narcotics syndicates.

## Gender-based violence

**Gender-based violence (GBV) centres:** South African women are subjected to disproportionate levels of interpersonal and gender-based violence. We will establish specialised GBV centres that provide medical, legal, and psychological support to victims.

### **Establish trust between the police and victims of GBV:**

Many sexual and GBV crimes are never reported and consequently, perpetrators remain unpunished. This must be rectified by establishing a police service that is perceived to be trustworthy and capable of managing GBV cases. ActionSA will ensure that police officers are required to undergo sensitivity training to improve their communication with victims of GBV and sexual crimes.

**Increased punishment for GBV perpetrators:** We will increase criminal penalties for violent crimes committed against women, children, and vulnerable groups to hinder further incidences of GBV in South Africa. The crimes of murder, rape, and aggravated assault will receive harsher prison sentences.

## 6.

### **AN EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO LEGAL IMMIGRATION**

South Africa's existing immigration policies and porous borders have created an environment where it is generally easier for foreign nationals to illegally cross our borders than it is to enter the country legally. This is problematic because illegal immigration undermines the rule of law, and it creates a perceived sense of competition between citizens and foreign nationals for scarce resources in our country. This can lead to xenophobic attacks, which ActionSA unreservedly condemns.

ActionSA will resolve South Africa's immigration crisis by reforming immigration policies to be more efficient and promote legal entry into

our country. ActionSA will additionally harness the potential of immigration trends to increase economic growth and promote prosperity.

## Border security

**Strengthening our borders:** We will improve the surveillance and management of our country's borders by deploying the BMA. Increasing control over our borders ensures that all goods and people entering South Africa do so lawfully. This will reduce crime and harmful illegal trade in South Africa, including human trafficking.

**Collaboration to improve border security:** ActionSA will enhance collaboration efforts between the SAPS, SANDF, and the BMA to ensure our borders are monitored effectively.

**Defence:** We will establish a well-equipped, well-resourced, and professional SANDF that is ready to respond to any threat to South Africa's security.

**Increased surveillance:** In addition to deploying more law enforcement authorities to South Africa's borders, we will implement technological solutions to better monitor the transnational flow of goods and people between South Africa and its neighbouring countries.

**Condemn xenophobia:** ActionSA is committed to providing political leadership to condemn any prejudiced acts of violence committed against foreign nationals, regardless of their immigration status.

## Home Affairs and Regulatory reform

**Reform the Department of Home Affairs:** ActionSA will address the structural deficiencies and corruption at Home Affairs to ensure more efficient service delivery. We will make it easier for South Africans to get their passports, birth certificates, and death certificates from the DHA by adopting modernised practices. ActionSA will implement e-governance processes at Home Affairs that allow citizens and immigrants to do their business online.

**Immigration reform:** We want the people of the world to come to South Africa, but they must do so by following our laws. We will promote lawful entry into our country by simplifying the administrative processes for refugees, immigrants, tourists, and asylum-seekers wishing to enter South Africa.

## ActionSA's plans to streamline immigration processes:

- ✔ Reform the Department of Home Affairs by addressing corruption and structural deficiencies to ensure improved and efficient enforcement of immigration regulations.
- ✔ Modernise the registry of South African citizens and foreign nationals at the Department of Home Affairs.
- ✔ Expand tourism by broadening the list of countries that can enter South Africa for tourism without visas and extend the amount of time that tourists may remain in South Africa.
- ✔ Simplify visa applications by introducing e-visas for tourists.
- ✔ Implement e-governance processes that allow citizens and immigrants to do their business online.
- ✔ Improve deportation processes related to foreign nationals found guilty of committing crimes in South Africa, as well as undocumented foreign nationals who fail to prove that they have a legitimate claim to residency or asylum.



## Scarce skills

**Review the critical skills list:** There is a shortage of critical skills in our country, and immigrants who possess these skills can greatly contribute to the growth of South Africa's economy. ActionSA will review the critical skills list to align it to our economic needs and make it easier for foreign nationals who can actively contribute to job creation and economic growth to work in South Africa, including in the public service, where skills gaps exist.

**Targeted recruitment:** ActionSA will always prioritise the needs of South Africans first. This means that the critical skills list for foreign professionals will be amended on the basis that South Africans cannot meet the workforce demand. Some examples of professions where immigrants can contribute to the workforce include social work, teaching, and healthcare.

**Simplify work visas:** The ease of obtaining work visas for entrepreneurs, professionals, and investors will be improved because they have a high potential for expanding South Africa's economy and contributing towards job creation. We will introduce e-governance processes and expand the critical skills list to assist these individuals.



# 7.

## PROTECTING SOUTH AFRICA'S WATER SECURITY AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

The world is facing a climate crisis and increasing global temperatures continue to result in natural disasters. Preserving the natural environment and mitigating the effects of natural disasters is vital to South Africa's socio-economic success. Changing rainfall patterns are especially significant because water is already considered a limited resource in South Africa, impacting our food security.

We believe in building more resilient water management systems to ensure water and food security. ActionSA recognises the importance of protecting our natural resources and celebrating South Africa's rich biodiversity.



### Water resource management

**Increase water supply:** South Africa's water supply must keep up with an increasing population and shifting migration trends. We will ensure that every household has access to drinkable water and that South Africa's water supply capacity can meet present and future water demand. ActionSA will accomplish this by:



- A) Providing incentives for research in technologies that improve water supply including the affordable desalination of seawater, resilient infrastructure, and water supply monitoring.
- B) Investing in the construction of bulk water supply storage such as dams or reservoirs. Sites for water supply storage will be determined through data-driven insights.
- C) Implementing water allocation policies that are equitable and prioritise the basic human right to clean and safe water.
- D) Increasing collaboration between water boards, industrial bodies, government departments, and civil society to ensure that our approach to water supply remains inclusive.

**Reduce water demand:** Water is a scarce natural resource in South Africa and wasteful water usage must be reduced. ActionSA will entrench a culture of efficient water use through wide-reaching education and awareness campaigns. We will invest in grey-water distribution systems to ensure that drinkable water is predominantly used for human consumption.

**Wastewater management:** An ActionSA-led government will identify strategic areas to develop additional water treatment plants. We will implement additional measures to safeguard freshwater systems from sewerage and harmful industrial and agricultural run-off.

**Water infrastructure:** ActionSA will improve water-related service delivery by effectively managing South Africa's water infrastructure. We will expand water infrastructure and ensure that existing infrastructure is adequately maintained.





## ActionSA's plans to develop and maintain water infrastructure:

- ✔ We will launch a nationwide leak identification programme.
- ✔ All municipalities and bulk water suppliers will conduct projects aimed at identifying water leaks.
- ✔ We will allocate sufficient financial and technical resources to rapidly address water leakages in bulk infrastructure.
- ✔ We will collect data on the state of South Africa's water infrastructure and implement a national strategic maintenance plan to address any risks to South Africa's water supply.
- ✔ Strategic areas will be identified to develop additional water infrastructure including dams, reservoirs, treatment plants, and distribution networks to increase water storage capacity.

## Conservation of flora and fauna

**Wildlife protection:** ActionSA will provide adequate support to wildlife conservation programmes and improve South Africa's border controls to reduce the poaching and illegal trade of wildlife. We will empower the police service and the Green Scorpions to combat environmental crimes like pollution, animal abuse, and wildlife trafficking to safeguard South Africa's wildlife and ecosystems.

**Minimise environmental pollution:** Our natural environments are home to diverse ecosystems that should be safeguarded from harmful pollution. We will reduce the pollution of our oceans by implementing strict measures and penalties to combat industrial effluent, sewerage, and agricultural runoff. Air pollution controls aligned with international standards will be introduced and we will impose penalties for non-compliance with these standards.

**Increase environmental protection:** An ActionSA-led government will implement environmental protection measures for key land areas located between human habitats and vulnerable natural environments. We will also establish more marine protected areas to ensure better protection of marine habitats and wildlife.

**Encourage recycling:** Single-use plastics are incredibly harmful to the environment. ActionSA will enhance support for the informal waste-picking sector to increase recycling and implement community recycling initiatives to reduce pollution and waste in our landfills.

## Natural disaster management

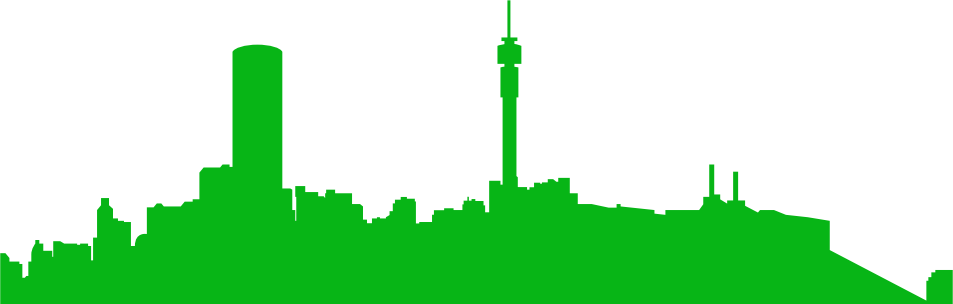
**Resilient housing:** South Africa must be prepared to handle the consequences of rising temperatures caused by climate change. One of these consequences may include the onset of natural disasters that cause damage to housing and infrastructure. ActionSA will ensure that urban and rural settlements are built to be resilient against the effects of natural disasters.

**Training and development:** Senior government officials must be prepared to effectively respond to and manage the consequences of natural disasters. We will introduce targeted training and development programmes for government officials aimed at improving their ability to execute climate-related initiatives.

**Governance coordination:** ActionSA will promote greater collaboration between the government, the private sector, civil society, and academic institutions to ensure that we respond to climate change and natural disasters using a holistic societal approach.

# 8.

## INCLUSIVE SOCIAL SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY COHESION



South Africa is the most unequal society in the world. This has several socio-economic consequences for marginalised groups in our country. Lack of access to quality healthcare, food insecurity, gender inequality, and a lack of community cohesion are but a few of the social problems originating from inequality that need to be addressed in South Africa.

These social issues require long-term solutions, but South Africans cannot be forced to wait for these solutions to materialise without receiving social support in the short term. ActionSA will address the immediate effects of inequality in our society by providing inclusive social support to vulnerable groups in South Africa.

### **Social cohesion**

**Diversity appreciation:** Building a unified and inclusive South African society requires effective communication between diverse groups, especially during times of conflict. It is important that citizens are educated about our rich diversity and heritage to foster greater understanding between different social groupings.



**Education and awareness:** Nation-building brings South Africans together and creates a sense of collective pride that can be strengthened in school and community settings. An ActionSA government will incorporate the importance of ethical and moral behaviour in the education curriculum. We will implement youth engagement programmes that provide after-school activities to increase community ties and teach young people the value of teamwork, particularly in vulnerable communities.

**Strong family structures:** ActionSA believes that strong families, however they may be configured, create strong societies. We will support the development of strong South African families by educating fathers on the important role they play in the family unit; and we will extend support to the women who carry the burden of care for their children, families, and elders.

**Conflict resolution:** Community leaders are important role players in resolving community conflicts. ActionSA will provide training to community leaders that focuses on non-violent dispute resolution to facilitate productive communication between communities, businesses, and the government.

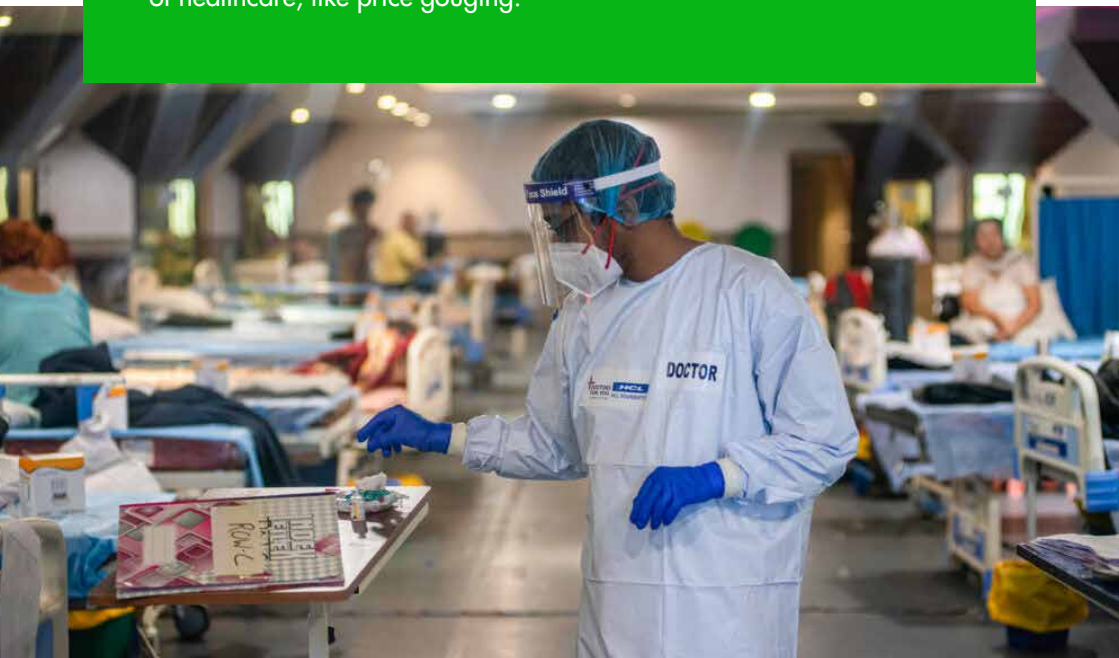
**Social support groups:** Being a victim of crime or struggling with substance abuse can often feel like an isolating experience. However, communities can come together to offer support and solutions to individuals struggling with these issues. We will invest in establishing social support groups to provide safe spaces for victims of crime and people struggling with drug and substance addiction, including their families.

## Quality public healthcare

**Oppose the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill:** ActionSA opposes the implementation of the NHI Bill in its current form because the NHI is not aligned with the realities of South Africa's public healthcare system, and its implementation may destabilise the provision of healthcare across the country. An ActionSA-led government will rather prioritise fixing the public healthcare system by eliminating corruption, streamlining management and administration, and increasing investment into primary healthcare facilities.

**Quality public healthcare:** There is a distinct division in the quality of healthcare received by those who rely on the public healthcare system and those who pay for private healthcare services. We will address this inequality by building more public hospitals and clinics and training and appointing more medical professionals.

**Medical aid:** The private healthcare sector has the power to alleviate the strain placed on the public healthcare system, but it must be more accessible. We will review the private healthcare insurance industry to increase access to affordable comprehensive medical insurance, expand minimum benefits, and improve oversight over the profit-driven aspects of healthcare, like price gouging.



## ActionSA's plans to fix public healthcare:

- ✔ Increase expenditure on frontline healthcare services by reducing the expenditure on healthcare administration to below 10%.
- ✔ Appoint more doctors, registrars, fellows, and specialists in the public health system.
- ✔ Reduce burnout among healthcare professionals by reviewing the working conditions in public health facilities to identify systematic issues that need to be addressed.
- ✔ Increase security measures for clinics, hospitals, and ambulances to protect healthcare professionals and patients from criminality.
- ✔ Ensure that patients receive good medical services by implementing quality assurance standards that focus on dignified patient care.
- ✔ Safeguard hospitals and clinics from experiencing load shedding so that healthcare services are not compromised due to power outages.

**Free sanitary products:** Girls throughout South Africa continue to miss school because of a lack of access to sanitary products. We will provide free sanitary products to be distributed at schools, clinics, and hospitals across the country.

**Expanded support for mothers:** We will introduce VAT exemptions for essential child-rearing products including nappies and formula.

**Food security:** Nutrition is essential to maintaining physical and mental health. An ActionSA government will foster partnerships with food producers, retailers, and food banks to increase access to nutritional food for those struggling with food insecurity.

## Disability support

**Increased medical support:** People with disabilities often require increased access to specialised medical support. ActionSA will make it easier for people living with disabilities to access these healthcare interventions, including occupational therapy and mobility support services.

**Sign language usage in healthcare facilities:** ActionSA will work towards ensuring that all health departments in public hospitals and clinics employ at least one healthcare professional who is competent at sign language communication. We will allocate resources for the training and certification of existing healthcare staff in sign language to ensure that clinics and hospitals can comply with this provision.

**Special education:** Disability should not hinder any child from the opportunity to receive a quality education. We will increase investment in special education for students with learning challenges and special needs. We will also provide appropriate specialised support for blind and deaf children.



# 9.

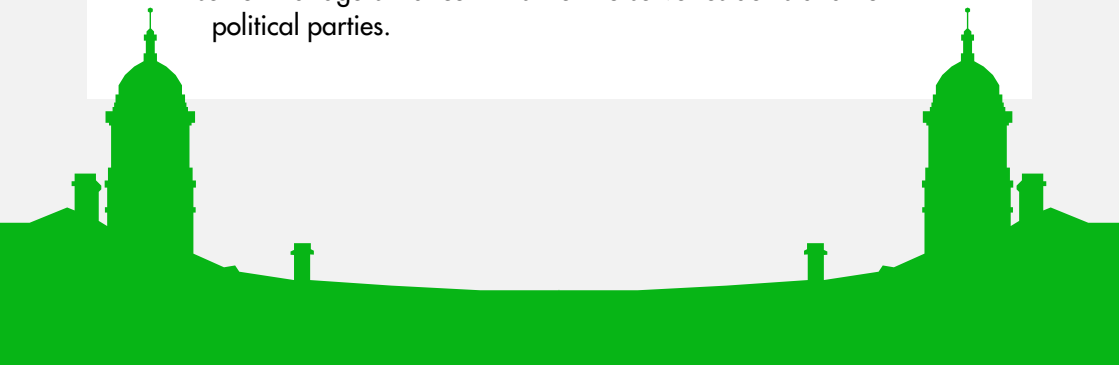
## IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

South Africa's state institutions are failing to deliver basic services to citizens. Instances of cadre deployment, corruption, and financial mismanagement in the public service have resulted in a government that is incapable of fulfilling its obligations.

The successful implementation of ActionSA's plans to fix South Africa is largely dependent on efficient service delivery and a professional public service. ActionSA will implement the necessary solutions to professionalise the public service and improve the functioning of state institutions. Quality service delivery can be achieved by ensuring that a capable and politically independent public service advances the interests of South Africans.

**Depoliticise state institutions:** We will ban cadre deployment and ensure that all appointments to the civil service are based on merit rather than loyalty to a political party. An independent selection panel, free from political interference, will be established to oversee the interview processes for all senior positions.

**Leadership excellence:** We will establish a culture of leadership excellence and service with pride in the public service by adopting high standards based on the values of education, professionalism, and ethical leadership. We will additionally implement an oath of office for senior managers that commits them to serve residents and not political parties.





**Modernise government:** Modernising government practices will improve the ease and efficiency of receiving government services. We will implement e-governance measures that allow citizens to conduct most of their business with the government through online platforms and serviced customer centres.

**Improve local governments:** We will fix underperforming municipalities by placing the service delivery needs of residents first. ActionSA will set minimum acceptable turnaround times for the resolution of service delivery issues, like pothole repairs and water leaks. We will hold officials and departments accountable for non-performance.

**Decentralise service delivery:** Citizens are best served by the governments that are closest to them. We will gradually and responsibly transfer more service delivery responsibilities to competent provincial and local governments. Local governments can ensure more sustainable service delivery to residents, and shoulder government duties related to social development, public transport, and law enforcement.

**Reconfiguring government:** Government expenditure needs to be redirected from paying unnecessary salaries for a bloated staff structure towards better service delivery. We will reduce the size of the Executive to approximately 20 ministries, remove deputy ministers, review the Ministerial Handbook to reduce perks, and limit South Africa's expenditure on the public wage bill to 10% of the GDP. We will remove all duplicate positions in the public service to ensure that more funds are allocated towards wages for front-line service delivery workers.

**Multi-party coalitions:** ActionSA will lead negotiations in the period following the conclusion of the 2024 elections to ensure that our entry into any coalition agreement is determined by shared objectives and values that prioritise the interests of South Africans. We remain committed to achieving the shared vision of a new government to build a just, inclusive, and prosperous South Africa based on opportunity, freedom, and security for all its citizens.



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**Our Manifesto is an action plan to build an inclusive and prosperous future for our country, because only action will fix South Africa.**

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