

What About the Universal Basic Income Grant Mr President?

Statement by The Cry of the Xcluded and the Assembly of the Unemployed

29 July, 2021



On Sunday evening South African President Cyril Ramaphosa offered his in-frequent dictats to the nation via the so-called “family meeting”. Among the announcements made was the reinstatement and expansion of the eligibility for the R350 Social Relief of Distress Grant (SRD) and a return to an adjusted level 3 lockdown. While these are both positive steps in moving the country forward following the initial cancelation of the SRD Grant, Sunday's announcement was a missed opportunity to listen to the calls of the millions of unemployed and institute a Universal Basic Income Grant of **R1500pm.**

As we noted in a recent statement, the country's jobs bloodbath and massive rates of hunger that leave more than 10 million without food (of which 3 million are children).This necessitates both the implementation of a dignified, Universal basic income grant and the increase of the child support grant to R 585. In February, we and other movements representing 1.5 million people rejected Tito Mboweni's austerity budget, which cuts key and vital services in the aim of reducing the public sector wage bill. We argued then and continue to argue that the only way out of our country's economic crisis is to push forward a massive public sector led economic renewal programme that centers the just transition and the country's glaring crisis of social reproduction.

While the nay-sayers like to proclaim that such a programme is not possible, the [latest economic research](#) from a range of [civil society organisations](#) and [economists](#) continues to show that there is fiscal space for a Universal basic income grant and extended public services. The first step in doing so is to reject the notion that the private sector and wealthy individuals' ill-gotten wealth should not be taxed. As the Cry and the AoU we have been consistent that the country must *Tax the Rich*. In addition measures must be taken to stop and punish public and private sector corruption that rob us of a dignified life.

We call on all in South Africa to advance the fight for a dignified Universal Basic Income Grant. President Ramaphosa the people want and need a Universal basic income grant now, your Treasury must now follow suit.

#EndAusterity

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5. **Housing Assembly,**
6. **Primrose Backyards Dwellers Forum,**
7. **Southern African Green Revolutionary Council**
8. **Youth Unemployment Crisis Committee**
9. **Fighting Inequality Alliance - South Africa**
10. **Rural Women's Assembly**
11. **Food & Allied Workers Union (**
12. **Inyanda National Land Movement**
13. **Right2Know Campaign**
14. **Gauteng Housing Crisis Committee**
15. **SAMWU Back2Work Campaign**
16. **Abahlali Base Freedom Park**
17. **Commercial Stevedoring Agriculture Allied Workers Union**
18. **#PAYTHEGRANTS**
19. **Goldfields Community Forum**
20. **Amadiba Crisis Committee**
21. **Socialist Youth Movement**
22. **Taaibosch Kei Korana Royal House and Greater Eldorado Park Housing Task Team**
23. **Sisonke Revolutionary Movement**
24. **OCF**
25. **Dobsonville Community Chest**
26. **Unemployed People's Movement**
27. **United Front**
28. **COWG**
29. **Ntinga Ntaba ka Ndoda**
30. **The South African Liberated Independent Public Sector Workers Union**
31. **Sofasonke Tenants Association**

- 32. Unemployed Graduates Movement**
- 33. Sekhukhune Environmental Justice Network**
- 34. Amandla Collective**
- 35. Botshabelo Unemployed Movement**
- 36. Passion 4 People**
- 37. Wayside Community Org**