



UNIVERSITY of the
WESTERN CAPE



UWC SRC
IKAMVA LETHU
- OUR FUTURE FUND

09 June 2025

UWC SRC SUBMISSIONS

SRC DEPUTY-SECRETARY GENERAL AMUKELANE NKWINIKA

1. Inclusive Economic Growth: Prioritizing economic growth that includes all segments of society

In the question of economic inclusivity and growth, we stand firm in the necessity of radical economic transformation. It cannot be correct that 31 years after the attainment of democracy, the economic structures and classes brought by Apartheid still remain prevalent. It follows that more radical legislations such as the BEE ought to be enacted, with gradual monitoring by both parliament and the executive on how they benefit the ordinary citizen in South Africa. Corporate South Africa cannot be left to go unchecked on its transformation and inclusivity policies, and balancing those policies with substantive economic growth.

The state must do its due to support the informal and small economic enterprises to allow them to withstand the competition and threat they are usually subjected to by monopoly capital. The informal economy plays a significant role in the economic framework of South Africa but is very prone to degeneration when big corporates take over their sector. Therefore when addressing economic growth in all segments of society, it follows to reason that all sectors of the economy ought to be equally onboarded to ensure that they address the transformation agenda and they serve and prioritize the growth of all segments of society.

2. Industrialization and Employment: Supporting industrial development and creating employment opportunities

Youth unemployment and unemployment in general in South Africa are a growing headache and negatively impacts on our society. For a country which has its own natural resources such as minerals and vegetation, this cannot be so. It follows therefore that there is a need to expand on the industrialization of South Africa, and that it can use its own resources to manufacture products instead of exporting raw materials and buying finished products from foreign countries at even a more ridiculously expensive rate. It follows to reason that antithesis to the unemployment problem in South Africa is prioritizing more industrialization and reduce the rate at which natural and raw materials are exported to foreign countries.

In order to facilitate and prioritize local industrialization, the state ought to ensure that policies and legislations are enacted that prioritize corporations involved in raw materials to prioritize local industrial enterprises. Industrial development therefore is a very important core pillar of economic growth that needs to be prioritized, and attached to it is the creation of more employment opportunities.

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3. Meaningful Youth Engagement: Involving young people in shaping global policies

We submit that there cannot be anything about us without us. Global policies that have implications on the livelihood and trajectory of the youth must without any consideration involve the views and opinions of young people on the future they want to shape. The struggles and privileges of young people can only be expressed by them themselves and it follows to reason that any policies which implicates young people must have the full participation and be engaged by young people. There ought to be dialogue in areas which young people including institutions of higher learning, the community and all areas of young people to ensure that young people are meaningfully engaged and thoroughly consulted on issues affecting them.

4. Inclusive Social Development: Promoting social inclusion and reducing inequality

The government ought to put in place more positive measures to ensure that our society, especially those due to the consequence of Apartheid are still disadvantaged, are empowered in terms of their social development. Basic necessities such as healthy diets, quality healthcare, quality housing and quality education must be readily accessible for all people of South Africa. Sports and recreation facilities and programs must be made available in black communities to ensure that children in those communities interact in such activities at a young age and can tap in to their talents. Inequality in South Africa cannot be allowed to continuously prevail and the intervention of both the government and support of those up in the inequality hierarchy becomes paramount in ensuring the reduction of inequality.

5. African Development: Aligning with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and promoting the development of the African continent

As an African state, we ought to recognise and appreciate that we have a very important role to play in Africa, and the continent has that role as well. We must appreciate that the growth and development of Africa won't come by from foreign continents, but by us ourselves. Therefore, we prioritize interstate economic, cultural, social and security development programs between African states, and ensure that African countries can sustain such programs. The time has come for the African Union to play a unifying role in the African and ensuring that African conflicts and misunderstandings can be solved within the continent. United, African states can all withstand any imperial sabotage on developmental programs aimed at empowering the people. Agenda 2063 prioritizes the ideals of Pan-Africanism, good governance, democracy, rule of law in human rights democratic-centric setting, peace and security, sharing of culture and, peace and unity, which are very relevant in the Africa we are in now, and both as state and as a member of the Union we must advance.

6. Universal Access to Education: Advancing universal access to higher education

The question on access to higher education is one which has been debated sufficiently and we view it as a need for the views of the people of South Africa to be legislated and implemented. While the fees

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must fall ensured a significant push in access to higher education, with students below the threshold of R350 000 now being able to be funded fully by NSFAS as a bursary, this significant win also exposed new categories of financial barriers. Students whose parents earn above R350 000 but still cannot afford University fees due to other commitments, and at the same time do not qualify for student loans, or the so called missing middle are denied their right to study. Furthermore, NSFAS only funds undergraduate studies which might be construed as disadvantaging young people from pursuing academia. This is why higher education has to wholly be accessible to all academically qualifying and admitted students for free. Financial inability cannot continue to be a barrier to universal access to education in South Africa. Taxpayers pay millions of rands every financial year and those funds must be reprioritised towards supporting universal free and quality access to free education for all.



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