

# **African National Congress Parliament 20 Consolidated Priorities and Objectives 05 June 2025**

## **Context**

The African National Congress has a historic responsibility of transforming the lives of the previously oppressed who are blacks in general and africans in particular. The G20 presents a critical opportunity for the global south to lobby support from the developed core to support the industrialization efforts and development of South Africa and that of the African continent

South African remains the most unequal society in the world with a Gini- coefficient reflecting income inequality of 0.67,<sup>1</sup> and wealth inequality of 0.9 making it the most obscene levels of wealth inequality globally. Approximately 30.3 million South Africans (55.5% of the population) living in poverty, as defined by the national upper-bound poverty line. Of this, a total of 13.8 million people (25% of the population) experience food poverty.<sup>2</sup>

Central to these statistics is the de- agrarianisation and de- industrialization of the South African economy. South Africa's manufacturing sector has experienced a decline in its contribution to GDP since 1994. The sector's share of GDP has fallen from 22% to just over 11 %. This decline is part of a broader trend of deindustrialization.

Our core priorities for The P20 id centre around the re industrilisation, and de financialisation of the South African economy to support youth development.

## **Youth unemployment**

- South Africa has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, and faces a persistently high level of unemployment. Although South Africa has steadily created jobs over the past two decades, it has done so at a slower pace than the growth of the labour force.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wits.ac.za/news/latest-news/opinion/2023/2023-09/south-africa-cant-crack-the-inequality-curse-why-and-what-can-be-done.html>

<sup>2</sup> Medium Term Development Plan 2025

- According to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS)<sup>3</sup>. Young people aged 15 to 34 make up roughly 50,2% of South Africa's working-age population, translating to approximately 20,9 million individuals. Within this cohort, the 15-24 age group—representing around 10,3 million individuals—faces the highest barriers to entering the workforce, with unemployment figures significantly outpacing that of older youth.
- There will be a need Expand vocational training and internships in high-demand sectors like construction, healthcare, and renewable energy.

## **Land**

- Empower youth through equitable access to land for agriculture, agro processing and entrepreneurship. Growth in agriculture generally is more effective (two to three times as much) in reducing poverty than an equivalent amount of growth generated outside agriculture.
- Accelerated access to urban land is vital for transforming apartheid's spatial geography.
- Access to the land to unlock employment, farming and agro-processing opportunities must be accelerated, by advancing low interest rate loans for agricultural enterprises particularly those located in rural provinces.

## **Trade Cooperation**

- Push for trade agreements that prioritize youth-led enterprises, protection of infants industries particularly those in the primary and secondary sectors.
- Ensure Networking, and create platforms for youth to connect with trade bodies, chambers of commerce, and international partners.

## **Education**

- The need to invest in technical and vocational training institutions and expand access and affordability to higher education for the rural poor, necessary for the fourth industrial revolution.

## **Industrialization and Structural Transformation**

- Promotion of the beneficiation of South Africa's raw minerals, ensure localization, policies and incentives for youth owned SMEs

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<sup>3</sup> Stats SA Q1:2025

- Addressing the high levels of market concentration in the economy, and ensure enhanced support for the informal sector.

### **Digital Economy**

- The economy will soon become the digital economy, we need to Ensure Digital Skills Training by Establishing nationwide programs to teach coding, data analysis, cybersecurity, and digital marketing to prepare youth for tech-driven jobs.

### **The Green Economy**

- There should be prioritization of the protection of poor and vulnerable communities in the roll out of climate resilient infrastructure and finance solutions.
- Strategies need to be developed to enable the development of production capacity which will allow South Africa to participate in the global green energy value chains.
- There should be a clear mapping of strategic minerals for green manufacturing and ensuring that SouthAfrica does not repeat mistakes of the past, as to date has been the case with other minerals.

### **Financial Sector transformation**

- Noting the high levels of concentration in the financial services sector and the large reserves hoarded by the sector in excess of R21 Trillion which is not reinvested in the productive sectors of the economy.
- The lack of appetite from the sector to provide financial and non financial support Black SMEs, particularly those located rural and underdevelopment areas requires urgent intervention through policy and regularity shifts.
- The fundamental imperative and urgency of the establishment of a State Bank and provincial financial institutions, including the capitalization of development finance institutions to support South Africa's developmental agenda.

### **Small Enterprise Development**

- Startup Funding, Provide micro-grants, low-interest loans, and seed funding for youth to launch and scale small businesses, ensuring a thriving ecosystem of youth-led small enterprises, creating jobs and driving local economic development.

