



Patriotic Alliance Position Paper for the Youth Parliament on the Future of South Africa

Industrialisation and Employment

The Patriotic Alliance (PA) believes that South Africa must urgently pursue a bold reindustrialisation agenda if it is to address unemployment, economic exclusion, and the structural inequalities entrenched by our past. As a party rooted in the aspirations of ordinary people, the PA proposes a practical, people-centred industrialisation programme anchored in sovereignty, skills development, and strategic partnerships.

We support the creation of new industrial hubs through deliberate state investment and policy incentives. These hubs must be located in historically marginalised areas and designed to support light manufacturing, agri-processing, and digital industries that can absorb large numbers of young and semi-skilled workers. The PA believes in leveraging state-owned land and facilities to reduce barriers to entry and create viable industrial clusters. As part of our servant leadership approach, we encourage every business owner, entrepreneur, and community leader to play an active role in uplifting others by mentoring young people and creating space for inclusive economic participation.

A critical pillar of our industrial strategy is beneficiation. South Africa must stop exporting raw minerals only to import the finished goods at a premium. Instead, we must focus on processing and adding value to our natural resources locally. This will create skilled jobs, boost technology uptake, and ensure that our mineral wealth benefits our people first and foremost.

The party proposes the establishment of a Trust where a tax will be paid by businesses to issue low-interest loans to South Africans, particularly youth and small business owners, who wish to participate in the productive economy. Existing commercial banks have not succeeded in supporting grassroots entrepreneurs to the extent of that is required by our economic realities.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) must be strategically aligned with national development priorities. The PA supports FDI that promotes technology transfer, skills development, and job creation, not speculative capital or extractive partnerships. We will prioritise FDI in sectors such as green energy, infrastructure, beneficiation, and value-added exports, ensuring that multinational investors contribute to South Africa's developmental goals.

Finally, the PA proposes the establishment of a "People's Empowerment Partner", a sovereign wealth-style fund that holds shares in key industries and distributes dividends to previously disadvantaged citizens. This mechanism will allow ordinary South Africans to benefit directly from the success of our industrial economy.

South Africans must be given first preference in employment and business opportunities. We cannot build a cohesive, prosperous nation while allowing illegal foreign nationals to occupy jobs and spaces meant for citizens. The PA calls for the strict enforcement of immigration laws and the removal of illegal foreigners from the job market. Writing new laws is not the solution, what is needed is full and unapologetic enforcement of the laws we already have.

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Meaningful Youth Engagement

The Patriotic Alliance holds that youth are not merely beneficiaries of policy, they must be central to its design, implementation, and oversight. Youth engagement must go beyond tokenistic representation and must instead be embedded into the DNA of governance, development planning, and nation-building.

To foster discipline, social cohesion, and national identity, the PA proposes the introduction of targeted national service for unemployed youth. This programme will apply to young people who are not in school, employed, studying, or running a business. It will combine military and civil service, equipping participants with soft skills, technical training, and a sense of patriotic duty. The programme must be structured to lead into employment pathways, vocational qualifications, or small enterprise support, and participation must be based on opportunity, not punishment. In line with our ethos of servant leadership, participants will be encouraged to return to their communities with the intention to uplift, lead by example, and build networks of opportunity for others.

A 21st-century education system is key to effective youth empowerment. The PA supports major investment in high-quality digital education platforms and online skills programmes, particularly in townships and rural areas. These platforms must be coupled with professional, passionate teachers and coaches who can guide learners in real-time. The government must partner with industry to ensure that curricula are aligned with labour market needs.

Youth must also have structured access to policymaking processes. The PA proposes the establishment of Youth Advisory Councils at the municipal, provincial and national levels. These bodies must be adequately resourced and legally recognised, with clear mandates to influence budget allocations, public programmes, and service delivery strategies that impact young people.

The PA also sees Sport, Art, and Culture as powerful tools to keep young people off the streets and to reduce the rates of crime and recidivism. We must invest in community facilities, mentorship programmes, and platforms that allow young South Africans to express themselves constructively and access support networks. Through creative and athletic expression, we can channel energy into nation-building and resilience. Young people must be empowered not only to access these opportunities but to organise and lead them, becoming servant leaders who uplift their peers through example and shared effort.

Engagement also means accountability. The PA believes in regular Youth Parliaments, where young South Africans interrogate government officials, propose legislation, and report on implementation gaps. These forums must be televised, digitised, and accessible to rural and township youth.

Inclusive Social Development

Inclusive development is the bedrock of social stability and economic resilience. The Patriotic Alliance believes that no community should be left behind in South Africa's transformation. Our approach is rooted in empowerment, social justice, and the protection of every citizen's dignity.

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We believe that solutions must be co-created with communities. The government must prioritise grassroots consultation and ensure that development initiatives reflect the lived realities of South Africans. The PA supports the training of local community development facilitators and the funding of community-led service delivery pilots. This will foster trust, improve efficiency, and ensure local buy-in. We call on individuals in every neighborhood to take up the mantle of servant leadership, whether by leading feeding schemes, tutoring children, cleaning their streets, or mentoring the next generation, because the path to national renewal begins with local action.

Traditional leaders must be recognized not only as custodians of culture but also as agents of development. The PA proposes that traditional authorities be given a structured role in shaping local development strategies, land use planning, and social cohesion programmes. This inclusion will anchor transformation in legitimacy and heritage.

The PA proudly supports the full protection of LGBTQ+ persons and the rights of women and children. South Africa's constitutional democracy is built on the principle of dignity, and our society cannot flourish while sections of it are dehumanised. The PA calls for expanded psychosocial support in schools and stronger enforcement of gender-based violence legislation. We are not interested in rewriting GBV policy documents that sit on shelves, we want to see police responding, prosecutors acting, and communities protected. Enforcement must be the measure of success.

Finally, inclusive development must tackle the emotional and psychological scars of poverty and exclusion. The PA supports the rollout of a national mental health strategy that includes trauma counselling, addiction recovery, and community wellness programmes. A healed society is a productive society, and no industrial, economic, or political plan can succeed without social cohesion at its core.

As we pursue these goals, the Patriotic Alliance reaffirms its commitment to uplifting all South Africans, regardless of their race, class, or background. We acknowledge the enduring injustices of the past, but we reject a future defined by division. Our vision is of a unified, empowered society where every citizen is given a fair chance and where reconciliation is achieved through dignity, inclusion, and opportunity.

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