

## **ADF 2019 Statement**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the year of the Lord 2019 and wish well all those that the Lord has favoured with life. We mourn the passing of the two brothers from the DRC murdered in Durban through the dreadful acts of xenophobia and we continue to extend our condolences to their families and Africa at large for the loss of life through such barbaric and inhuman actions. We are mindful of developments in Alexandra where rights of people on the pretext of being migrants are violated and they are being deprived of their shelter without due process and the law has turned a blind eye to the unlawful acts of the group calling itself the bona fides. We will stand toe-to-toe and challenge these acts relentlessly.

We would like to stress that the ADF wishes to encourage the spirit of brotherhood or sisterhood across Africa and empathy and great caution in approaching African problems which may include employment or socio-economic problems. We understand the plight and feeling that some South Africans have about foreigners, we however do not condone them, we understand some are misled by politicians to believe migrants are the enemies of progress and a crime free South Africa. This cannot be furthest from the truth, yes migrants also get involved in crime and we condemn that and want to facilitate that those committing crime must be arrested like any other person.

We however note with great concern the trend that there is often a tolerance on the crimes that are committed by political leaders who are the reason Africa has most migrants fleeing their countries and this problem cannot be resolved for as long as other leaders who are well meaning keep quiet and condone this. In a battle between the oppressor and oppressed, the oppressed will not hesitate to condemn a strongman who can help but rather chooses to stand by and watches them suffer. The oppressed will lump such person together with their oppressor and deservedly so.

We implore the South African leadership to stand against the atrocities, oppression, dictatorship and lack of democracy and clutter in the democratic space in many African countries and urge that President Ramaphosa and his administration and other South African leaders must push for full democratic processes in DRC and all other countries than keep quiet like what happened in Cameroon, Zimbabwe and other countries. This will always be problematic for South Africa to say or do nothing because this leads to instability in the whole region, and once people are hungry and socially oppressed, they will flee to anywhere where they can find themselves a life without oppression. In this case South Africa is the only option in Africa. South Africa gained its independence with the help of other African countries and these countries had not fully attained democratic practices but had just unseated colonialism and white oppression.

This time we are in the second phase of fighting oppression and domination of other people by others. This is oppression and domination by our own unscrupulous brothers who have become self-centred, undemocratic and cruel. The fortunate countries like South Africa who have managed better democratic processes have a duty to help other countries also get

there. They must not side with the black oppressor. They must help like they were helped, at least they owe it to Africa.

The ADF in fighting for the human rights of migrants in South Africa, it will also advocate vociferously and boisterously for constitutional democracy across Africa and partner with pro-democracy organisations to ensure that the human rights of migrants are restored in their home countries and they can easily track back without fearing victimisation or the abuse of their socio-economic and sociopolitical rights.

All of Africa must be easily accessible to Africans and a place of choice for Africans to migrate to because of opportunities and choice and Africa as a whole must embrace the free movement of Africans in Africa. The script must be rewritten or re-ordered to take care of the African dream. We must pursue an African dream born of equal opportunities and peace and stability in the region and we are the ones as a generation responsible for bringing about this change.

In a nutshell we wish Africa a peaceful, prosperous 2019, progressive elections in South Africa without xenophobic sentiments, democratic processes in DRC including truthful pronouncements on the freeness and fairness of elections and the process and corrective measures being taken not just to pronounce and leave it there. Africa must be fully constitutional and the right to demonstrate and freedom of speech, press freedom, political affiliation and expression full realised, and the separation of powers practiced rather than the sham constitutions that many African countries have or that are not followed at all.

- Migrant children deserve education!
- Migrant children deserve a shelter!
- Migrant children deserve to have a state!
- Migrant children deserve a fair shot at life!

Politicking must not condemn future generations to statelessness and criminal lives! It is not their choice that they were born in foreign lands. They cannot help it. The same way colonialism was fought, despotic leadership must be fought jointly! Our problem is not just the west but more so and particularly the quiet African states who watch the butchering and violation of the rights of Africans by other Africans. It is not right to kill Africans and oppress them by other Africans just like it was not right when done by white colonialists.

**Africa Arise! Africa be great! This is our theme and thrust in 2019! The giant awakens.**

**Peace and prosperity to all in Africa not the elite and politicians, who are meant to be the servants of the people.**

**Dr Vusumuzi Sibanda**  
**ADF Chairperson**