



SIYABUYA!

Let's #MakeSAbetter

Siyabuya welcomes job creation and income support measures

27 July 2021

The Siyabuya movement has welcomed the income support and job creation that will result from the measures announced on Sunday by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

One of Siyabuya's primary objectives is to promote job creation to combat the poverty and hunger which result from rising unemployment. The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the situation. Lockdowns, including the month-long Level 4 lockdown which ended on Sunday, may have helped to curb the spread of the virus, but they have also increased unemployment and hunger.

"The recent violence in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng has added to joblessness and misery, making relief efforts all the more urgent," said Siyabuya lead person Melene Rossouw.

"Siyabuya is delighted with the reintroduction of the R350 income grant to poor citizens between the ages of 18 and 59, and the extension of the special relief of distress social grant to unemployed caregivers. That will extend the reach of this grant to 9.5 million jobless people."

New support measures for businesses hard hit by the lockdowns, including acceleration of the economic reconstruction and recovery programme, tax concessions and rapid payment of insurance claims for those that have lost business or have had to close, are welcome for the same reasons.

"Every business saved means many jobs saved, and in South Africa every job supports many people. These measures will save lives, because they will result in food for hungry people.

"These relief efforts come as vaccinations are at last showing a steady increase. The promise of an accelerated vaccination programme, soon extending down to 18-year-olds, must be followed up with a drive to highlight the value of vaccinations and discourage vaccine hesitancy," she said.

"We are not safe until everyone is safe. Get the job!"



About Melene Rossouw

Melene Rossouw is the leader of Siyabuya. She is an internationally recognised gender and human rights activist, global award winner, public speaker, moderator, facilitator, strategist and consultant. An attorney with 13 years' experience, Melene is founder of the Women Lead Movement in South Africa.

Her accolades include being selected by the prestigious Obama Foundation as an Obama Leader in Africa (2018) and as a Mandela Washington Fellow by the US Department of State in 2019 for the Presidential Precinct, an NGO in Charlottesville, Virginia in the USA. In October 2020, she was selected as one of the 100 Most Influential Young Africans and made the Top Ten list of Most Influential Young Africans by Africa Youth Awards. She was also recently named as one of the 100 Most Influential South Africans.

About Siyabuya

Siyabuya believes South Africa can emerge stronger from the Covid-19 pandemic. It aims to build networks across the country of people who share this belief and are working to achieve it. Those who are helping others, creating jobs and feeding the poor, are setting examples others can emulate.

Siyabuya aims to #MakeSAbetter by instilling a common sense of mission, built from the ground up, through ordinary South Africans engaged in active citizenry to improve their fortunes and the lives of those around them.

For more information, visit our website at www.siyabuya.org.za

