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Media Statement:

SONA 2025: EMPTY PROMISES WILL NOT SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

For Immediate Release

The Congress of the People (COPE) approaches the 2025 State of the Nation Address (SONA) with deep concern as the government continues to drive South Africa into economic and social ruin. Year after year, SONA has become a stage for grand speeches, empty promises, and false hope while the reality on the ground worsens for millions of South Africans.

The nation is crippled by weak economic growth, deep poverty and unemployment and high cost of living fuelled by the government's lack of policy clarity and failure to implement meaningful reforms. Instead of decisive leadership, we have witnessed policy flip-flopping, corruption and mismanagement, leading to record levels of unemployment, poverty and social degradation.

Over 11 million South Africans are unemployed, while businesses, especially small enterprises, are suffocated by red tape, unreliable water supply and crime. The cost of living has skyrocketed, yet this government prioritises elitist fantasies over real and tangible solutions. When will the government put the people first?

The trust deficit between citizens and their leaders is at an all-time high. South Africans are losing confidence in democratic institutions because those in power have failed to deliver on their constitutional mandate. Parliament has become a rubber stamp for incompetence, while state-owned enterprises remain sites of looting instead of engines of economic growth. The people of South Africa deserve better!

COPE demands that President Cyril Ramaphosa use this SONA to:

1. Deliver a clear, actionable, broad-based plan for economic recovery that prioritises job creation and investment stability. It is time to conclude the social compact, which includes the broad stakeholder community.
2. End policy uncertainty that discourages local and international investment. Use domestic Development Finance Institutions to stimulate investment and grow the economy.
3. End wasteful expenditures, hold corrupt officials accountable and eliminate state capture remnants still draining our resources. Implement the Zondo Commission Report without any further delays or excuses.
4. Restore trust in democratic institutions by ensuring transparency, accountability and the rule of law without fear or favour.
5. Provide real and urgent solutions to crime, the water crisis and failing municipalities.

The time for excuses, delays and broken promises is over. South Africans deserve leadership that serves the people, not the politically connected elite and big business interests.

The Congress of the People remains committed to real change, accountability and leadership.

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