

SOUTH AFRICA

PEOPLE'S CHARTER OF RESOLUTIONS & CHARTER OF CITIZENS' OBLIGATIONS

Protest Against Jacob Zuma; Pretoria, Union Buildings;
Photographer: Insaan Haffeeza (CC BY-ND 4.0)

PREPARED BY



TUSAM
The United South Africa Movement

There are two parts to this document.

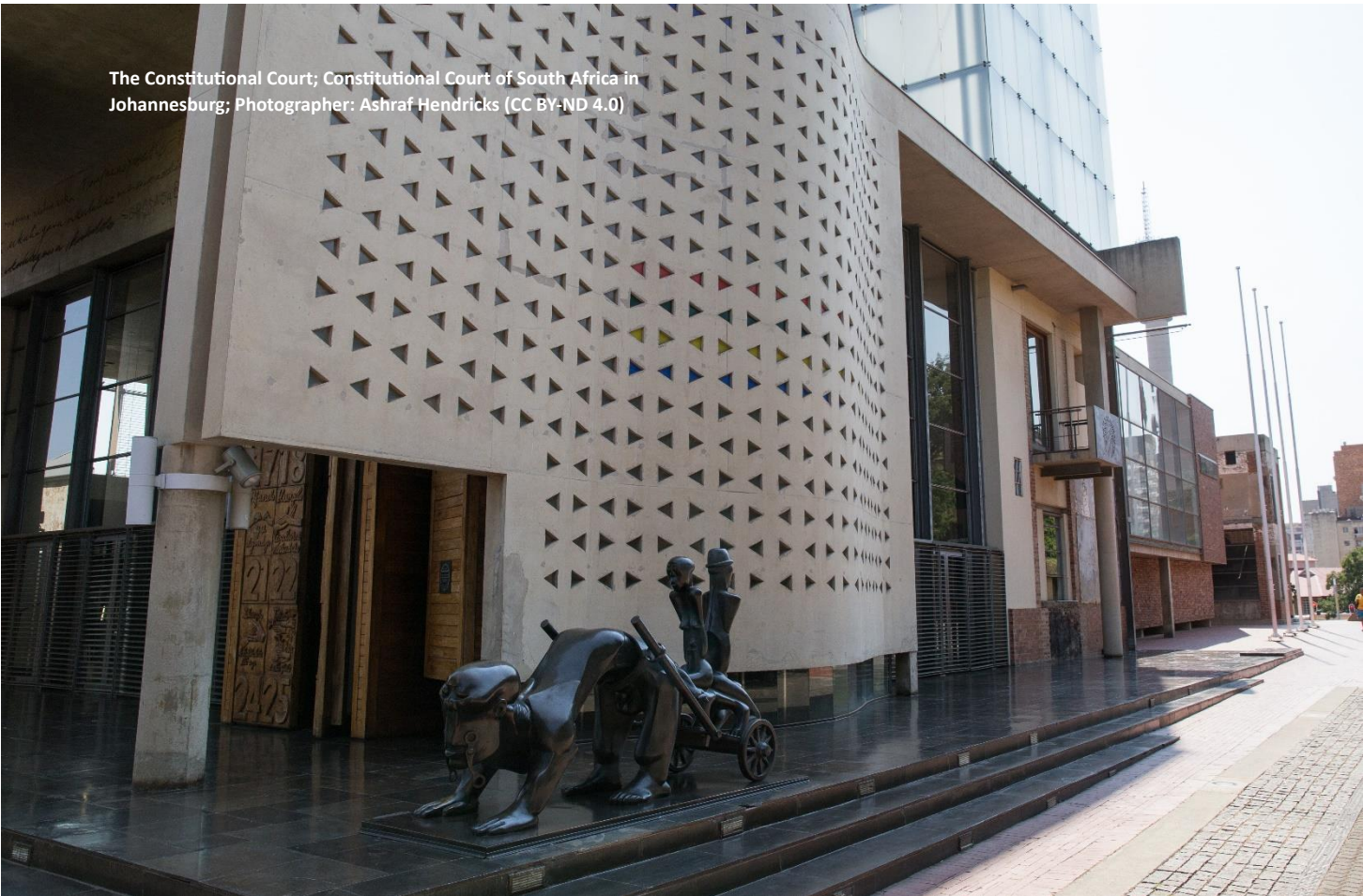
PART A - the 'People's Charter of Resolutions'

and

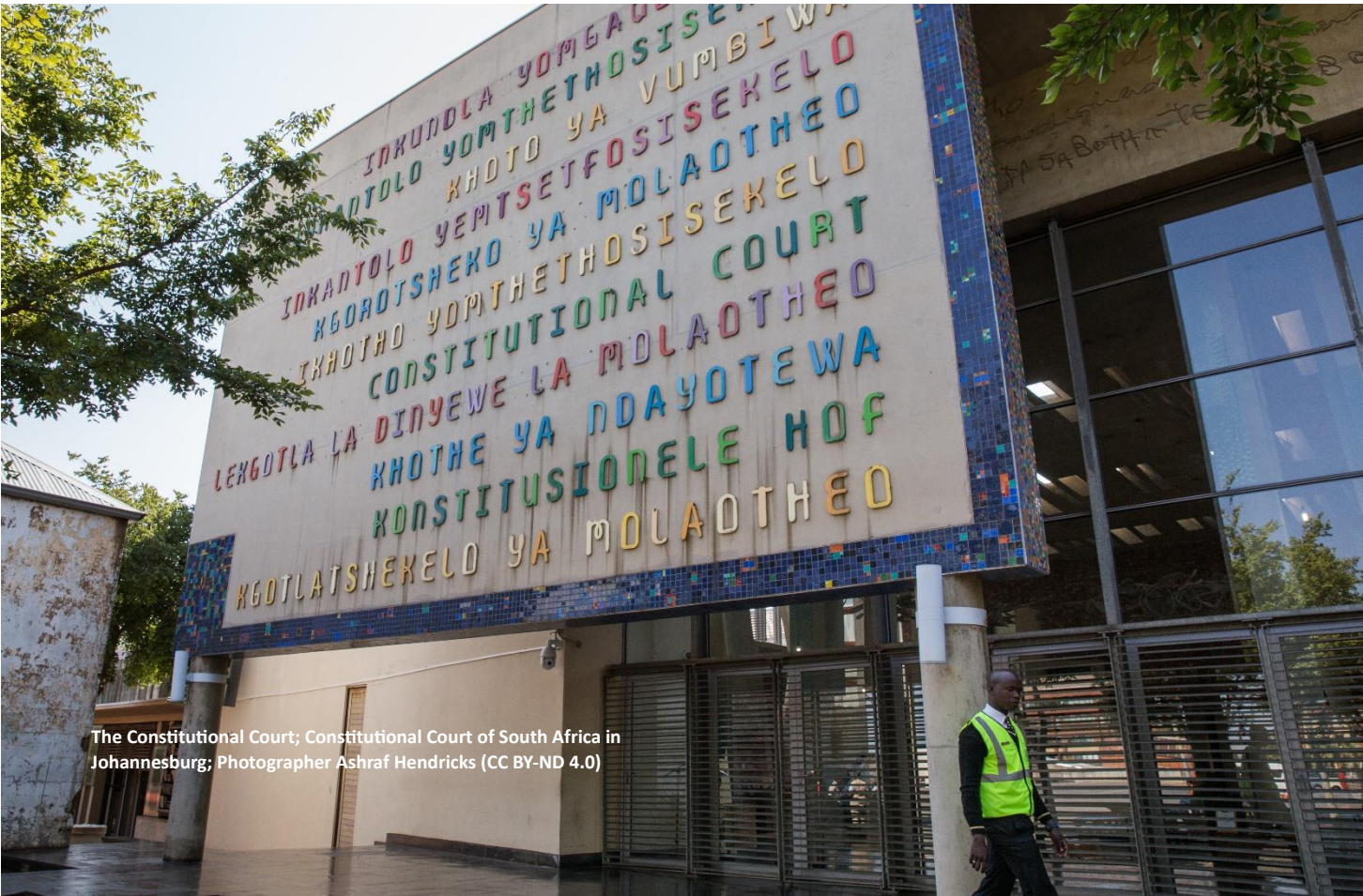
PART B - the 'Charter of Citizens' Obligations'.

The reasoning behind this lies in our acknowledgment that citizens rightfully hold expectations of those entrusted with governance. Nevertheless, it is crucial to acknowledge that citizens also hold responsibilities towards one another and to the welfare and long-term prosperity of the Republic of South Africa.

The Constitutional Court; Constitutional Court of South Africa in Johannesburg; Photographer: Ashraf Hendricks (CC BY-ND 4.0)



The Constitutional Court; Constitutional Court of South Africa in Johannesburg; Photographer Ashraf Hendricks (CC BY-ND 4.0)





PART A
THE PEOPLE'S CHARTER OF RESOLUTIONS

PREAMBLE

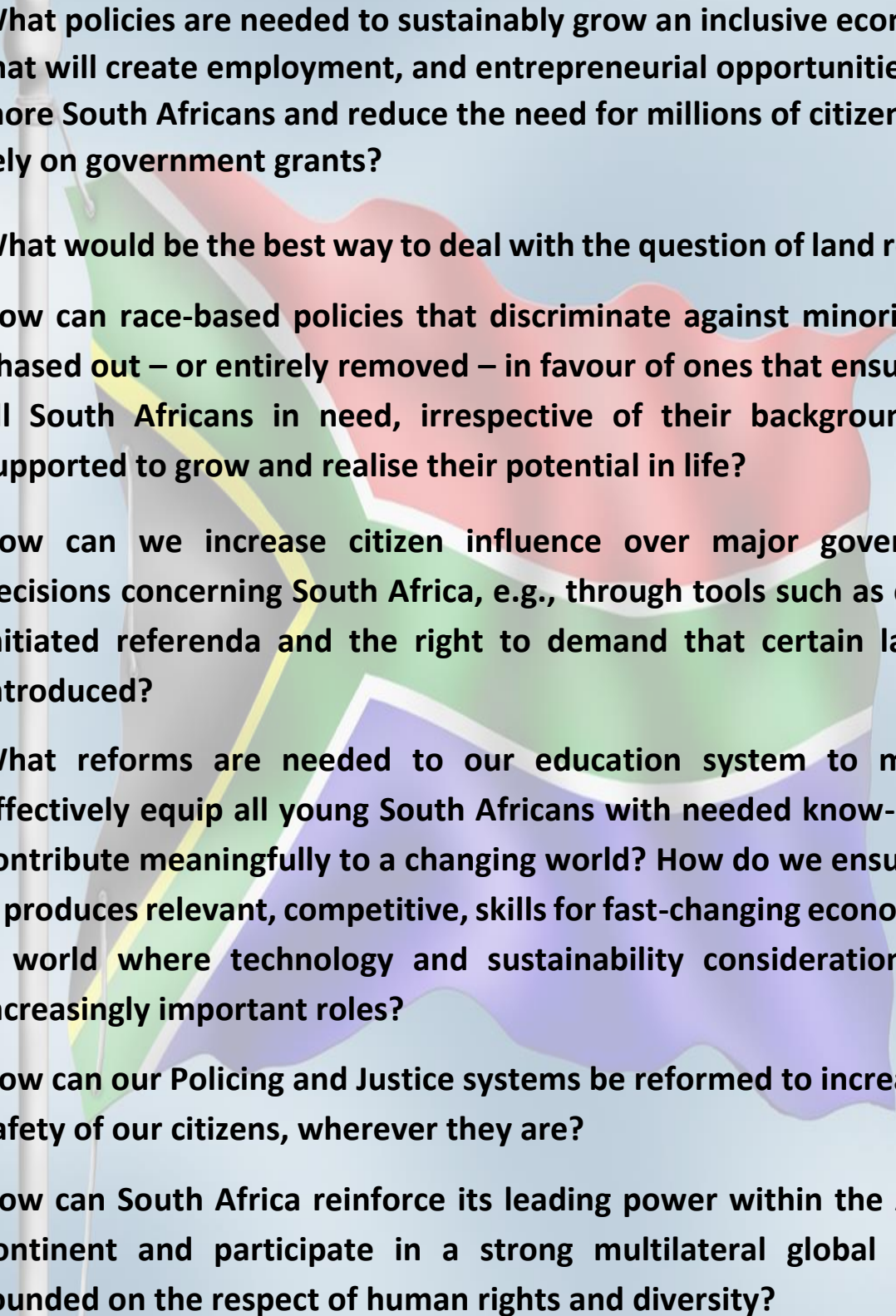
Concerned about the direction our country has been taken into, particularly over the past two decades - marked by corrupt, abusive, and kakistocratic leadership that weakened and repurposed state institutions to serve the interests of a criminal and unethical political elite and their affiliates - we, The People, have decided to unite. Across the rich tapestry of racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, and gender diversity that defines our nation, we join forces to reclaim our role in shaping South Africa's trajectory ahead of and beyond the 2024 general elections.

Initiated in January 2021 under the guidance of what later became The United South Africa Movement (TUSAM), our collective endeavour gained momentum through extensive dialogues with South Africans from across the board. Our conversations unfolded across diverse platforms, also engaging voices from parts of the expansive South African diaspora.

Numerous media interactions further fuelled this momentum, ultimately leading to the formulation of the present 'Charter of Resolutions'. This dynamic document, set to continually evolve, stands as a testament to our ongoing outreach to fellow South Africans at home and around the world. As we connect with more individuals and integrate their perspectives, facilitated by TUSAM, this People's Charter remains a living testament. In partnership with various stakeholders, our civil society initiative aspires to foster collaborative change on a significant scale.

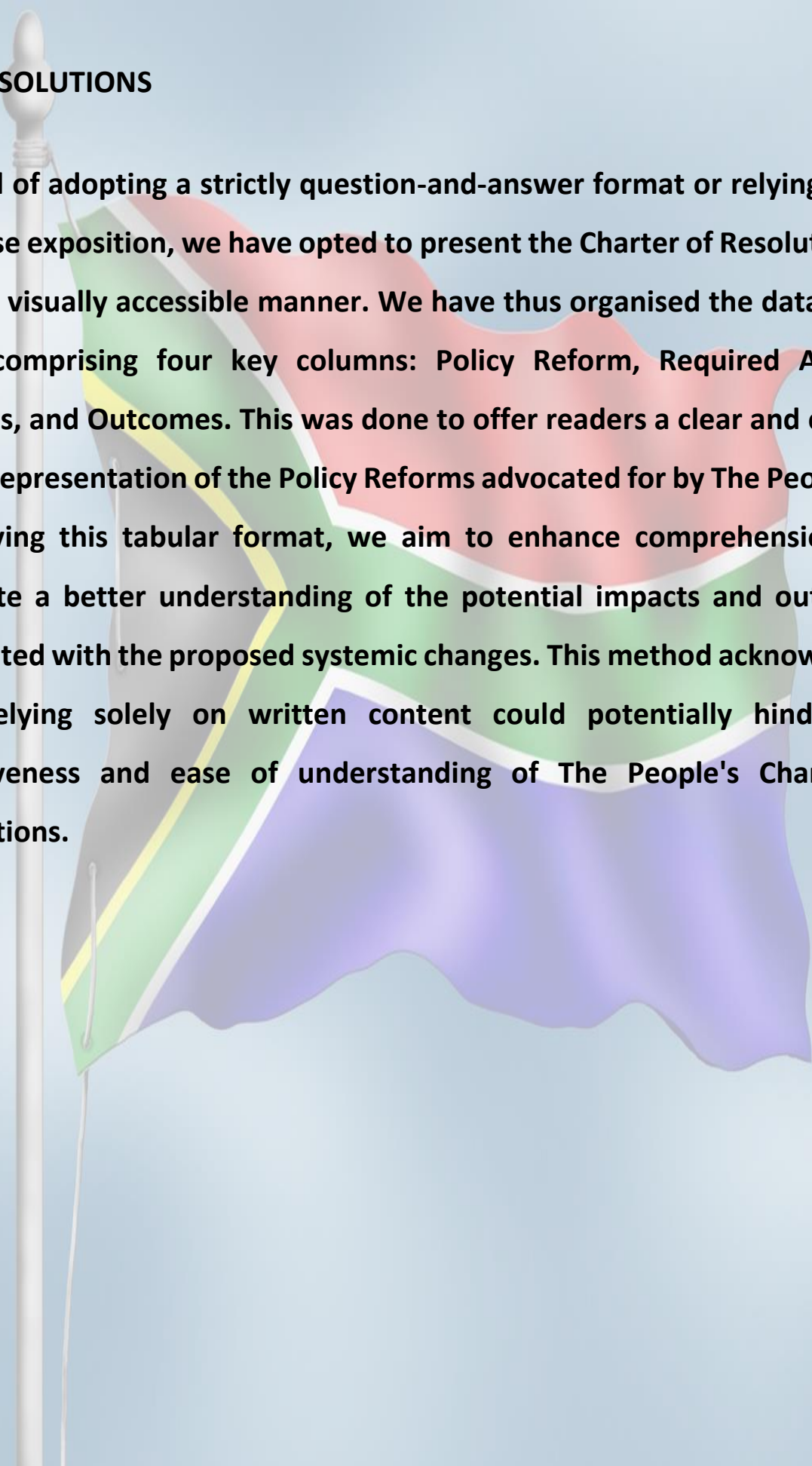
Below are some of the questions that have buttressed our entire drive for sustainable positive change:

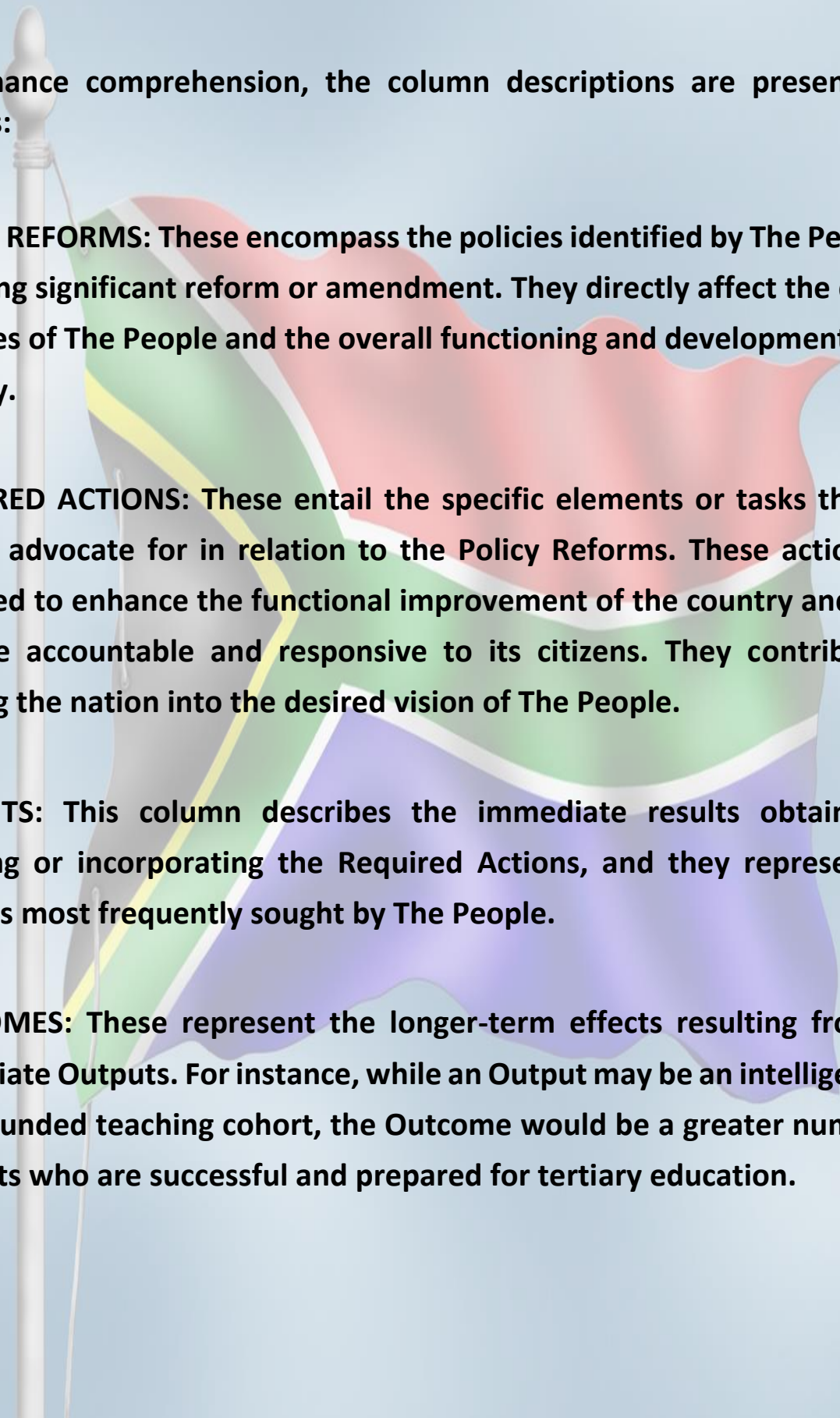
- **Is the South Africa we see in 2024 what we had signed-up for?**
- **Where have we gone wrong?**
- **Do we have the right combination of policies, leadership, professional action, as well as requisite ethical, empathetic, balanced, mature, inclusive, and visionary grounding to build a truly inclusive South Africa, with an economy that works for all?**
- **Did the writers of our Constitution err when they placed too many powers in the Institution/Office of the Presidency? What would be more democratic and workable alternatives to the status quo? This question is particularly important considering South Africa having inexorably entered a “multiparty coalition” era at various levels of governance.**
- **Are our democratic institutions, including the Chapter 9 Institutions, the criminal justice system, and others, working for all the people of South Africa, irrespective of background and affiliation? What amendments or additional checks and balances are needed?**
- **Can South Africa’s State-Owned Entities be salvaged and strengthened to work for what’s best for the country and all South Africans in their diversity?**
- **Where are we with electoral and land reforms? What would be the best, sustainably inclusive, alternative arrangements?**
- **How do we deal with continued problems emanating from racism, tribalism, misogyny, and other forms of discrimination?**

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- **What policies are needed to sustainably grow an inclusive economy that will create employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities for more South Africans and reduce the need for millions of citizens to rely on government grants?**
 - **What would be the best way to deal with the question of land reform?**
 - **How can race-based policies that discriminate against minorities be phased out – or entirely removed – in favour of ones that ensure that all South Africans in need, irrespective of their background, are supported to grow and realise their potential in life?**
 - **How can we increase citizen influence over major government decisions concerning South Africa, e.g., through tools such as citizen-initiated referenda and the right to demand that certain laws be introduced?**
 - **What reforms are needed to our education system to make it effectively equip all young South Africans with needed know-how to contribute meaningfully to a changing world? How do we ensure that it produces relevant, competitive, skills for fast-changing economies in a world where technology and sustainability considerations play increasingly important roles?**
 - **How can our Policing and Justice systems be reformed to increase the safety of our citizens, wherever they are?**
 - **How can South Africa reinforce its leading power within the African continent and participate in a strong multilateral global system founded on the respect of human rights and diversity?**

THE RESOLUTIONS

Instead of adopting a strictly question-and-answer format or relying solely on prose exposition, we have opted to present the Charter of Resolutions in a more visually accessible manner. We have thus organised the data into a table comprising four key columns: Policy Reform, Required Actions, Outputs, and Outcomes. This was done to offer readers a clear and concise visual representation of the Policy Reforms advocated for by The People. By employing this tabular format, we aim to enhance comprehension and facilitate a better understanding of the potential impacts and outcomes associated with the proposed systemic changes. This method acknowledges that relying solely on written content could potentially hinder the effectiveness and ease of understanding of The People's Charter of Resolutions.





To enhance comprehension, the column descriptions are presented as follows:

POLICY REFORMS: These encompass the policies identified by The People as requiring significant reform or amendment. They directly affect the day-to-day lives of The People and the overall functioning and development of the country.

REQUIRED ACTIONS: These entail the specific elements or tasks that The People advocate for in relation to the Policy Reforms. These actions are intended to enhance the functional improvement of the country and make it more accountable and responsive to its citizens. They contribute to shaping the nation into the desired vision of The People.

OUTPUTS: This column describes the immediate results obtained by enacting or incorporating the Required Actions, and they represent the changes most frequently sought by The People.

OUTCOMES: These represent the longer-term effects resulting from the immediate Outputs. For instance, while an Output may be an intelligent and well-rounded teaching cohort, the Outcome would be a greater number of students who are successful and prepared for tertiary education.

POLICY REFORMS	REQUIRED ACTIONS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Clean Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce anti-corruption measures to define, detect, combat, and eliminate corruption. - Review/remove race-based policies. - Strengthen separation of powers. - Make conflict of interest among parliamentarians and cabinet a criminal offence. - Introduce reforms for a non-partisan professional civil service. 	<p>Incentives for corruption removed.</p> <p>Penalties (financial and/or legal) for non-compliance.</p>	<p>Aim for zero corruption within government and between state employees and unscrupulous private sector actors.</p> <p>Professional, and ethical civil service with national standards, unhindered by political changes.</p>
Presidential Powers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce current powers of the president, including in the appointment of key democratic institutions, including Chapter 9 Institutions. - Take away the need for a presidential decree to allow institutions such as the Special Investigative Unit (SIU) to investigate suspected criminality. - Depoliticise and remove the Intelligence Services from the Office of the President. 	<p>Eliminated Presidential patronage.</p> <p>Fully independent Investigative and Intelligence Units.</p> <p>Strengthened oversight over the presidency.</p>	<p>Fully independent Chapter 9 institutions that function as intended in the Constitution.</p> <p>Unhindered investigations.</p> <p>Restricted Presidential reach by sole decree.</p>
Capable State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand meritorious appointments at all levels of employment while mindful of past inequalities. This should not lead to racial discrimination. - Outlaw political interference in hiring. - Create competency frameworks. - Strengthen audit function. - Effective and timely training (first 30 to 90 days in office) for MPs and Ward Councillors (e.g. for finance and procurement systems and procedures). - Minimum education for MPs, Mayors, Ward Councillors, etc. (Matric minimum, preferably Tertiary). 	<p>Meritocracy in the public service.</p> <p>Hiring conducted by HR professionals.</p> <p>Professionally trained MPs and bureaucrats.</p> <p>Responsive and accountable public representatives.</p>	<p>Better levels of services, infrastructure delivery and maintenance.</p> <p>Government workers who know their job functions and responsibilities.</p> <p>Everyone held to account.</p> <p>Increased public confidence in their representative.</p>
Electoral Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make vote buying in political parties a reportable offence. - Regulate party funding. - Constituency based elections. - Create online voting system for diaspora. - Truly independent IEC. - Increase the number of polling stations and methods to vote. 	<p>Accountable government and restricted donors.</p> <p>Increase the number of engaged voters.</p>	<p>Democratic system with higher levels of trust and participation.</p> <p>More confidence in the democratic electoral system and the results of elections.</p> <p>Greater citizen satisfaction that through the democratic system their voices are being heard and that their vote counts.</p>

POLICY REFORMS	REQUIRED ACTIONS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Electoral Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More intense and broader public education programs (together with civil society) for voter's rights, obligations, and the power of democracy. 		A much more well-informed citizenry.
Crime Fighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop capability of SAPS, DHA, SARS, SSA, NPA. - Invest in more efficient crime intelligence gathering, specialised detective units within SAPS, and forensic laboratories for quicker investigative purposes. - Devolve more policing powers (devolution) to ready and capable provincial governments while maintaining ongoing cooperation between relevant national and provincial bodies. - Prohibit political interference. - Strengthen civilian oversight through the creation of a civilian oversight committee/board with the power to recommend prosecution. - Offer severance packages. - Strengthen international cooperation to combat human, currency, firearms, and mineral trafficking. - Combat all Mafias, tender abuses, human and drug traffickers, etc. - Reduce the number of dockets assigned per investigator by hiring more highly trained and skilled crime scene investigators. 	<p>A more professional, and effective, law enforcement capability.</p> <p>Specific expertise in combating and investigating organised crime, gangs, money laundering, murders, etc.</p> <p>Police service members knowing they will face an oversight committee for poor/mis conduct.</p> <p>Police services operationally managed closer to where the need is.</p> <p>Greater cooperation between police/investigative services.</p> <p>Greatly reduced effectiveness of mafias and traffickers.</p> <p>Timely processing of crime scenes and court documents.</p>	<p>Efficient and effective crime detection, crime combating capabilities, and greatly improved prosecution details.</p> <p>Free flow of investigative information.</p> <p>Accelerated forensic results leading to faster arrests.</p> <p>Professionalised policing that illicit public confidence.</p> <p>Reduction in illegal Mafia interference and their illegal wealth creation.</p> <p>Improved international reputation while deterring organised crime syndicates from establishing domestic branches.</p> <p>Citizens receive timely court dates and professionally investigated, and correctly prepared, documentation.</p>
Economic Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a National Development Plan that is specific, finite, and focused on repairing and advancing South Africa's economy. - Reduce and/or eliminate bureaucratic red tape for business registrations. - Eliminate BBBEE in its current form. - Strengthen/reinforce property rights – remove EWC policies. - Eliminate race-based water rights policies for farming. - Reduce business tax rates. - Complete the national Cadastral System to facilitate mining claims. 	<p>Specific plan of action to enhance the economy.</p> <p>Quicker registration of businesses.</p> <p>Employers can hire by merit only and removes the requirement for ownership sharing of (foreign)businesses.</p> <p>Added security for current farmers (Removal of EWC and water rights).</p>	<p>Entrepreneurs will have confidence and direction for strategic industry investments.</p> <p>More SMEs created.</p> <p>Increased FDI.</p> <p>Greater management and production due to meritocratic hiring.</p> <p>Increased number of farms owned and operated by all races.</p> <p>Increased number of mining companies and increased tax flow from such.</p>

POLICY REFORMS	REQUIRED ACTIONS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Economic Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote and incentivise the extraction of critical (rare) minerals for the green economy (manganese, vanadium, and numerous other minerals). - Incentivise beneficiation (local processing and enrichment of natural resources). - Promote the green economy and offer incentives for R&D and business creation (Solar and wind electricity generation but also manufacturing of the necessary hardware – the solar panels and wind turbines, but also hydrogen generation). - Promote and incentivise the transition to the digital economy and creation of 4IR businesses. (advanced manufacturing, AI, IOT, ICT, tech such as apps and value-added services). - Provide free Wi-Fi throughout certain, or limited, urban and rural/township locations. - Promote service-based industries (finance, call centres, etc.) - Make Made in South Africa an internationally and nationally recognised desirable moto and items to be acquired. - Disincentivise the importation of products that can be and/or are already made in South Africa. - Make agriculture and agri-business a desirable profession for youth through education and positive reinforcement incentives and strengthen smallholder support from the Agriculture Department. - Introduce incentives for job creation such as access to government sponsored business loans. 	<p>Mining companies and prospectors can register lands and view already staked lands.</p> <p>Additional industry created through the extraction and beneficiation of rare earth minerals.</p> <p>Locally made solar panels and wind turbines, but also electricity generation from green sources.</p> <p>Modernised youth population educated/skilled in digital tech.</p> <p>Connected population with access to current and future technologies and provides many more opportunities.</p> <p>Growth in call centres, data centres, and financial centres.</p> <p>Increase in local manufactured goods.</p> <p>More youth led and owned farms, and ancillary agri-businesses.</p> <p>Increase in SMEs – the backbone of all economies.</p>	<p>South Africa becomes known as a source of ethical rare earth minerals.</p> <p>Reduced CO2 emissions by lowering dependency on fossil fuel generated electricity.</p> <p>Thousands of jobs created in solar power and wind turbine manufacturing, and installation/servicing.</p> <p>Thousands of tech enabled jobs created.</p> <p>Expanded pool of skilled workers.</p> <p>Free Wi-Fi breeds happier, more informed citizens.</p> <p>National pride of ownership created through Made in South Africa.</p> <p>Capital flow circulated with the country from purchasing locally made goods and services.</p> <p>People becoming more connected to the land through farm ownership and pride in growing crops /raising livestock.</p> <p>Drastically lower unemployment rate resulting in a much happier population with less reliance on low social grants.</p> <p>Strengthened economy, Rand value, and fiscus.</p>
Energy Just Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drive local and global partnerships for transitioning energy sources away from coal. - Invest in energy production of the future and prioritise localisation. - Upskill labour force for a future energy value chain. 	<p>A proactive energy transition process.</p> <p>Needed investment in skills.</p> <p>Local empowerment.</p>	<p>Less reliance on fossil-fuels over time lowering carbon footprint, and ease burden of health issues.</p> <p>Cleaner energy generation/supply, and local economic integration.</p>
Industrial Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen R&D. - Incentivise investments with energy, transport, water, skills, and police support. 	<p>An attractive industrial policy environment.</p> <p>Reduced investment retention uncertainty.</p>	<p>A competitive economy</p> <p>More local and foreign investment.</p>

POLICY REFORMS	REQUIRED ACTIONS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Industrial Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect investment from expropriation. - Link industry to colleges. - Promote minerals beneficiation - Land and agrarian studies. 	Promotion of resource and agriculture business sectors.	<p>Uptick in civilian interest in mining and agriculture.</p> <p>Increased business and employment within industrial sectors.</p>
Labour Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upscale workplace and lifelong learning. - Free SETAs from political interference. - Limit right to protest and restrict union rights for essential workers. - Punish unfair labour practices that harm the public and economy. - Revise the Labour Relations Act to align with its original purpose of safeguarding the most vulnerable workers, rather than serving the agendas of executives. 	<p>A predictable, enabling, and competitive labour regime.</p> <p>A LRA that reflects its original intent of protecting low paid workers.</p>	<p>A peaceful and competitive labour force.</p> <p>A labour force continually abreast of Best Practices.</p> <p>Reduced disruption to public services.</p> <p>Workers better protected by labour laws.</p>
Education Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce free, mandatory, universal, and compulsory basic education. - Make education accessible to PWD. - Introduce curriculum linked to long term economic strategies. - Regulate collective bargaining. - Promote new technologies from ECD. - Introduce specialised programs like STEM, and trades, digital technologies, but also physical education, teamwork, and life skills, etc. - Introduce continuous teacher training, and basic math skills for all teachers. - Create provincial standardised testing to measure student progress and measure the effectiveness of schools/teachers. - Investigate the option for home language / first language instruction for primary school. - Incentivise teachers to teach in rural and remote communities. - Improve safety and security of students. - Improve school governance, with the creation of parent councils. - Repair NFSAS and remove political corruption within it. - Promote mutual respect and inclusivity of races, colours, tribes, sex, gender, and economic status in schools. 	<p>An improved, better managed, and well-resourced public education.</p> <p>Basic education accessible to all.</p> <p>Specialty programs recognising that not everyone likes to learn the same things in the same manner.</p> <p>Reduced prejudice, misunderstanding and hatred.</p> <p>Intelligent and well-rounded teaching cohort.</p> <p>Greater uptake of concepts when taught in first language.</p> <p>Creates environments where kids feel safe. Reduced corruption and costs within the student financial aid system.</p> <p>Tertiary graduates ready to fill available jobs.</p>	<p>Reasonably educated and skilled working age population.</p> <p>Through time transition to highly skilled workforce becomes easier.</p> <p>More accepting and tolerant society.</p> <p>Greater teacher preparedness and pride through paid training.</p> <p>Greater number of students successful and prepared for tertiary education.</p> <p>Improved physical and mental health of school age children.</p> <p>More engaged students willing to learn and increased chances of success.</p> <p>Eligible tertiary students gain access to proper funding and experience less worries about funding.</p> <p>Increase confidence in the quality, and relevance, of tertiary education in South Africa.</p>

POLICY REFORMS	REQUIRED ACTIONS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Education Reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All facilities (schools) must have basic water, sanitary, and power services delivered and operational. - Tertiary institutions need to offer programs in-line with what industry needs (work closely with industry). 		
Reform of Public Entities (State Owned Enterprises, SOEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider restructuring, unbundling, part privatization and wholesale privatization of network industries, Eskom, Transnet, PRASA, SANRAL, UASSA, bus companies etc. - Create oversight bodies to regulate and monitor the SOEs and their operations. - Remove political appointments to senior management and Board positions and strengthen merit-based appointments to create operational buffers between the Boards and Executive Management of SOE to shield them from undue political interference. 	<p>More affordable, less indebted public entities.</p> <p>Reduced requirement to have specialised staff on public payroll.</p> <p>Merit based hiring – best people hired for the roles.</p>	<p>More public and private efficient investment.</p> <p>Reduced public debt.</p> <p>Best practices are more attainable through private sector.</p> <p>Efficient, effective, and well managed services.</p>
Foreign Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review foreign relations to eliminate clientelism, opportunities for illegal immigration, terrorism, corruption, and support for authoritarian rule abroad. - Build and sustain strong relationships with both longstanding and new allies, prioritising the protection and advancement of fundamental human and environmental rights. - Promote multilateralism but commit to bilateralism only when advantageous to South Africa in the long run. - Promote reciprocity in trade. - Have a foreign policy that is guided by the spirit, values, and guided by the values (and interests) of South Africa’s Constitution and lead on key issues, especially human rights, including in Africa and the Global South. - Review of foreign mission/consulates and close ineffective locations. 	<p>Balanced foreign, and trade policies.</p> <p>Reduce expenditures on stagnant missions.</p> <p>Promote South Africa as a Constitutional Democracy and solid, leading, member of the international community.</p>	<p>Maintain and reinforce South Africa’s respect around the World.</p> <p>Increase chances for trade facilitation.</p> <p>Increase probability of intelligence gathering and sharing through mutual respect and understanding.</p>
Spatial Integration and Infrastructure Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve rural investment and development strategy. - Review the National Infrastructure (where delivered vs where they are needed). - Look at ways to reform the BNG/RDP programs and their effectiveness/impacts. - Empower provinces to adopt Spatial Development Frameworks with discretion for final planning and integration. 	<p>A more predictable and workable spatial, rural, and infrastructure framework to revitalise rural communities, economies, and arrest the decline of urban centres.</p>	<p>Balanced economic growth and development.</p> <p>Preservation of established communities.</p> <p>Provide enabling environment for rural economic stimulation and sustainable and prolonged inhabitation.</p>


POLICY REFORMS	REQUIRED ACTIONS	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Spatial Integration and Infrastructure Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce measures for private sector to assist infrastructure planning, acquisition, and maintenance. - Be intentional about digital broadband and make wireless broadband and fibreoptics a priority. 	<p>A thorough national map of service delivery locations and volumes.</p> <p>High speed connected population to foster ICT growth.</p>	<p>Better foundation to know where to repair and/or deliver infrastructure services.</p> <p>Better connected, informed, and ready population for new jobs.</p>
Social Cohesion; Social Justice, and More Power to Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eliminate policies, including raced-based policies, that drive wedges between various South African communities. - Establish an inclusive environment where all South Africans, regardless of background, feel a sense of belonging and ownership of the country, extending to the diaspora who may have experienced exclusion or alienation within South Africa. - Create tools and policies to empower citizens to influence significant government decisions, such as granting citizens the right to demand referendums (Direct Democracy) and establishing municipal oversight committees. 	<p>Nation building returned to the core of government responsibility.</p> <p>More engaged citizenry.</p> <p>Cohesive, understanding, and respectful communities.</p> <p>Increased pride in being South African.</p>	<p>A better cohesive environment to make all South Africans feel that they belong, giving them the incentive to contribute to South Africa's growth, economically and in stature in the rest of Africa and across the globe.</p> <p>Social cohesion and empowerment reduces despondency and frustration and increase pride and safety within communities.</p>
Justice System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide greater equality through the creation of a state financed legal aid, and paralegal system. - Judicial reform and modernisation: Enhance efficiency, transparency, and accessibility. - Conduct community engagement and legal education programs. - Create an Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanism, arbitration, and restorative justice programs. - Enforce anti-corruption measures and accountability mechanisms: robust systems to tackle systemic corruption, bribery, and abuse of power, including oversight bodies like anti-corruption commissions or ombudsman offices. - Develop policies promoting interagency collaboration: involving government agencies, law enforcement, legal professionals, civil societies, and international partners. 	<p>Under privileged citizens have access to legal counsel.</p> <p>Better trained legal professionals.</p> <p>Reduced barriers to justice.</p> <p>Boosted participation and promotion of conflict resolution culture.</p> <p>Enhanced transparency, integrity, and ethics in judiciary and law enforcement.</p> <p>Integrated strategies created to address complex legal issues like human trafficking, organised crime, and gender-based violence (GBV).</p>	<p>A more equal justice system that is accessible by everyone.</p> <p>More timely and effective resolutions to legal disputes.</p> <p>Greater promotion of social justice for marginalised and underserved communities.</p> <p>Building a more harmonious and resilient society.</p> <p>Greater promotion of the rule of law and the deterrence of corruption related offenses.</p> <p>Synergies created that leverage collecting efforts and enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of justice system interventions, leading to better outcomes for all stakeholders.</p>

Conclusion

Over the past two decades, South Africa has endured a succession of corrupt, abusive, and inept leadership, leading to a plethora of challenges. These include sabotaged and crumbling infrastructure, inadequate electricity supply, weakened Chapter 9 institutions, a sharp increase in crime, particularly violent offenses, a devalued currency, capital flight, international financial greylisting, state capture by corrupt officials and their cronies, proliferation of organised crime, and a struggling education system, among others. The consequence of this prolonged governance failure is a surge in unemployment, a significant rise in reliance on a dwindling social welfare system, widespread lack of access to clean drinking water and basic services, frequent power outages, mounting waste management issues, escalating drug abuse, and overwhelmed law enforcement and justice systems.

Citizens feel abandoned and exploited by a government focused more on self-enrichment than public welfare. Despite repeated calls for accountability, including during the annual State of the Nation Address, the government deflects blame, gaslights, and denies responsibility for the nation's decay. This administration refuses to acknowledge its role in exacerbating the problems inherited from apartheid-era governance.

In response to this governance crisis, the people of South Africa demand comprehensive reforms across all government sectors, institutions,



infrastructure, education, and an increase in social cohesion. The year 2024 symbolises a watershed moment akin to the democratic transition of 1994, marking a clarion call for transformative change. The People's Charter of Resolutions articulates these demands, serving as a manifesto for political parties to heed. Parties willing to embrace these changes and commit to their implementation will receive public endorsement by TUSAM, while those resistant to reform will be called out.

South Africa is a proud, resilient, and innovative nation deserving of global recognition. It is the failure of successive ANC administrations to uphold the constitution and deliver on its promises that has thwarted the country's potential. The People aspire to reclaim South Africa's trajectory toward prosperity and demand accountability from their leaders. From this moment onward, they reclaim the power to shape their future and rebuild the nation for the betterment of all South Africans and future generations.

WE, THE PEOPLE, HAVE SPOKEN.

Cape Town Iconic Murals; Public art in Cape Town;
Photographer: Masixole Feni (CC BY-ND 4.0)



PART B

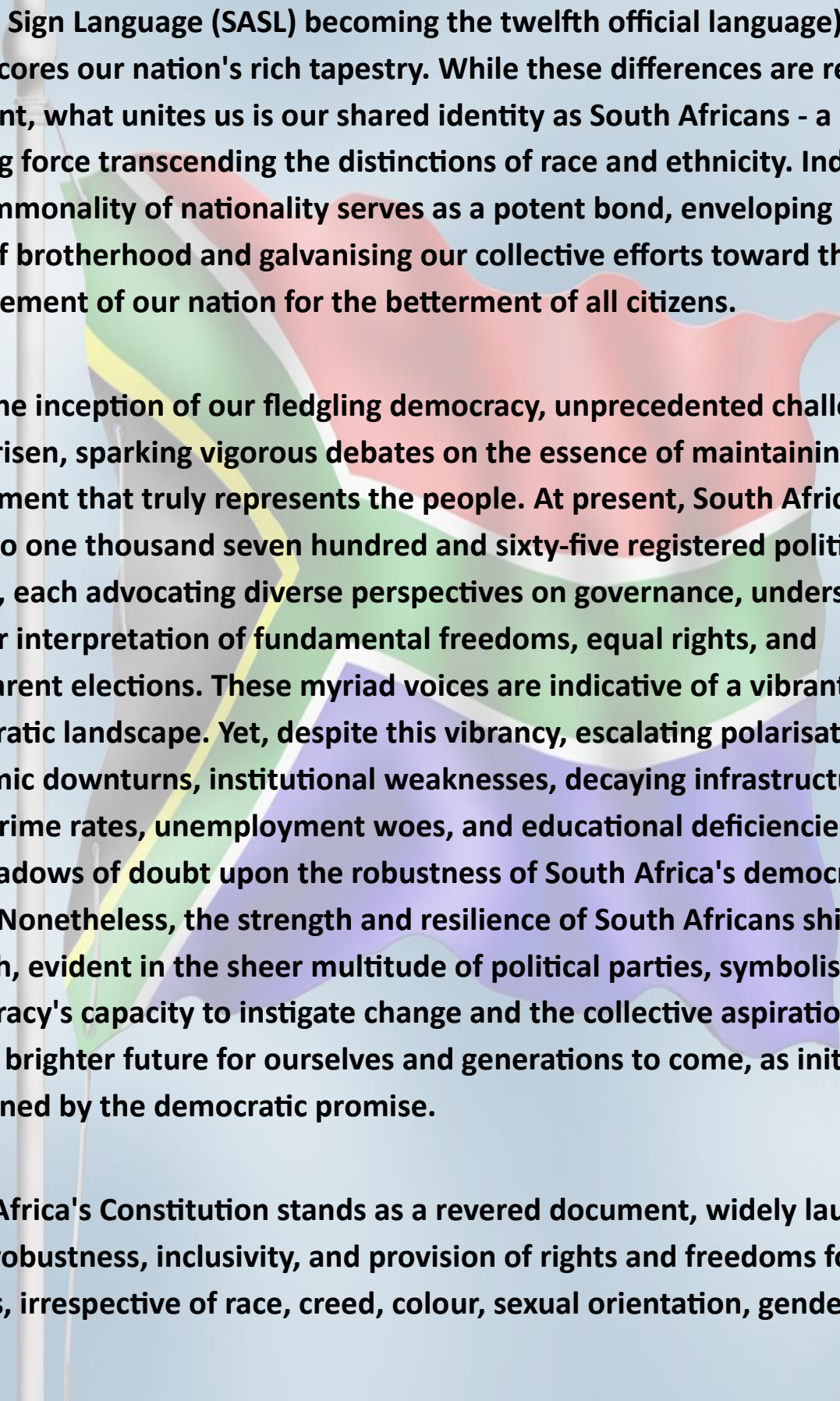
THE CHARTER OF CITIZENS' OBLIGATIONS

PREAMBLE

Democracy in South Africa is a relatively recent development, emerging after the collapse of apartheid in 1994. However, it's important to understand that democracy isn't a spontaneous occurrence; rather, it relies on a framework of assumptions, norms, and practices to function effectively. The ultimate aim is to cultivate a more just, trusting, and prosperous society and nation - a place that not only benefits oneself and future generations but also adheres to fundamental principles of equality and equity for all citizens, as enshrined in most constitutions and written laws.

Demanding expectations from the state or country we inhabit is a common inclination, yet we must recognise that for a democracy to thrive, expectations and obligations must be mutual. In a democracy, power isn't solely vested in the government; it also resides with the people – indeed, the word democracy itself is derived from the Greek words "demos," meaning "people," and "kratos," meaning "rule" or "power." Thus, democracy translates to "rule by the people." Therefore, a well-functioning democracy dedicates resources to enhancing capacities, institutions, and education, empowering citizens to actively engage in shaping policies, laws, and ideals that serve the collective welfare.

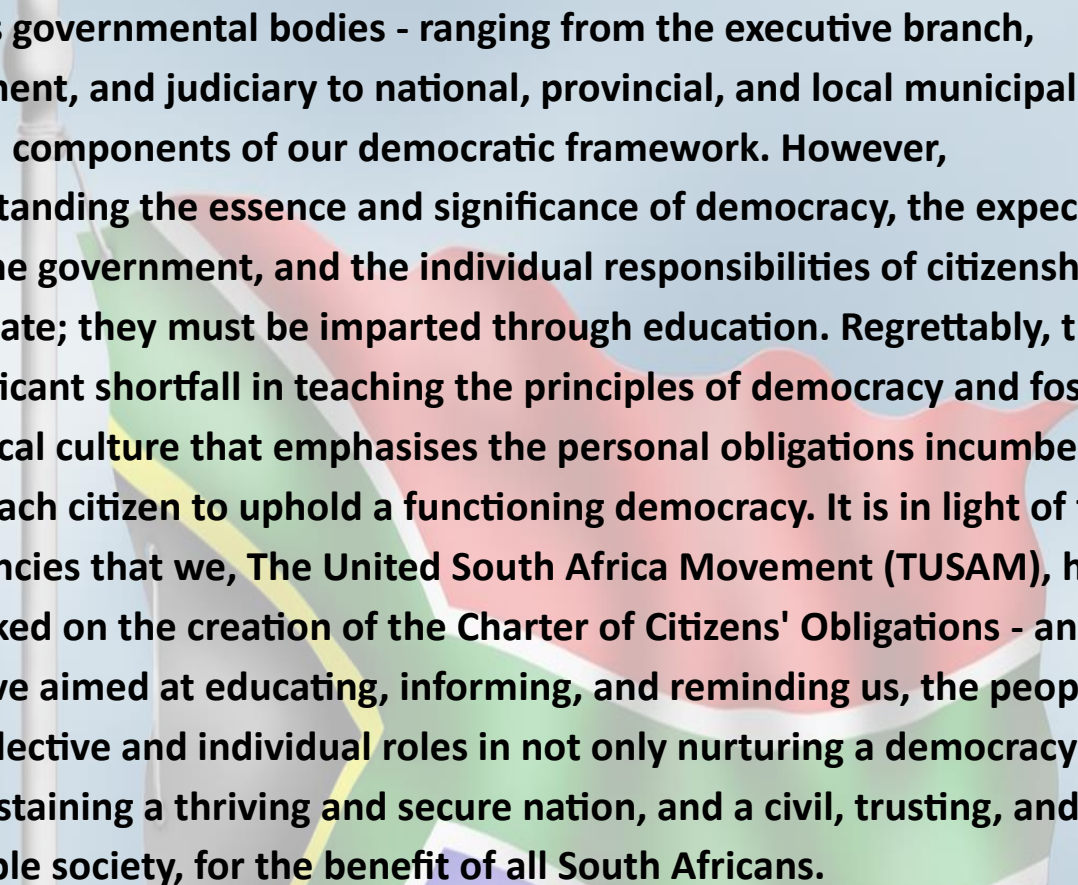
South Africa boasts remarkable diversity, encompassing not only the historically recognised racial groups - Black, White, Coloured, and Indian - but also other communities such as Asians and Arabs residing within our borders. Moreover, the multitude of ethnic groups, evidenced by our eleven official languages - Afrikaans, English, Ndebele, Xhosa, Zulu, Pedi,



Sotho, Tswana, Swazi, Venda, and Tsonga (The recent addition of South African Sign Language (SASL) becoming the twelfth official language) - underscores our nation's rich tapestry. While these differences are readily apparent, what unites us is our shared identity as South Africans - a unifying force transcending the distinctions of race and ethnicity. Indeed, the commonality of nationality serves as a potent bond, enveloping us in a spirit of brotherhood and galvanising our collective efforts toward the advancement of our nation for the betterment of all citizens.

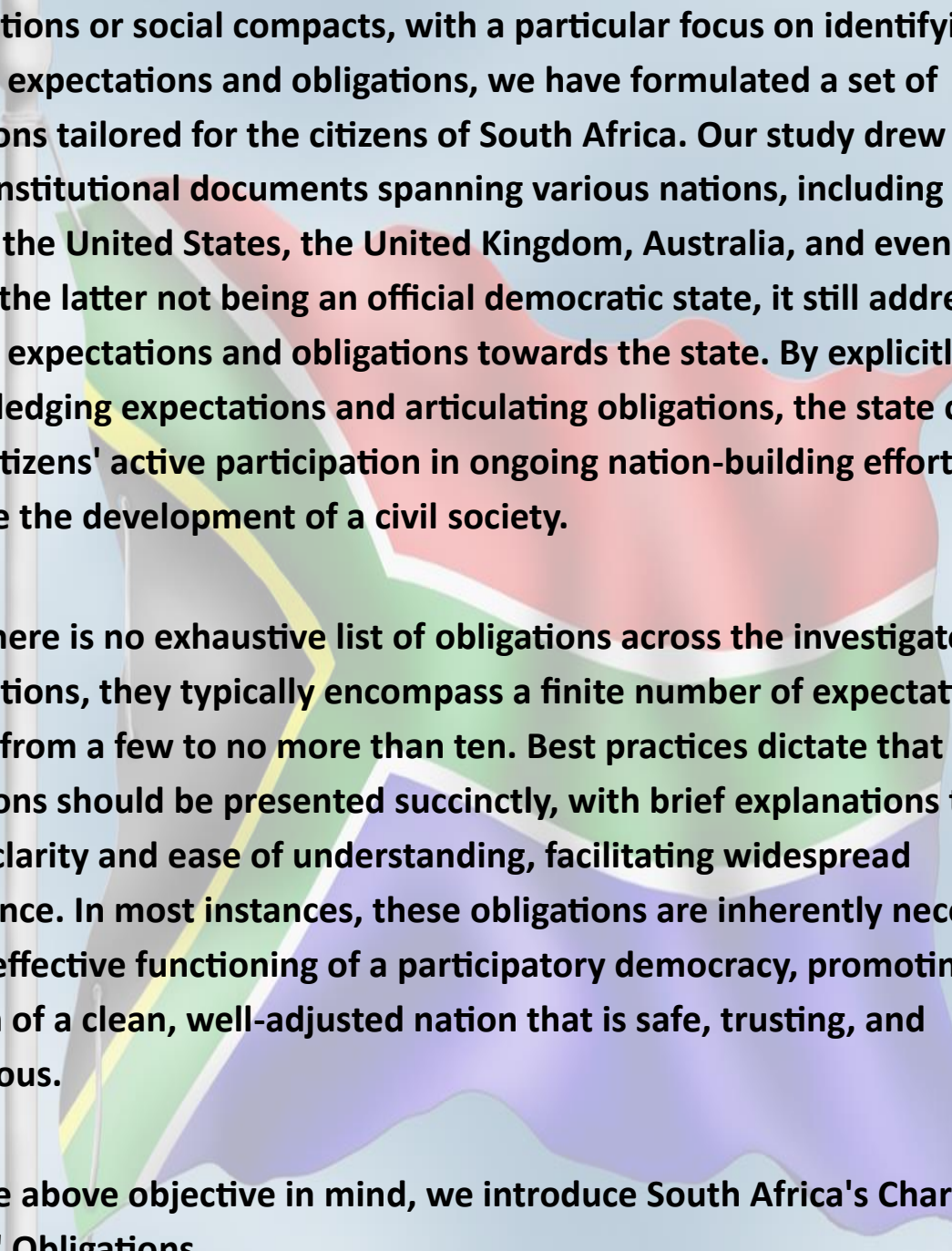
Since the inception of our fledgling democracy, unprecedented challenges have arisen, sparking vigorous debates on the essence of maintaining a government that truly represents the people. At present, South Africa is home to one thousand seven hundred and sixty-five registered political parties, each advocating diverse perspectives on governance, underscored by their interpretation of fundamental freedoms, equal rights, and transparent elections. These myriad voices are indicative of a vibrant democratic landscape. Yet, despite this vibrancy, escalating polarisation, economic downturns, institutional weaknesses, decaying infrastructure, rising crime rates, unemployment woes, and educational deficiencies have cast shadows of doubt upon the robustness of South Africa's democratic fabric. Nonetheless, the strength and resilience of South Africans shine through, evident in the sheer multitude of political parties, symbolising democracy's capacity to instigate change and the collective aspiration to forge a brighter future for ourselves and generations to come, as initially envisioned by the democratic promise.

South Africa's Constitution stands as a revered document, widely lauded for its robustness, inclusivity, and provision of rights and freedoms for all citizens, irrespective of race, creed, colour, sexual orientation, gender, or



age. Enshrined within this constitution are the roles and responsibilities of various governmental bodies - ranging from the executive branch, parliament, and judiciary to national, provincial, and local municipalities - all vital components of our democratic framework. However, understanding the essence and significance of democracy, the expectations from the government, and the individual responsibilities of citizenship are not innate; they must be imparted through education. Regrettably, there is a significant shortfall in teaching the principles of democracy and fostering a political culture that emphasises the personal obligations incumbent upon each citizen to uphold a functioning democracy. It is in light of these deficiencies that we, The United South Africa Movement (TUSAM), have embarked on the creation of the Charter of Citizens' Obligations - an initiative aimed at educating, informing, and reminding us, the people, of our collective and individual roles in not only nurturing a democracy but also sustaining a thriving and secure nation, and a civil, trusting, and equitable society, for the benefit of all South Africans.

Ever since the establishment of democracy in ancient Athens, Greece, during the 5th century BCE, certain ideals and frameworks have served as the cornerstone upon which democracy was constructed. Central to these principles are the expectations for citizens to participate in civic deliberations in matters of public importance and uphold virtuous behaviour, alongside the corresponding obligations to fulfil their duties of citizenship and exhibit decency towards the state and fellow citizens. It is through adhering to these obligations that the true strength of democracy emerges, fostering the development of a well-functioning state and society where individuals are afforded the freedom to pursue their aspirations within the bounds of the law and to express their identities authentically.



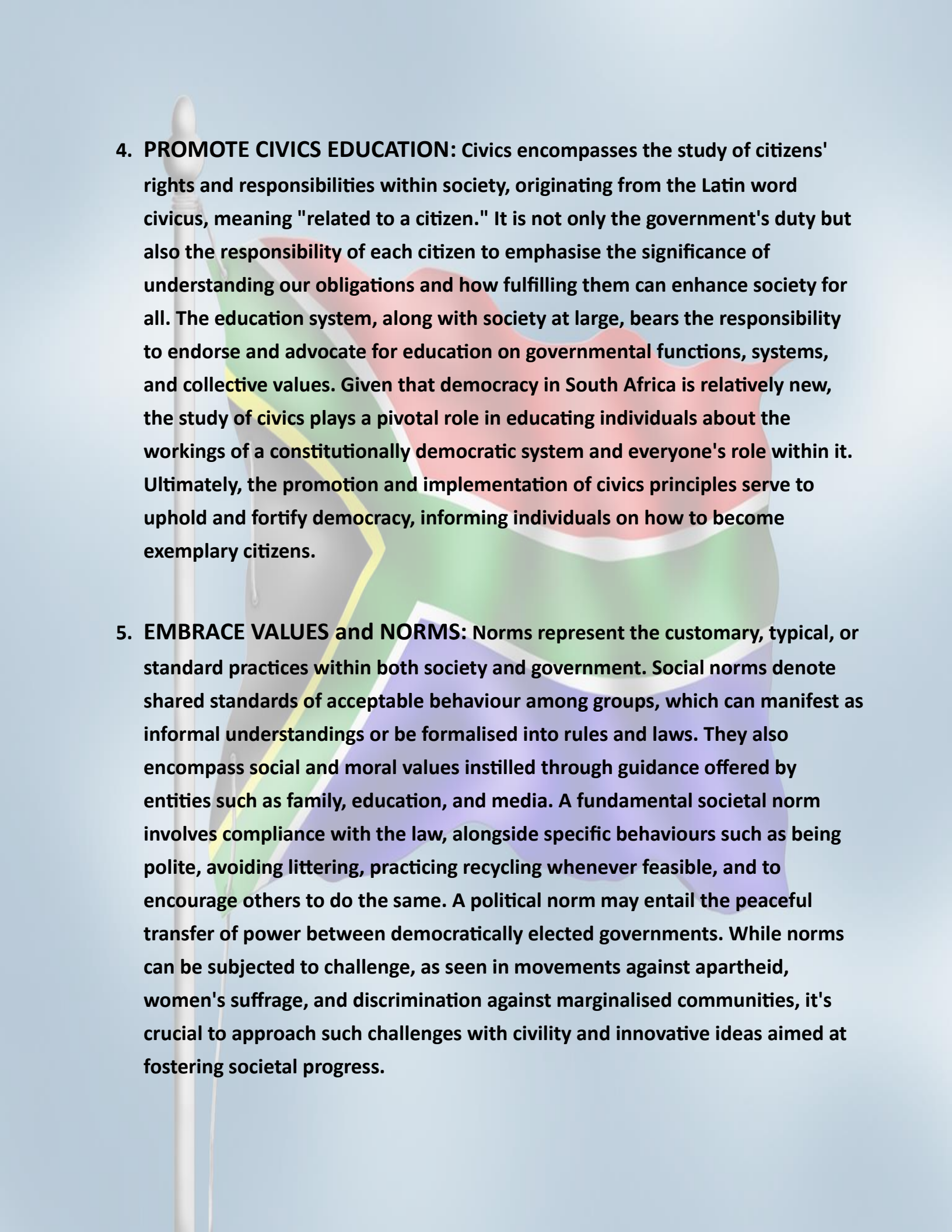
Through meticulous research and examination of numerous national constitutions or social compacts, with a particular focus on identifying citizens' expectations and obligations, we have formulated a set of obligations tailored for the citizens of South Africa. Our study drew insights from constitutional documents spanning various nations, including Ancient Greece, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and even China - despite the latter not being an official democratic state, it still addresses citizens' expectations and obligations towards the state. By explicitly acknowledging expectations and articulating obligations, the state can foster citizens' active participation in ongoing nation-building efforts and promote the development of a civil society.

While there is no exhaustive list of obligations across the investigated constitutions, they typically encompass a finite number of expectations, ranging from a few to no more than ten. Best practices dictate that these obligations should be presented succinctly, with brief explanations to ensure clarity and ease of understanding, facilitating widespread compliance. In most instances, these obligations are inherently necessary for the effective functioning of a participatory democracy, promoting the creation of a clean, well-adjusted nation that is safe, trusting, and prosperous.

With the above objective in mind, we introduce South Africa's Charter of Citizens' Obligations.

CITIZENS' OBLIGATIONS


- 1. GET INVOLVED:** Embrace full participation in every facet of democracy. Familiarise yourself with the Constitution, register to vote, actively engage in all elections, and seek public office. Get to know your political representatives, including local councillors. Attend council and school meetings, contributing to decisions on spending priorities. Look out for your neighbours and community members and participate in initiatives aimed at enhancing community safety and cleanliness. Active involvement not only promotes the smooth functioning of society but also contributes to cleanliness and safety, reduces reliance on the state, and fosters a sense of pride and belonging among engaged citizens.
- 2. BE INFORMED and STAY INFORMED:** It is incumbent upon every citizen to counter disinformation and misinformation by engaging in wide-ranging reading and attentive listening to diverse sources of information. Exercise caution in consuming unverified content and prioritise reputable sources. Strive to differentiate facts from fiction and assist others in developing this skill. It is essential to identify and confront sources of misinformation and disinformation, exposing them for propagating falsehoods and misleading narratives.
- 3. ACT CIVIL and REMAIN CIVIL:** The essence of being civil lies in exhibiting courtesy and politeness, and respecting others' property and their rights to personal security. We commonly observe and anticipate this behaviour within our places of worship. Therefore, we should expect the same behaviour in our schools, hospitals, government institutions, and wherever people congregate, such as sporting events, concerts, and shopping malls. Furthermore, civil conduct fosters an environment where diverse opinions are respected, facilitating meaningful dialogue and the cultivation of relationships and friendships without compromising one's principles. Moreover, it is through civility that progress can be achieved in addressing the most pressing issues facing our nation and society.



4. PROMOTE CIVICS EDUCATION: Civics encompasses the study of citizens' rights and responsibilities within society, originating from the Latin word *civicus*, meaning "related to a citizen." It is not only the government's duty but also the responsibility of each citizen to emphasise the significance of understanding our obligations and how fulfilling them can enhance society for all. The education system, along with society at large, bears the responsibility to endorse and advocate for education on governmental functions, systems, and collective values. Given that democracy in South Africa is relatively new, the study of civics plays a pivotal role in educating individuals about the workings of a constitutionally democratic system and everyone's role within it. Ultimately, the promotion and implementation of civics principles serve to uphold and fortify democracy, informing individuals on how to become exemplary citizens.


5. EMBRACE VALUES and NORMS: Norms represent the customary, typical, or standard practices within both society and government. Social norms denote shared standards of acceptable behaviour among groups, which can manifest as informal understandings or be formalised into rules and laws. They also encompass social and moral values instilled through guidance offered by entities such as family, education, and media. A fundamental societal norm involves compliance with the law, alongside specific behaviours such as being polite, avoiding littering, practicing recycling whenever feasible, and to encourage others to do the same. A political norm may entail the peaceful transfer of power between democratically elected governments. While norms can be subjected to challenge, as seen in movements against apartheid, women's suffrage, and discrimination against marginalised communities, it's crucial to approach such challenges with civility and innovative ideas aimed at fostering societal progress.

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- 6. EMBRACE COMPROMISE:** Compromise entails settling disputes or reaching agreements among opposing parties through mutual concessions rather than coercion or by force. This practice is facilitated by fulfilling other Obligations, such as civility (Being Civil), staying informed (Be and Stay Informed), and active engagement (Get Involved). It involves negotiating outcomes that benefit all parties involved. Compromise serves as a potent tool in shaping laws and structures; for instance, the end of apartheid resulted from a compromise between the ANC and the ruling white National Party in 1993. Political coalitions, like the Tripartite Alliance between the ANC, COSATU, and SACP, and the more recent Multi-Party Charter (MPC) involving the DA, ActionSA and several others, are formed through compromise. In daily life, compromise may occur among siblings regarding the care of elderly parents or the fair distribution of property, or among business partners and competitors. Successful compromise fosters better relationships and outcomes while reducing or eliminating hostilities.
- 7. DENOUNCE VIOLENCE:** Regrettably, violence has become alarmingly prevalent in South Africa's daily life, reaching unprecedented levels of criminality. It has, disturbingly, become an acceptable means of expressing discontent with governmental policies and law enforcement, and between citizens experiencing conflict. It has also become a means to acquire desirable, and in some cases essential, goods. Instances of group demonstrations escalating into rioting and looting are distressingly common, as are vigilante actions resulting in loss of life. Violence perpetuates a cycle of further violence. Therefore, it is imperative to restore and uphold order within civil societies by rejecting the normalisation of violent behaviour. Take a stand and condemn violence in all its manifestations, whether it be spousal rape, gender-based violence (GBV), or violence against property – such as the destruction and theft of essential infrastructure elements. Violence has no place in our communities, and it demands collective efforts to halt its proliferation.

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- 8. ADVANCE THE COMMON GOOD:** In light of recent challenges, relying solely on government capabilities for safety and security is no longer sufficient. Policing services have often been overwhelmed, unable to address escalating crime levels effectively. It is in the collective interest to mobilise groups of like-minded and capable citizens to undertake tasks beneficial to all. Initiatives such as community neighbourhood watch programs, garbage collection brigades, maintenance of public spaces like parks and libraries, enhancement of public transportation infrastructure, and enforcement of laws against drunk driving and drug abuse all contribute to promoting the common good. These initiatives foster a stronger sense of community, belonging, respect for property and the environment, and perpetuate the ideal of collective well-being.
- 9. SHOW RESPECT FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:** Government services are integral to the welfare of all citizens. Entities such as the South African Police Service (SAPS), South African National Defence Force (SANDF), as well as federal, provincial, district, and local municipalities, including wards, are comprised of public service institutions staffed by government workers. Employees within these institutions carry out their duties for the collective benefit of all citizens. Within the array of crucial government services offered to society, our public health systems stand out as vital. Here, dedicated doctors and nurses work tirelessly to save lives and promote overall well-being. Additionally, our public education institutions play a pivotal role. Teachers undertake the indispensable task of imparting essential skills and instilling values that nurture self-esteem, fostering active, engaged, and productive members of society, and we must not forget that those institutions are overseen by school principals, ensuring effective management and direction. Recognising the importance of government services is vital, and in well-functioning societies employment within any branch of government service should be seen as honorable and worthy of pursuit.

10. FULFIL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS: A well-functioning country relies on a steady revenue stream to sustain itself. Sales, business, and personal income taxes constitute significant sources of revenue for governments. These funds are crucial for the construction and maintenance of essential infrastructure and services such as roads, water supply systems, sewage networks, and waste disposal, as well as for financing law enforcement and military operations that ensure public safety and security. Responsible citizenship entails dutifully paying the taxes owed to the state. Additionally, contributing to charitable causes that align with personal values and priorities is commendable. Charitable organizations, relying on the generosity of compassionate citizens, play a vital role in society by addressing needs that may not be met by government services due to resource limitations.

11. PRIORITISE THE NATION: The foundation of strong, resilient, and prosperous countries lies in the commitment of both citizens and governments to prioritise the best interests of their homeland above all else. It is imperative for citizens to prioritise the nation's interests over political affiliations or party allegiances. Patriotism, characterised by devotion and unwavering support for one's country, plays a pivotal role in fostering unity among diverse socioeconomic, cultural, and ethnic groups in celebration of a shared homeland. This unity is evident in the collective pride experienced when our national sports teams, such as the world-renowned Springboks in rugby and the men's (Bafana Bafana) and women's (Banyana Banyana) football teams, achieve success on the global stage. Similarly, our entertainers - musicians, actors, comedians, and dancers - showcase immense talent while proudly representing Brand South Africa to the world. Prioritising the nation entails familiarising oneself with the societal norms, values, and laws and leveraging them to advance the nation's interests. It does not involve disparaging other nationalities or ethnicities but rather seeking constructive ways to promote South Africa positively or contribute to its development for the collective well-being of all citizens.

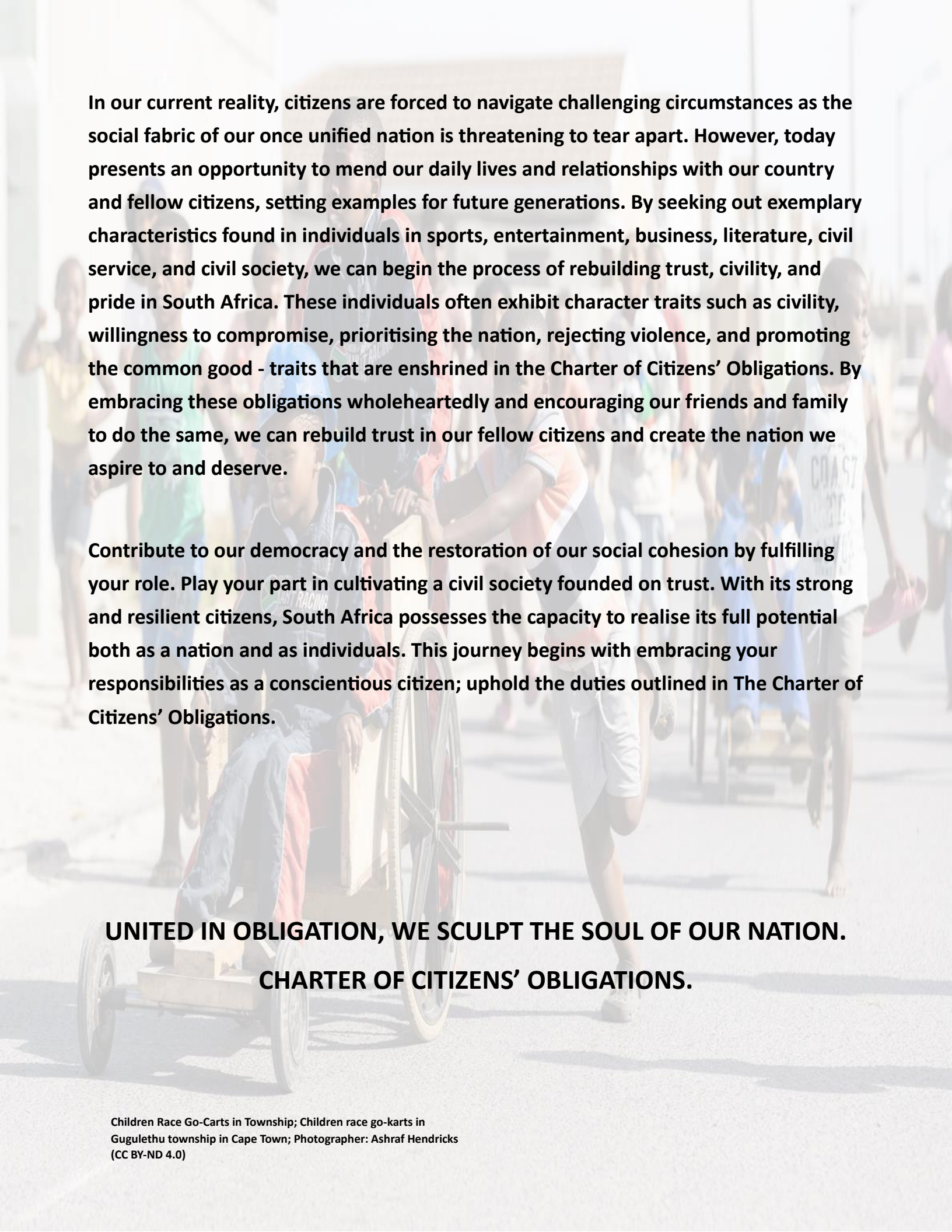


12. SAFEGUARD CHILDREN and SUPPORT THE VULNERABLE: The well-being and future prosperity of nations hinges significantly on the proper nurturing and education of their youth. It is widely acknowledged that a country's most valuable asset is its children, as they represent the next generation tasked with driving economic growth, managing natural resources, and caring for the elderly. Without adequately nurtured and educated children, safeguarded from harm, societies and nations would inevitably face collapse. Parents and extended family members bear the responsibility of nurturing and educating minors, providing essential necessities such as food, water, shelter, and protection from all forms of abuse. Moreover, for citizens with the means to support children in need beyond their immediate families, it is incumbent upon them, in the spirit of responsible citizenship, civility, and collective well-being, to contribute to the upbringing and welfare of those children. Such actions not only cultivate the development of responsible future citizens but also foster a personal sense of duty, pride, and fulfillment in exemplifying good citizenship and human decency.

CONCLUSION

Since Cleisthenes, the father of democracy, introduced its concept and principles in Athens, Greece, during the 5th century BCE, the foundational principles have revolved around a reciprocal relationship between the state and its citizens. Democracy, in its essence, grants citizens the right to vote for their leadership representatives, such as presidents or prime ministers. However, democracy extends beyond electoral processes to encompass various facets of collective decision-making that bestow inherent rights and freedoms upon citizens. In turn, the nation is obligated to uphold and safeguard these collectively determined rights and freedoms, often formalised through a Charter or Bill of Rights specific to each country. While many nations placed these inherent rights within meticulously crafted constitutions, as is the case for South Africa, the essence of a functioning democracy transcends mere granting of rights from the state; it necessitates citizens' active engagement and adherence to obligations, to the state and fellow citizens, essential for the functioning and sustenance of a civil and equitable society for all its members.

While some countries have integrated citizens' obligations into their written constitutions, others have developed separate documents delineating the responsibilities of citizenship. It is with this objective in mind that The United South Africa Movement (TUSAM) has undertaken the creation of this Charter of Citizens' Obligations. The purpose of this document is to underscore to our citizens that we bear responsibilities and obligations toward our nation and fellow citizens. By adhering to and fulfilling these fundamental obligations, our country can embark on the path of rebuilding our fragmented society and addressing the wounds inflicted by cultural, ethnic, racial, and economic divisions that have persisted over the years. It is through the fulfillment of these obligations that we can reconstruct our communities and foster a society characterized by civility and mutual trust.



In our current reality, citizens are forced to navigate challenging circumstances as the social fabric of our once unified nation is threatening to tear apart. However, today presents an opportunity to mend our daily lives and relationships with our country and fellow citizens, setting examples for future generations. By seeking out exemplary characteristics found in individuals in sports, entertainment, business, literature, civil service, and civil society, we can begin the process of rebuilding trust, civility, and pride in South Africa. These individuals often exhibit character traits such as civility, willingness to compromise, prioritising the nation, rejecting violence, and promoting the common good - traits that are enshrined in the Charter of Citizens' Obligations. By embracing these obligations wholeheartedly and encouraging our friends and family to do the same, we can rebuild trust in our fellow citizens and create the nation we aspire to and deserve.

Contribute to our democracy and the restoration of our social cohesion by fulfilling your role. Play your part in cultivating a civil society founded on trust. With its strong and resilient citizens, South Africa possesses the capacity to realise its full potential both as a nation and as individuals. This journey begins with embracing your responsibilities as a conscientious citizen; uphold the duties outlined in The Charter of Citizens' Obligations.

UNITED IN OBLIGATION, WE SCULPT THE SOUL OF OUR NATION.

CHARTER OF CITIZENS' OBLIGATIONS.

Cape Town's Iconic Murals; Public Art in Cape Town, South Africa; Photographer: Masixole Feni (CC BY-ND 4.0)



Citizens' Obligations at a Glance



- 1. Get Involved:** Familiarise yourself with the Constitution, register to vote, actively engage in all elections, and seek public office. Look out for your neighbours and community members, participate in initiatives aimed at enhancing community safety and cleanliness.
- 2. Be Informed and Stay Informed:** Engage in wide-ranging reading and attentive listening to diverse sources of information. Strive to differentiate facts from fiction and assist others in developing this skill.
- 3. Act and Remain Civil:** Exhibit courtesy and politeness, and respect others' property and their rights to personal security. It is through civility that progress can be achieved in addressing the most pressing issues facing our nation and society.
- 4. Promote Civics Education:** Civics encompasses the study of citizens' rights and responsibilities within society. Ultimately, the promotion and implementation of civics principles serve to uphold and fortify democracy, informing individuals on how to become exemplary citizens.
- 5. Embrace Values and Norms:** Norms represent the customary, typical, or standard practices within both society and government. Social norms denote shared standards of acceptable behaviour among groups, which can manifest as informal understandings or be formalised into rules and laws.
- 6. Embrace Compromise:** Compromise entails settling disputes or reaching agreements among opposing parties through mutual concessions rather than coercion or by force. It involves negotiating outcomes that benefit all parties involved. Successful compromise fosters better relationships and outcomes while reducing or eliminating hostilities.
- 7. Denounce Violence:** Violence is imperative to restore and uphold order within civil societies by rejecting the normalisation of violent behaviour. Take a stand and condemn violence in all its manifestations, whether it be spousal rape, gender-based violence (GBV), or violence against property – such as the destruction and theft of essential infrastructure elements. Violence has no place in our communities, and it demands collective efforts to halt its proliferation.
- 8. Advance the Common Good:** It is in the collective interest to mobilise groups of like-minded and capable citizens to undertake tasks beneficial to all. These initiatives foster a stronger sense of community, belonging, respect for property and the environment, and perpetuate the ideal of collective well-being.
- 9. Show Respect for Government Services:** Government services are integral to the welfare of all citizens. Recognising the importance of government services is vital, and in well-functioning societies employment within any branch of government service should be seen as honorable and worthy of pursuit.
- 10. Fulfil Financial Obligations:** Responsible citizenship entails dutifully paying the taxes owed to the state. Additionally, contributing to charitable causes that align with personal values and priorities is commendable.
- 11. Prioritise the Nation:** The foundation of strong, resilient, and prosperous countries lies in the commitment of both citizens and governments to prioritise the best interests of their homeland above all else. It is imperative for citizens to prioritise the nation's interests over political affiliations or party allegiances. This does not involve disparaging other nationalities or ethnicities but rather seeking constructive ways to promote South Africa positively or contribute to its development for the collective well-being of all citizens.
- 12. Safeguard Children and Support the Vulnerable:** The well-being and future prosperity of nations hinges significantly on the proper nurturing and education of their youth. Parents and extended family members bear the responsibility of nurturing and educating minors, providing essential necessities such as food, water, shelter, and protection from all forms of abuse.

Pretoria High Court; The Pretoria High Court;
Photographer: Ashraf Hendricks (CC BY-ND 4.0)



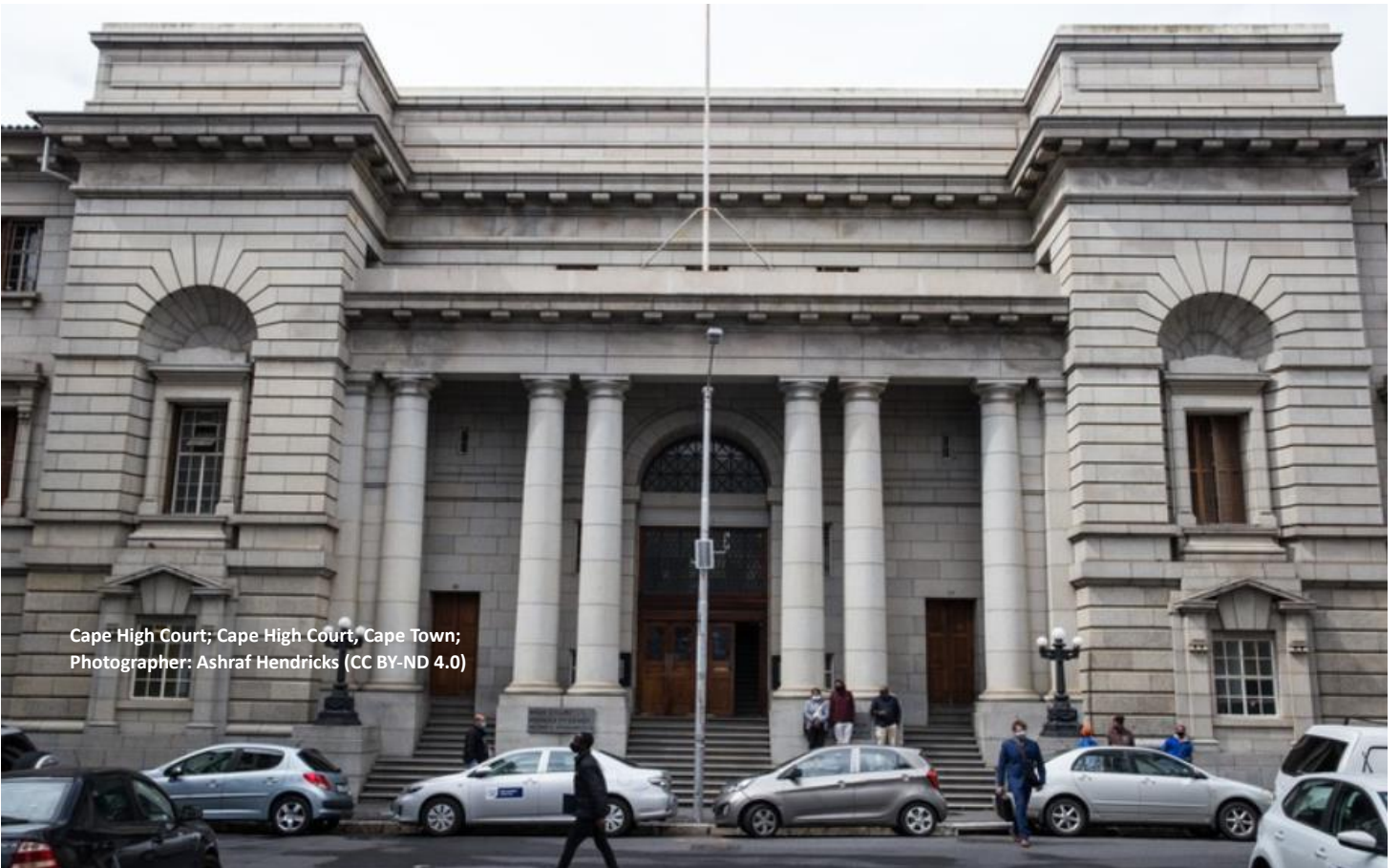
Johannesburg High Court; Johannesburg
High Court; Photographer: Ashraf
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Durban High Court; Durban High Court;
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Cape High Court; Cape High Court, Cape Town;
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Policy Reforms at a Glance



Clean Government: Remove corruption, professionalise government, and increase separation of powers.

Presidential Powers: Reduce presidential powers, ensure Chapter 9 institutions are independent.

Capable State: Hire by merit only, strengthen auditing, minimum education, and required training.

Electoral Reform: Make IEC truly independent, increase voting stations, and more intense voter education.

Crime Fighting: Invest more to professionalise, increase number of investigators, strengthen oversight.

Economic Reform: Reduce red-tape, EWC, and BEE in current form. Focus on ICT/IOT, STEM, Agriculture and more.

Energy Just Transition: Create energy transition process and invest in alternative energy training and generation.

Industrial Policy: Strengthen R&D, Link industry to education, and promote beneficiation.

Labour Reforms: Upscale workplace and lifelong learning, punish labour practices harmful to public and economy.

Education Reforms: Link to long term economic strategy, increase specialised programs, teach teachers new skills.

Reform of SOEs: Privatisise where it makes sense, create oversight bodies, remove political appointments.

Foreign Policy: Strengthen relationships with long standing allies, promote reciprocity, review foreign mission needs.

Spatial Integration/Infrastructure Policy: Create rural investment strategy, review RDP program, increase broadband.

Social Cohesion and Justice, more Power to Citizens: Remove raced-based policies, increase citizen influence on major issues.

Justice System: Judicial reform and modernisation, increase equity through legal aid, increase transparency.

UCT Student Protests; Student protesters block an entrance to the University of Cape Town (UCT) during a protest over fees; Photographer: Ashraf Hendricks (CC BY-ND 4.0)



March Against Gender Based Violence; About a thousand women march against gender-based violence in Cape Town; Photographer: Ashraf Hendricks (CC BY-ND 4.0)





Open Streets Mitchells Plain; Thousands celebrate during the Open Streets festival in Mitchells Plain; Photographer: Ashraf Hendricks (CC BY-ND 4.0)



Photo of Cape Minstrels 2017; Cape Minstrel performers in Athlone; Photographer: Ashraf Hendricks (CC BY-ND 4.0)

CREDITS

We extend our sincere gratitude to The United South Africa Movement (TUSAM) for their meticulous research that led to the creation of this document. We also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our dedicated volunteers, who generously offered their time, skills, and efforts to produce this comprehensive document, intended for the benefit of all South Africans.

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