SOCIAL JUSTICE: What Are We Doing Wrong?

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THE PEDESTAL OF HOPE

The choice of hope over fear and leadership over victimhood is an invincible source of power in times of adversity.

Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come.

Anne Lamott
Dawn or Dusk
After months of celebrating the prospects of a new beginning regarding democracy that works and shared prosperity, South Africa has slipped into a (technical) recession. Does social justice have anything to do with this? Can social impact on that front make a difference? If so what needs to change?
The Meaning of Social justice
Social Justice is about:

Just and fair access to and equitable distribution of opportunities, resources, privileges and burdens in a group or between groups.
Social Justice:

Is ultimately about equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms by all regardless of human diversity and historical injustices. Worth noting is that equal enjoyment transcends formal equality.
Why Social Justice: Constitutional and Legal Imperatives
1. UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
2. AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLE’s RIGHTS
3. SADC SHARED VALUES
4. SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTIONS
5. LAWS (E.g. Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act, Employment Equity Act, Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act and Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment Act)
6. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS
We, the people of South Africa,
Recognise the injustices of our past;
Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;
Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and
Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.
We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to –
Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;
Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;

*Improve the quality of life* of all citizens and *free the potential of each person*; and

*Build a united and democratic South Africa* able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

*May God protect our people.*

*Nkosi Sikelel’iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.*

*God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa.*

*Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afrika.*
The **social justice quest** is also driven by the **founding values** in the Constitution, particularly the values of
- The achievement of equality
- Human dignity; and
- Freedom for all

And basic **human entitlements** indiscriminately promised to all in the bill of rights, incorporating:
- Civil and political rights
- Social and economic rights
- Cultural rights
- Environmental & development rights
Why Social Justice: Social Impact Case
Socio-economic Development

Structural inefficiencies undermine a society’s development

(World Bank)
Extremism

As long as there is injustice somewhere, there can’t be sustainable peace anywhere.
Social Justice In Context: *Case Study*
Poverty Cycle Trap

Equal opportunities entails existence of a real chance to change your station in life regardless of the circumstances of your birth or past injustices

(Palesa Mosa’s Story)
Social Justice In Context: *Statistics*
55.5% POVERY ACROSS RACIAL CATEGORIES

27.7% UNEMPLOYMENT (WHEN NEETS ARE ADDED UNEMPLOYMENT SHOOTS TO ABOUT 50%)

50% YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

SOURCE: Stats SA 2018
27% Children under 5 growing with brain underdevelopment due to lack of nutrition (World Bank 2018)

1.2 Black (Africans) direct ownership of rural land to 72% White (Land Audit Report???)

7% Black (Africans) ownership of urban land to 75% White land (Land Audit Report???)

40% South Africans connected to the internet (Forbes ???)
What Are We Doing Wrong: Systemic Inequality Gap
What are We Doing Wrong: Laws and Policies Passed only to Remain in Shelves
The Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act was passed in February 2000 yet, Chapter 5, the section of the Act that seeks to address inherited racial, gender, disability and under disparities remains unimplemented.
What Are We Doing Wrong: One Size Fits ALL
One size does not fit all. Instead those affected by accumulated socio-economic disadvantages as a result of past injustices and other disadvantaged persons are further left behind.
What Are We Doing Wrong: Education
One size fits all in schools and education resourcing policy has perpetuated inequality through unwittingly reinforcing accumulated advantages and disadvantages
What Are We Doing Wrong: Health and Wellbeing
One size fits all stratification and distribution of hospitals disregards and reinforces imbalances resulting from historical injustices and the urban rural divide (e.g. 50 Bed Test for Hospitals vs Model Court Test)
What Are We Doing Wrong: Economic Inclusion
The VAT experiment is an example of a one-size-fits-all policy approach that exacerbates existing poverty and inequality.
What Are We Doing Wrong: ICT & 4th /5th Industrial Revolutions
Digitalization of services tends to exacerbate access impediments for those already left behind
What Are We Doing Wrong: Ready to Govern
A capable state is essential for effective design and implementation of laws

(PEPUDA and BEE Case Studies)
Theory of Change
The greatest challenge to social transformation towards socio-economic inclusion is inadequacy of systems thinking, impact consciousness and funding for social change seeking to end poverty and eliminate structural inequality exacerbated by a one size fits all paradigm underpinning law reform and policy interventions.
If things persist the way they are, poverty and inequality will get worse, which is a threat to democracy, the rule of law and peace.
The Social Justice M-Plan seeks to foster the leveraging of data analytics to predict the likely and current disparate impact of policies and plans while boosting civil society’s social impact investment to speed up social change in the pursuit of socio-economic inclusion and anchoring democracy, national unity and peace.
Key Result Areas
5 KEY RESULT AREAS

1. **Enhance state capacity to pass laws that reduce poverty and inequality through leveraging data analytics (Algorithms)**
2. **Mobilize societal and corporate resources to contribute meaningfully to funding accelerated reduction of poverty and inequality**
3. **Foster social accountability in government fiscal planning and expenditure by technology and leveraging people as eyes and ears of government**
4. **Leverage international Relations to promote support for the social justice M-Plan**
5. **Sponsor a national drive to healing the divisions of the past regarding inherited social relations**
Business, government and community networks are key stakeholders and processes are underway to get a buy in.

More than a hundred stakeholder meetings addressed to date
Coordinating Structures
Key Processes and activities
KEY PROJECT PROCESSES AND IMPLEMENTATION PHASES

1. **Phase 1**: Project Conception, Scoping and Stakeholder Engagements: 2017 – October 2018
2. **Phase 2**: Project Initiation and Establishment of Coordinating Structure: May 2018 - November 2018
3. **Phase 3**: Research and Public Consultations: February 2018 - June 2019
4. **Phase 4**: Social justice M-Plan Pilot Phase: January 2019 - June 2020
5. **Phase 5**: Project Review and Scaling: By November 2020 and implementation up to November 2030
The Next Steps
1. Continuation of Bilateral Meetings with Key Stakeholders
2. Compilation of Database of Social Justice Initiatives and Practitioners
3. Student Ambassadors Recruitment
4. Firming Up of Steering Committee
5. Establishment of Social Justice Council of Champions
6. Establishment of Social Justice M-Plan Trust
7. Poverty and Equality Experts Roundtable in October 2018
8. Establishment of Social Justice Think Tank
9. National Social Justice Summit
10. Establishment of Social Justice Data & Advancement Tools Hub
11. Commencement of design of Digital Tools/Apps for Data analytics
12. Piloting, Monitoring and Review
The Thuma Enterprising Communities Way

• NDP- End Poverty and equalize Opportunities by 2030

• Overlay SDGs/AGENDA 2063 and UN Global Compact Goals on Specific NDP based Community Goals

SOCIAL JUSTICE M-PLAN

Social Justice M -Plan to Focus on Identifying and funding Social Justice Accelerator Projects
Focus on ending poverty and significantly reducing inequality while ending historical by 2030
Every generation has the opportunity and responsibility to make the next chapter of its nation a better one.

It’s Our Turn.
We can do this!
Dankie
Thank you
Enkosi