



MEDIA RELEASE

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SOIL OF AFRICA: MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE IDENTITY BLOCKAGE CRISIS IN NELSPRUIT, EKURHULENI, LIMPOPO & TSHWANE

We address you not with formality, but with urgency and righteous anger on behalf of the betrayed, broken, and abandoned people of Nelspruit, Ekurhuleni, Limpopo, and Tshwane. More than 2,000 South African citizens have had their identities stolen, erased, or blocked—unlawfully and without explanation. This is not only a crisis of administration; it is a violation of fundamental rights.

Soil of Africa is a community-based organisation born from the people and driven by the people. We are committed to fighting for justice, dignity, and constitutional rights in South Africa. We are not a political party or a corporate structure. We are a grassroots movement formed to restore the identity, dignity, and rights of African people through direct action, public advocacy, and lawful resistance. Our mission is grounded in the South African Constitution, which promises equality, freedom, and human dignity to all—not just the privileged.

Since as early as 2007, hundreds of South African citizens in Nelspruit, Limpopo, and surrounding areas have lived a nightmare: their ID documents were blocked with no explanation, no investigation, no court order, and no legal process. Many only discovered the block when trying to renew their IDs, collect social grants, apply for employment, or register their children for school. When they sought answers, they were told they were “suspected foreign nationals.” That was it. No hearing. No charges. No appeal process.

This is a brutal and ongoing violation of human rights under the watch of the South African government.

We demand answers from the Department of Home Affairs, the IEC, and all relevant authorities. Under what law were these IDs blocked? What section of the Identification Act or Immigration Act authorises this action? Why was the Promotion of



Administrative Justice Act (PAJA) ignored? Why are duplicate IDs appearing—same number, different face? These are not administrative glitches; they are signs of systemic failure or deliberate manipulation.

The human cost of this crisis is immense. Families have been left jobless, homeless, and hungry. Children have been denied their right to education. Young people have been forced into underground or informal labour. Psychological trauma, illness, and even suicide have resulted. One child tragically died after being denied an ID and prevented from registering for exams. How many more lives must be lost before justice is done?

In 2019, a group of affected citizens won a court order mandating that their blocked IDs be restored. Then-Minister Aaron Motsoaledi issued a public apology. Yet five years later, the IDs remain blocked, families remain in limbo, and promises remain broken. This is more than failure to act; it is contempt of court and a disgrace to our democracy.

We are also deeply concerned by credible allegations of bribery and corruption. Whistleblowers report that R65,000 was secretly paid to silence some of those affected. We demand a full criminal investigation: who paid this money, who accepted it, and who benefitted?

We further call out the hypocrisy of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). Many of these same “flagged” IDs were suddenly activated and used during elections. How is it that one is not a citizen when applying for a job or grant, but suddenly a citizen when casting a vote? This raises serious questions about electoral manipulation and state-sanctioned fraud.

We now call on every concerned South African, every civil society group, every legal professional, and every member of the media to join us. We will march peacefully but firmly to the Department of Home Affairs Head Office in Tshwane. This is not just a protest—it is a demand for justice.

We demand the immediate unblocking of all affected IDs, the dismissal of all responsible officials, compensation for affected families, prosecution of all acts of corruption, and structural reforms to prevent future abuses.



The Department of Home Affairs has become a place of fear rather than service. A place where identity is weaponised, and the poor are criminalised. We say: No more.

It is not a crime to be poor.

But it is a crime to punish the poor.

It is a crime to erase someone's identity.

It is a crime to ignore the Constitution.

Justice for all South Africans.

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