



## MEMORANDUM OF DEMANDS

**TO:** The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs

**DATE:** 3 July 2025

**FROM:** Soil of Africa

**RE:** Systemic Blocking of Identity Documents and Constitutional Violations

**Dear Honourable Minister,**

We write to you not with deference born of hierarchy, but with the full authority of our collective dignity as South African citizens—people who have tasted the bitterness of erasure at the hands of the very state that was meant to affirm their existence.

We, the **Soil of Africa Movement**, are a civic organisation born from the pain, hope, and resolve of the forgotten masses. We are made up of mothers whose children cannot go to school, fathers denied the right to work, youth trapped in statelessness, and elders stripped of their legacy. We have organised, educated, and mobilised across the country to defend the rights that the Constitution guarantees but your Department denies.

This memorandum is submitted on behalf of thousands of South Africans whose lives have been disrupted, devalued, and in some cases destroyed by the **systemic, unlawful blocking of their identity documents**. This is not a clerical error. It is not a technical glitch. It is a **constitutional rupture, a humanitarian emergency, and a betrayal of democratic principle**.

Over **2,000 people** across Nelspruit, Ekurhuleni, Limpopo, and Tshwane have found themselves erased—suddenly reclassified as “non-citizens” without warning, process, or explanation. They are unemployed not for lack of will, but because the state has denied their very being. They are homeless, hungry, and criminalised—not for crimes committed, but for identities denied.

This is not governance. **This is sabotage.**

We submit these demands **not as a plea for charity, but as a rightful claim**. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) guarantees every citizen the right to legal identity, human dignity, equality before the law, and access to basic services. Your department has violated each of these rights.

## OUR DEMANDS

We hereby submit the following **non-negotiable demands** to the Department of Home Affairs:

- 1. Immediate and unconditional unblocking of all affected identity documents.**  
The continued status of blocked IDs is unlawful, inhumane, and unconstitutional. Every day of delay deepens the suffering and undermines public trust.
- 2. Dismissal and disciplinary action against all officials involved in the systemic denial of identity.**



This includes clerks, supervisors, and senior management directly or indirectly complicit in abuse of authority, falsification, misconduct, or dereliction of duty.

3. **Compensation for all victims and their families.**

The state must provide direct reparative payments to those whose livelihoods, health, education, and dignity have been destroyed by these unlawful actions.

4. **Full criminal prosecution of all individuals implicated in corruption, bribery, or abuse of power.**

We demand a public and transparent investigation into credible reports of R65,000 bribes paid to “unblock” IDs. Where there is silence, there is complicity.

5. **Institutional reform within the Department of Home Affairs.**

This must include:

- An **independent oversight body** with direct community representation.
- A **public audit** of all blocked IDs and citizenship status decisions made since 2007.
- Clear, published criteria for ID blocking and transparent appeal mechanisms.

## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

We remind your office that in 2019, a South African court ordered the reinstatement of blocked IDs and condemned the Department’s conduct. That ruling has been ignored, not corrected. This is not only **defiance of the law**, but a signal that **court orders carry no meaning** under your administration.

We further note with grave concern the **electoral manipulation** of identity data. Many of the same IDs blocked for school registration, hospital access, or job applications were mysteriously “reactivated” to enable voting during elections—only to be deactivated again once the votes were counted.

This is not incompetence. **This is exploitation.**

One cannot be declared a “non-citizen” when seeking food or education, yet be deemed a “citizen” when a ballot is needed. That is not governance. It is theft of identity and betrayal of democracy.

The consequences of these actions are **visible, measurable, and devastating**:

- Children denied the right to write national exams.
- Mothers turned away from hospitals for lacking valid documents.
- Job-seekers rejected and criminalised for not possessing the IDs they’ve held since birth.
- Families unable to bury their loved ones because they were administratively erased.

One of our members lost her daughter after she was barred from writing her matric exams due to a blocked ID. She spiraled into depression and died by suicide. That was not a system failure—it was an **institutional crime**.



We are not beggars.  
We are not criminals.  
**We are citizens.**

We do not seek conflict—but we refuse silence.  
We do not ask for favours—we demand justice.  
We do not threaten violence—we threaten to **awaken the conscience of the nation.**

We remind you: **to govern is not to rule. To lead is not to command.** A government that denies identity has denied its own legitimacy.

This memorandum is presented to you, Honourable Minister, **in person and in good faith.** But faith without action is betrayal.

We expect a **written response and confirmation of an urgent meeting** within **72 hours** of delivery.

Should this memorandum be ignored or dismissed, our legal team will initiate proceedings in the **High Court** for **contempt of court** against your office. The 2019 court ruling remains binding, and failure to act is not only morally reprehensible but **judicially unlawful.**

In addition, we will escalate this campaign through the following peaceful, constitutional actions:

- **Daily pickets** at all regional and national offices of the Department.
- **Public exposure** of systemic failure through media briefings and digital platforms.
- **Class action litigation** to secure justice for every affected individual.
- **National mobilisation** under Section 17 of the Constitution to demand action from the people's government.

The Department of Home Affairs is meant to **affirm identity, not erase it.** When the state makes people disappear without jail or trial, that is not administration—it is **state-sanctioned erasure.**

We will not be moved.  
We will not be silenced.  
**Our humanity is not up for debate.**

We stand—firm, united, and unafraid.

**By:**

**Bongani King Ramontja**

Chairperson and Founder – Soil of Africa

☎ 076 223 3981 ✉ [bonganiramontja@soilofafrica.org](mailto:bonganiramontja@soilofafrica.org) *For the People.*



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

This section confirms the formal receipt of the **Memorandum of Demands** submitted by the **Soil of Africa Movement** to the **Department of Home Affairs** on **3 July 2025**.

We, the undersigned, confirm that the memorandum has been received by the designated office and duly acknowledged.

### RECEIVED BY MINISTER OR (ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER):

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Designation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### WITNESS (Department of Home Affairs):

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### SUBMITTED BY:

**Name:** Bongani Ramonja

**Designation:** Chairperson, Soil of Africa Movement

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### WITNESS (Soil of Africa Movement):

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_