



Office of the President

Union Buildings
Private Bag X1000
Pretoria, 0001

Date: 18 JULY 2025

Dear Fellow South Africans,

Serving this nation has been the greatest honor of my life, and I have always sought to lead with integrity, vision, and a commitment to the ideals of our Constitution. However, recent developments compel me to act in the best interests of our beloved country. It is with a heavy heart and deep reflection that I write to you today to tender my resignation as the President of the Republic of South Africa, effective immediately.

The findings of the Public Protector on the CR-17 campaign funds and the report by the Section 89 Independent Panel concluding that there is a prima facie case against me have raised questions about my ability to continue leading with the trust and confidence required of this office. While I have sought to address these matters transparently, I recognize that they have created a climate of doubt and division among our people.

The scourge of corruption during the COVID-19 relief efforts is another painful chapter in our nation's history. Despite my administration's efforts to combat this criminality, the betrayal of public trust has undermined our collective progress during a time when our citizens deserved unwavering support.

Furthermore, the challenges of rising unemployment and the economic recession have left millions of South Africans struggling to make ends meet. While we have implemented reforms to stimulate growth and create opportunities, the results have not come quickly enough for many families.

South Africa is facing a crisis of lawlessness, where crime, corruption, and a breakdown of order have eroded the safety and security of our citizens. Despite our best efforts to combat these challenges, the inability to enforce law and order has undermined public confidence in the government's ability to protect its people.

The issue of illegal immigration has further exacerbated economic strain, putting immense pressure on public services, job availability, and national resources. The failure to implement an efficient and effective immigration policy has left communities vulnerable and struggling to access opportunities meant for South African citizens.

The government's fiscal challenges have reached a critical point, where the inability to afford the national budget has led to an increase in Value-Added Tax (VAT), further burdening ordinary South Africans who are already battling high living costs. The privatization of state-owned enterprises, once envisioned as tools for economic growth and development, has raised concerns about the loss of public assets and the future of essential services.

Unemployment remains at crisis levels, with millions of South Africans struggling to find work. While my administration has pursued reforms to stimulate economic growth, the reality is that these efforts have not yielded sufficient results, leaving many in poverty and despair.

I have always believed that the presidency is a sacred trust, not a privilege. As such, I step aside today not out of defeat but out of respect for the principles of accountability and transparency. My decision is motivated by a deep desire to preserve the unity and integrity of our nation and to allow space for a renewed focus on addressing the pressing challenges we face.

I leave this office with the hope that South Africa will emerge stronger, that our democratic institutions will remain resilient, and that the dream of a just, equitable, and prosperous society will be realized for all who call this land home.

To the people of South Africa, I express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to serve. I remain committed to the well-being of this nation and will continue to contribute in ways that uphold our shared values.

May God bless South Africa and her people.

Yours faithfully,

Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa