



UNITED CIVIC MOVEMENTS

"Alone we may speak, but together we are heard"



Email: rachelbutomi@gmail.com



Cell: 0684216404

OPENING STATEMENT BY THE UNITED CIVIC MOVEMENTS (UCM) ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS REGARDING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Good afternoon members of the media, fellow civic leaders, and fellow South Africans.

The United Civic Movements welcomes President Cyril Ramaphosa's acknowledgement that illegal immigration has become a serious challenge facing our country. For many years, South Africans have raised concerns about porous borders, weak immigration enforcement, pressure on public services, rising unemployment, and the growing perception that the rule of law is not being applied consistently.

While we note the President's recognition of these challenges, we must also state that South Africans have heard similar commitments before. What the country now requires is not further acknowledgement of the problem, but visible, measurable action to address it.

Before proceeding, we acknowledge the pioneering role played by March and March, whose protest actions helped bring the issue of illegal immigration into the national spotlight long before government recognised the seriousness of the crisis.

The issue of illegal immigration is not about xenophobia. It is about national sovereignty, public safety, economic stability, and respect for the rule of law. Every nation has a responsibility to know who is within its borders and to ensure that immigration laws are enforced fairly and consistently.

We therefore call on government to strengthen border security, eliminate corruption within immigration and law enforcement systems, conduct a comprehensive audit of foreign nationals residing in the country, and take decisive action against those who violate South Africa's immigration laws.

We also reject attempts to dismiss legitimate public concerns by labelling them as xenophobic. South Africans have every right to expect their government to enforce the law, secure the borders, and protect the national interest. Raising concerns about illegal immigration does not make one anti-foreigner; it makes one concerned about the future of the Republic.

Today, the United Civic Movements stands united in saying that South Africa deserves an immigration system that is lawful, effective, transparent, and accountable.

The time for promises has passed. South Africans are waiting for results.

Thank you.