THE PAN-AFRICAN PYRAMID

One Struggle, Many Fronts

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PRESS STATEMENT ON THE 5 YEAR JAIL TERM HANDED OVER TO ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS (EFF) LEADER JULIUS SELLO MALEMA BY SOUTH AFRICAN COURT OVER ILLEGAL POSSESSION AND DISCHARGE OF FIRE ARM

The Pan-African Pyramid fraternity continentally and globally, under the stewardship of its Founding Speaker and Chairman, Andrew Irumba Katusabe, issues this expanded statement of unwavering solidarity with Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) Commander-in-Chief, Julius Sello Malema, following his sentencing to five years' imprisonment by a South African court on Thursday 16th, April 2016.

This moment, while presented within the narrow lens of a legal ruling, must be understood within the broader continuum of Africa's political history—one marked by the systematic confrontation between revolutionary African thought and entrenched structures of power.

Historical Continuity of Resistance and Repression

Africa's struggle for dignity has never been divorced from sacrifice. From the early anti-colonial resistances to post-independence ideological battles, those who dared to challenge dominant systems have often found themselves criminalized, imprisoned, exiled, or even eliminated.

Kwame Nkrumah was overthrown and isolated for daring to articulate a united Africa. Patrice Lumumba was assassinated for asserting Congolese sovereignty. Thomas Sankara was silenced for redefining governance in Burkina Faso. Samora Machel, Amílcar Cabral, and Eduardo Mondlane all paid the ultimate price in the pursuit of African liberation and self-determination.

Nelson Mandela, whose legacy now stands as a global symbol of justice, was once branded a terrorist, criminal and confined for 27 years in Robin Island prison. Yet his imprisonment did not weaken the ANC—it fortified it, transforming a national struggle into a global moral cause.

It is within this historical lineage that the sentencing of comrade Julius Malema must be situated. When a leader emerges with the capacity to mobilize the masses, challenge economic exclusion, and reawaken Pan-African consciousness, confrontation with institutional power often becomes inevitable.

While we acknowledge the constitutional principle of judicial independence in South Africa, we cannot ignore the powerful optics and lived experiences that shape public perception. Across the continent, there remains a deeply rooted concern that justice is not always dispensed in equal measure.

Many Africans continue to question whether the law is applied with the same urgency and severity across racial and class lines. The perception—rightly or wrongly—that some violations are treated with leniency while others attract maximum punishment feeds into a broader narrative of structural imbalance.

This is not a rejection of the rule of law; rather, it is a call for its consistent, impartial, and transparent application. Justice must not only be done—it must be seen to be done, without prejudice to race, ideology, or political alignment.

Pan-Africanism and The Cost of Speaking For Africa

Julius Malema has, over the years, positioned himself as a leading voice in the call for economic freedom, land justice, and African self-determination. Such positions, by their very nature, disrupt established economic and political arrangements.

History teaches us that those who attempt to reshape societal structures rarely do so without resistance. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and other global icons of justice faced relentless state scrutiny and repression for challenging inequality.

Therefore, if the articulation of African-centered solutions invites consequences, it only reaffirms the enduring tension between transformative leadership and established power.

To Comrade Julius Malema, we say this: the road you walk is not new. It is a path walked by giants whose ideas outlived their persecution.

If Nelson Mandela endured 27 years so that future generations including you, could speak boldly for Africa, then any present hardship must be measured against that legacy of endurance. If five years becomes part of the price attached to advocating for economic emancipation, then it stands as a continuation of a long and unbroken chain of sacrifice.

Movements do not collapse because their leaders are confined. The ANC did not perish in Robben Island; it grew stronger. Likewise, the EFF will not diminish—it will evolve, reorganize, and persist.

We further commend the legal team representing Comrade Malema for their resilience and professionalism. We remain confident that this matter is far from conclusion, and that higher judicial processes may yet provide a different outcome.

This moment also resonates beyond South Africa. Across the international system, there is an increasing debate about the selective application of justice and accountability. Global institutions often respond unevenly to similar violations, raising legitimate concerns about double standards in the enforcement of international law. An example is the crimes against humanity happening in Gaza and Iran by Israel (Netanyahu) and USA (Trump) while UN and the while world are watching. Meanwhile they will be quick to ‘intervene’ when it’s an African.

For Africans, this reinforces the urgency of building systems that are fair, sovereign, and free from external bias. Justice—whether local or global—must be universal in principle and consistent in application.

The Pan African Pyramid reaffirms its commitment to stand not only in words but in action. Plans are underway to mobilize a delegation of PAP members from across the world to South Africa, where we shall stand in solidarity, engage stakeholders, and reinforce the call for justice, dignity, and African unity.

This is not merely a legal episode; it is a defining moment in the ongoing story of Africa’s struggle for economic liberation and ideological independence.

History has consistently shown that ideas cannot be imprisoned, and movements rooted in the will of the people cannot be extinguished. **Africa, Don't Agonize_Organize!**



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