



YCLSA

**THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE
OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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MEDIA STATEMENT

20 OCTOBER 2026

YCLSA SUPPORTS ANTI-AUSTERITY MARCH, DEMANDS A BUDGET FOR JOBS AND DEVELOPMENT

The Young Communist League of South Africa (YCLSA) expresses its unequivocal support for the People's Budget Anti-Austerity March to Parliament scheduled for Wednesday, 21 October 2026, coinciding with the tabling of the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) by Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana.

The YCLSA stands in solidarity with trade unions, progressive formations, social justice organisations and working-class communities demanding an end to austerity measures that undermine public services, employment creation and the developmental capacity of the state.

AUSTERITY CANNOT BE THE FOUNDATION OF DEVELOPMENT

For over a decade, South Africa has pursued fiscal consolidation and expenditure restraint, yet unemployment, poverty and inequality remain deeply entrenched. The consequences are particularly devastating for young people, who continue to face unemployment, inadequate access to education and limited opportunities for meaningful economic participation.

The YCLSA rejects an economic framework that prioritises narrow fiscal targets while hospitals remain understaffed, schools and institutions of higher learning are underfunded, and millions of young people remain excluded from productive economic activity.

A capable developmental state cannot be built through the continuous weakening of public institutions, the freezing of critical vacancies and declining investment in infrastructure and essential services.

A PEOPLE'S BUDGET MUST PRIORITISE JOBS AND DEVELOPMENT

The YCLSA maintains that alternatives to austerity exist, as demonstrated by the progressive economic research and policy proposals advanced by institutions such as the Alternative Information and Development Centre (AIDC) and the Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ).

We therefore call for an MTBPS that prioritises:

1. Decent youth employment through expanded public employment programmes, industrialisation and investment in productive sectors.

2. Quality public education through increased funding for universities, TVET colleges, student financial aid and skills development.
3. Strengthened public services through filling critical vacancies in healthcare, education and other essential sectors.
4. Progressive taxation and redistribution to address extreme wealth inequality, illicit financial flows and corporate tax avoidance.
5. Expanded social protection to address poverty, food insecurity and the rising cost of living.

The YCLSA rejects the notion that young people must bear the consequences of an economic crisis they did not create. Fiscal policy must serve as an instrument of economic transformation, redistribution and development, rather than perpetuating the structural inequalities inherited from colonialism and apartheid.

BUILDING PEOPLE'S POWER WHERE WE LIVE

The struggle against austerity is inseparable from the struggle to build people's power where we live. It requires a capable developmental state, democratic economic planning, expanded public investment and the active participation of workers and communities in determining development priorities.

The YCLSA reiterates its opposition to privatisation, outsourcing and the erosion of public-sector capacity where these undermine the provision of essential services and the interests of the working class.

We therefore support the People's Budget Anti-Austerity March and call for a decisive shift towards an economic policy framework that prioritises decent employment, quality education, industrialisation and the material needs of the working class.

NO TO AUSTERITY!

YES TO JOBS, QUALITY EDUCATION AND A PEOPLE'S BUDGET!

BUILDING PEOPLE'S POWER WHERE WE LIVE!

SOCIALISM IN OUR LIFETIME!

END

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