



CLIMATE  
JUSTICE  
CHARTER  
MOVEMENT

**COPAC**  
CO-OPERATIVE AND POLICY ALTERNATIVE CENTER



**12 October 2022**

**TO:**

President Cyril Ramaphosa  
Mr Enoch Godongwana (Minister of Finance)  
Ms Thoko Didiza (Minister of Agriculture)  
Faith Leaders

**Press statement: #HungerSouthAfrica**

South Africans are starving. According to the Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice and Dignity Group, the average cost of a household food basket stands at a staggering R4 805,86. With poverty wages in South Africa and structural unemployment at 45%, the hunger crisis is serious. In Johannesburg, a city of over 6 million people, the household food basket has increased by 15.6 percent from September last year. People are struggling to survive. According to Stats SA, consumer inflation is at a 13-year record high of 7.8%. Children are bearing the brunt of this crisis and the child support grant (R480) is 28% below the food poverty line (R663) and 42% below the average nutritious diet for a child (R828). This is worsening the malnutrition crisis amongst children; already 27% are stunted and their physiological and neurological development is damaged for life. This is inhumane.

Government has not learned from the Covid 19 pandemic about the levels of desperation in South African society. The July 2021 riots were also food riots. Former President Jacob Zuma and his corrupt allies opportunistically exploited the desperation in South African society. His recent 'thanking of looters' is providing justification for more of such actions, including a full blown 'race war'. In July 2021 the government failed to protect citizens and failed to listen to grassroots voices about #HungerSouthAfrica.

Government needs to listen and address #HungerSouth Africa decisively and in a manner consistent with the constitution of the country. We demand the following to affirm the right to food for all:

- Activation of the Disaster Management Act to involve civil society to speedily provide food aid to vulnerable children, households and communities;
- A universal basic income grant for all. A fiscally neutral #UBIGNOW is possible based on the modelling we have done (see : <https://cicm.org.za/policies/>);
- Adoption of a people driven Peoples Food Sovereignty Act (<https://www.safsc.org.za/peoples-food-sovereignty-act/>) developed in a bottom up

way by the South African Food Sovereignty Campaign so zero hunger can be achieved in communities, villages, towns and cities and local control of food systems entrenched as part of the deep just transition.

With millions starving, South Africa cannot handle the worsening climate crisis. Current social injustice means more climate injustice. Taking forward our demands and ensuring South Africa can feed itself through food sovereignty ensures we accelerate and deepen the just transition now.

This week, several partner organisations and activists part of the Climate Justice Charter Movement and South African Food Sovereignty Campaign will be holding rolling grassroots actions from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. We invite activists and communities to share their actions using this [Link](#). We the people have determined that this year's World Food day on October 16 must be the day of grassroots actions to build food sovereignty alternatives to challenge #HungerSouthAfrica. Here are [examples](#) of where we doing this now. We also call on faith-based communities to take our message to their congregations on Sunday, October 16 and to rally with us as we build food sovereignty pathways in all areas of our country.

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