

Geordin Hill-Lewis 2017 SONA debate video

1.41m: The reality is that the ANC governs on behalf of the Party... not the People and not the poor. This is the story of the commitment to radical economic transformation. It is the work of a con artist, a sleight of hand, designed to deceive the Public into thinking that you care about them. Radical economic transformation is nothing but a code word for radical corruption. The ANC has long abandoned the real idea of broadbased economic empowerment, if ever they believed in at all. Empowerment ANC style is empowerment for billionaires and millionaires... and scraps for the rest. Under the banner of radical economic transformation, the President promised to use the power of the state to support black-owned business but consider this: Eskom is used to funnel coal contracts to the Guptas and family members even if it means that the country must go without power. Radical land redistribution is code for giving farms to ANC ministers and cronies, not for creating black, agricultural entrepreneurs. Black economic empowerment is a tool for massive empowerment for the connected few. The Mining Charter is not about improving the living conditions and working conditions of mineworkers. It is a way to force mining companies, like Goldfields, who has said publicly, to choose their empowerment partner from a predetermined list, including the Honourable Speaker of this House. And even when you can confront the private sector, you just won't do it because there is a crony in every boardroom and a comrade in every deal. So you do not act to bring down data charges for the poor, you don't end banking rip-offs for people on social grants or help break the cycle of debt that keeps so many people locked in a prison of stress and anxiety. You do none of those things because in every facet of the economy the ANC in power relies on the ANC in government to keep the dirty money flowing thick and fast. This is the one thing that unites all the candidates in the current ANC's succession battle, whether it's Mr Ramaphosa you're supporting or Mrs Mbete. They may not be talking to one another now but they have all shared in the power feast and filled their pockets along the way. And no matter which one of them wins, the feast will continue. It's just about who gets to sit at the top of the table. The ANC first, the People last...

06.08m: The ANC's message to South Africans is this: You are less than the us, get to the back of the line, we're still eating... and remember, you owe us forever. The ANC is not on the side of the poor. The ANC is not on the side of the People. It is the State against the Nation, the ANC against the People.

...And by contrast, let me spell out who the DA is for:

The DA is firmly on the side of all of the People who have been forgotten, marginalised and left behind by the ANC. To these South Africans, the DA says you are valuable, you are legitimate, and you are equal. And you have much more right to opportunity and a stake in our future than these will ever give you. The DA is for you. We are a party that fights for your interests, for the improvements of your lives, for new opportunities and a better life, not just for some of the people but for ALL THE PEOPLE.

Wherever we govern, life gets better and better and better.

Wherever we do not govern, corruption gets worse and unemployment grows.

The Democratic Alliance is building a mighty alliance of the excluded and forgotten people. The time is coming for all of those who believe with us to join with us so that together we can confront and tear down the walls that the ANC continues to hold to divide us. We will take our values and our plan to rescue this lost generation into the thick of the fight for justice and opportunity for all.