

**MESSAGE BY DEPUTY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE JOBS SUMMIT ORGANISED BY UBUNTU  
INITIATIVE  
THE MASLOW HOTEL, SANDTON, JOHANNESBURG  
27 NOVEMBER 2017**

Executive Director of Ubuntu Initiative, Mr Stefan Lauber,  
Development Partners from Business, Labour, Civil Society, and  
Government,  
Fellow South Africans,

Thank you for inviting me to attend the launch of this welcome and vital  
Job Summit.

Please accept my apology for being unable to attend owing to a standing  
prior commitment.

Please accept as well my good wishes and those of government for a  
successful launch and outcomes that will unlock opportunities and  
restore dignity for many South Africans.

I have no doubt that the outstanding work you have been doing behind  
the scenes to create 100 000 jobs in 2018 will rekindle hope and inspire  
our nation to remain seized with finding sustainable solutions to  
unemployment.

For a year now, the Ubuntu Initiative has spearheaded bold efforts in 20  
industries to create employment and build skills.

We applaud the South African private sector for its patriotic commitment to the inclusive future envisioned in our Constitution and the National Development Plan.

The Ubuntu Initiative demonstrates that when business works together for a better future for all South Africans, we can indeed push back poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

This Job Summit is a silver lining to the cloudy narrative of an economy that currently offers little hope to millions of vulnerable, unemployed South Africans.

We welcome this Summit because you refuse to accept that our national business card should define us as Junk.

You are laying the foundation for our economic recovery and shared growth.

You are inspiring new ways for us to rise above stagnation, greed, crime, and social exclusion.

We pay tribute to you for adding deed to dialogue and for focusing on what is possible even in times of difficulty.

We look forward to the sustained growth of this initiative whose core commodities are hope and human fulfilment.

Stats SA tells us that poverty is rising among our people.

Young people, in particular, are disproportionately affected by growing poverty and unemployment.

To sustainably raise employment, we need more inclusive growth.

We need to change the structure of the economy to encourage more start-ups and more competition, to encourage more regional trade and better integration into global value chains.

Greater competition and market entry for new enterprises has been bolstered by strengthening the Competition Act and by giving the Commission the power to investigate anti-competitive conduct.

We are working to reduce red tape through the Invest SA initiative and the 'Ease of Doing Business' project in nine of our largest municipalities.

We have been working with social partners to reduce the risks of prolonged, violent strikes.

Thanks to the commitment of social partners including business, the principles of a national minimum wage have been agreed.

We are also working tirelessly to ensure that it is introduced by 1 May 2018.

Government and business have agreed to set up a Youth Employment Service to provide internships for one million young people over three years to gain work experience.

As part of improving the skills of workers, the post-schooling sector is focused on increasing the number of learnerships and apprenticeships, alongside increasing access to TVET colleges.

We are working to create an environment that encourages investment in areas of economic activity that have the greatest impact on job creation.

The elective conference of the ANC next month promises to deliver a new era of unity, stability, and greater policy certainty to boost investor and consumer confidence in our economy.

Change in our country depends on the impact of initiatives such as this Jobs Summit.

Your programmes and experiences must be shared in all our provinces, and we invite the private sector to devise even more bold initiatives to support rural development.

The implementation of your plan in 2018 coincides with the celebration of the centenary of our Founding President, Nelson Mandela.

Your initiative is indeed a fitting tribute to our great leader.

As you meet, may you draw inspiration from his words,

*“Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.”*

This Summit demonstrates that it is in our hands to usher in a new dawn of hope and a new era of job creation in 2018.

Well done and I wish you all of the best.

I thank you.