

MEDIA RELEASE

UNITED AFRICA ROYAL ASSEMBLY

AFRICAN UNION DAY

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JOHANNESBURG



STATEMENT BY HRH PRINCE ESTIFANOS MATEWOS, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED AFRICA ROYAL ASSEMBLY & AMBASSADOR OF THE AFRICAN UNION TO MEMBER STATES ON AFRICAN UNION DAY 2025

On this African Union Day we declare that Africa must no longer be a supplier of raw materials and a consumer of finished goods. We must no longer allow foreign interests to define our future while our people struggle in poverty on a continent overflowing with wealth. The true liberation of Africa will not come from speeches and ceremonies but from the bold decision to control our resources, manufacture with our own hands, and build institutions and economies that serve Africans first.

We must confront the cycle that has trapped us for generations. Our leaders know the solutions yet too often continue the same patterns of dependence regime after regime. Africans are educated and talented but denied opportunities by systems we allow to exist. This betrayal of our potential must end. Africa must break the chains of external control, internal divisions, and the chains of weak governance within. To move forward we must challenge ourselves to embrace the principles of Ubuntu, and insist on self reliance. We must demand local industries, and we must train our youth not for export but for the building of their motherland.

On this special day I speak on behalf of the Assembly to call upon every African state, every leader, every youth, every worker, every citizen, and every descendant at home and across the world to rise to this challenge. The world is shifting and Africa will no longer beg. We must unite our voices and our actions to build a new Africa on a foundation of values that cannot be broken by time, by technology, or by military power. Let this African Union Day be remembered as the day we declared our renewed resolve. A day when Africa stood firm, united in purpose, and committed to a future of power, dignity, and prosperity for generations to come.