

Winds of hope blow over beloved country

LISTENING to President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation address (Sona) gave me hope in a very hopeless situation.

As South Africans we have been waiting for a long time for new ways and ideas. There seems to be a wind of hope blowing over our beloved country.

There is a fresh air circulating, powering a new perspective, a new dawn rising in our country and one can feel the excitement in the air.

What gives me hope in these trying times is the knowledge that there is a precedent for hope and, as South Africans witnessed in 1994, hope has bred change.

We have learnt through this very historic moment in 1994 that to be hopeless is to disregard the cyclic theory and the philosophy of history.

Foreign direct investment in South Africa increased by 446% between 2017 and 2018, according to Business Insider South Africa. This figure increased from \$1.38 billion (R18.95bn) in 2017 to \$7.81bn in 2018.

The president might have his hands full trying to marginalise corrupt elements of his unstable government, but this doesn't mean that he has not been able to offer confidence to foreign investors.

The rating agencies seem to be trying their best to work with him in order to assist the country to get back onto a firmer footing.

In his second Sona, the president said that government had identified land parcels owned by the state for redistribution as part of accelerating land reform.

The state has a property portfolio of more than 93 000 buildings and more than 1.9 million hectares of land under the custodianship of the Department of Public Works.

It's about time that government focuses on redistributing land it owns, some of which is unaccounted for or underutilised.

This is a good move from the president and I give him credit for taking this bold step.

It is my view and my belief that the ordinary South African give the president a decent chance to play his role in our recovery.

Let us not be negative in this period of hope, as the positive fresh air that is circulating has and can only bode well for our beloved country. We cannot afford to take our gains for granted. We need to protect what we have fought for and keep pushing forward.

Every struggle in any given space contributes to the collective struggle.

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