

# EVENT REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

## SOUTH AFRICA

STHABISO MDLEDLE

February 2019

[www.kas.de/web/suedafrika](http://www.kas.de/web/suedafrika)

## Unpacking #SONA2019

WHAT IS THE 4<sup>TH</sup> INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION?

**Renowned political analyst and research fellow at the Helen Suzman Foundation, Aubrey Matshiqi led a public discussion with civil society and citizens on the contents of the 2019 State of the Nation Address (SONA) at Elangeni Hotel in Durban on the 19 February 2019.**

As Matshiqi engaged the citizens of the eThekweni metropolis, he emphasized on the words used by politicians to citizens.

He said that, politicians use these big words/ terms thinking that citizens know what they mean.

"The president talks about the 4th industrial revolution, robotics, the internet of things, and we think we know what he is talking about, more importantly, we like what he's talking about, we want it, we want the 4th industrial revolution even though we don't know what it means."

He also focused on the actual speech, its content as well as what it meant for all South Africans.

He said that, SONA is about the creation of a society that be will different, qualitatively, a society that is an improvement from where we were in the apartheid times.

According to Matshiqi, Ramaphosa's SONA focused a lot on the economy of the country, his primary audience was not the citizens of SA.

"He was not talking to us, his primary audience are international investors, we are a second audience, he believes that, if the international investors get the policy framework they want, they will invest, and when they do, our lives will become better" he added.

Sbonokuhle Ngwabe, delegate and youth activator, shared his insights on the president's speech.

He said that, most people especially the youth have reached a point where they are desensitized.

"We no longer care about the speech, several people in my group did not even watch the speech.

The president talked about the things they think we want to hear, trying to keep everyone happy, but no one is", he said.

He added that the president was not elected by South African citizens, clearly this is not working for the country, SONA is not working for SA.

The forum was hosted by the Democracy Development Program (DDP) , funded by KAS, they are hosting a post SONA dialogue in Cape Town on the 06 March 2019 in partnership with My Vote Counts and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation.

### Impressum

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