

ANC government allowed total collapse of the water and sanitation department

By Mandlenkosi Mabika MP – DA Shadow Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation

Chairperson, the Democratic Alliance (DA) is shocked by the state of the Department of Water and Sanitation which is in a critical condition in the intensive care unit. The ANC government must be ashamed for allowing this critical Department to decline.

Water is life and if the ANC-led government continues to fail this Department it is denying the people of their important constitutional right to have access to clean water.

Water is also an important source of economic development.

The DA notes all the promises that the Minister has made, however, it is so hard to believe that this time we will see change as it is just part of 25 years of unfulfilled promises, because all this mess happened under the ANC's watch.

The big question is 'where were you' all these years when this Department failed to get clean or unqualified audit reports. Irregular expenditure, unauthorised expenditure, overdrafts, accruals, underspending and failing to meet its targets is what this Department has managed to achieve over the years.

This Department has presented good budget like this one before all these years, but dismally failed to deliver water to the poor people of South Africa, and instead spent money on untraceable projects while infrastructure projects are being deferred, resulting in the Department failing to pay service providers. Leaving the Department with an overdraft of over R896 million. *Kodua amanzi kubantu dololo* what a shame.

Kuyoze kube nini kubonwa ngokusa ekuphathweni kwezimali zalonmyango Minister. In almost all the increasing road closures and protests country wide on top of the agenda is none water delivery.

Emkhanyakuele Amanzi asenikhiphinkani kunokuba isimo sibe ngcono siya ngokuya siba sibi kakhulu. eJozini kunedamu elikhulu kodwa abantu abahlala eceleni kwalo bagcina ngokuwabuka No Nomvula Nonkonyeni waqambamanga ethi uyovula amanzi intengekho. Sibi Isimo Engwavuma, Emboza nakomseleni, awekho amanzi eZululand, Emzinyathi naso Thukela abantu baphuza nezimbongolo kwesinye isikhathi baze baphogeleke Ukuwathenyga ezimotweni babe bengasebenzi.

Isabelo mali sikhishwa minyaka yonke izimeya nabangane bazo ziyazitika nje azinanembeza. Angiyiphathi ke Minister indaba yenkohlakalo ethinta ukukhokhelwa kwamapayipipi angazange afike emkhanyakude Ngezindodla zemali kodwa udaba luyazitshwa kwazise zidle khaya.

Kodwa ke Minister siyawubona umfutho oza ngawo nesivinini, but we believe as DA that if you were able to promise to eradicate the bucket system in 6 months in the Northern Cape and Free State, it must be possible to promise people who are suffering without water as to when you will be able to eradicate non-delivery of water *ezwenilonke*.

The DA does not want to believe that like the President who told the nation that he will halve crime in 10 years, you are also dreaming to half the water crisis in 10 years when people cannot wait no more.

Minister, spending money on unbudgeted projects must come to an end to avoid the situation like war on leaks programme. Ekurhuleni Metro corruption chemical toilets involving R1.9 billion over three years must be dealt with decisively in order to protect the poor people from the looters.