**Annual cabinet report card**

**Introduction**

In May this year, through the power of the ballot box, the people of Gauteng made it resoundingly clear that they have had enough of the incompetence that has become the hallmark of ANC governance.

The ANC managed to hold on to its majority by a single seat in the Gauteng Legislature.

Despite this, the ANC has not self-corrected as many political pundits claimed they would. Instead, they continue to govern with the same contempt for the people of Gauteng as they have always done. Many of the issues that were synonymous with Premier David Makhura’s first five-year tenure at the helm of government have continued, and in some instances, have become worse.

Emfuleni, Merafong, West Rand District and Lesedi remain ungovernable with little to no consequence for those who have robbed residents of their constitutional right to adequate service delivery. These municipalities’ financial standings have rapidly declined with many having to produce unfunded mandates. The VBS scandal that financially crippled Rand West and Merafong remains unresolved. Service providers are owed billions of Rands, including the state-owned entities of Rand Water and Eskom.

The malaise that has plagued departmental entities, most notably the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller, continues unabated. The Executive continues to sit on forensic reports which would shed light on the corruption that has plagued this entity.

**Premier David Makhura**

**Score: 4/10**

In his State of the Province Address (SOPA), Premier Makhura made grand pronouncements, as he did in 2014, of the interventions his administration would bring to reshape the socio-economic climate of the province. In 2014, the terms “radical”, “transformation” and “modernisation” were bandied about with much fanfare. In 2019, these slogans came out of retirement to once again woo the public. The promise was, that within 100 days, his administration would accomplish many of the things they had failed to do in five years.

However, what was really on offer were empty ideas, symbolic of the posturing of a man who had fallen short in his previous term to stem the tide of rising unemployment, poverty and despair experienced by millions of Gauteng’s residents.

Over 100 days have now passed and there has been little to celebrate. Many of the grand interventions, plans and actions have yet to materialise. Of very few that have, their implementation has been half hearted at best. The Premier’s total score for promises fulfilled was 3.5/15.

When taken to task on the radical changes that were promised, neither the Premier, nor his team of MECs are willing to account. Instead, they writhe and squirm their way out of responsibility. The cancellation of the Premier’s year-end report is further evidence that this government is attempting to kick their responsibilities into touch.

E-tolls remain, with no tangible end in sight, despite the promise that they would go within a matter of months after 8 May 2019.

Numerous forensic investigations remain open-ended without any consequences for those implicated in malfeasance.

The financial standing of the Provincial Government has in the last year regressed with unauthorized, and fruitless and wasteful expenditure on the rise. Gauteng only received a 30% clean audit for the 2018/2019 financial year, which is down from the 52% it received in 2017/2018 financial year. Furthermore, the Department of Human Settlements and the Gauteng Housing Fund received a disclaimer from the Auditor-General. These audit outcomes reflect that the ANC-led Gauteng government is incapable of spending public funds wisely as they have failed to reduce irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure in most of their departments. Due to this, departments are going to be required to do more with less money, as was evidenced in the tabling of the adjustment budget in November.

Since the ANC assumed office in May this year, it has become evident that life for the people of Gauteng is not going to improve – in fact, all indications are that it is going to get worse.

**The DA Cabinet Scorecard is an analysis based on the individual MEC’s grasp of his/her portfolio demands, leadership skills, approachability, willingness to appear before oversight committees, and quality of written and oral responses to DA questions.**

**Detailed below is our assessment of the provincial cabinet:**

**MEC Mbali Hlope: Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation**

**Score: 4/10**

MEC Hlophe seems to have a vision for the department, however, this seems to be derailed by department officials who are continually involved in various scandals of financial mis-management. The department’s CFO has been pushed out of the department and the HOD has been put on Special Leave. The MEC speaks of a department that seeks to uplift Sports and Recreation for the betterment of Gauteng citizens; we agree with this intent, but it needs to come to fruition.

It is not yet determined if the MEC herself has been embroiled in corruption but it can be said that she continues with what her predecessors used to do in wasting public funds on programs that do not yield results in terms of the development of Sports and Arts. An example is the millions spent on the DSTV DELICIOUS FESTIVAL and the very expensive and glamorous Gauteng Sports Awards. The MEC is also extremely arrogant and rude when engaging with other Parties.

The MEC attends Sittings and Portfolio/Standing Committee Meetings regularly when invited to do so and provides detailed responses to written questions but 70% of the department’s responses were late. We have been able to use these responses to drive press releases for the attention of media houses. The MEC has not as yet shown strength in management. But the removal of the CFO and suspension of the HOD by the Premier may indicate her grabbing of the management controls in the department. We are however disappointed by the MEC’s appointment of an Acting CEO of the Gauteng Film Commission. This entity deserves a permanent and capable CEO.

**MEC Morakane Mosupyoe: Economic Development, Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development**

It is still too early to give the MEC a rating, as she replaced MEC Ramokgopa only two months ago.

**Department of Economic Development – Score: 3/10**

The department struggles to complete initiatives that have been announced and budgeted for, for instance the State Bank and Township Stock Exchange. These projects have cost the people of Gauteng considerable sums of money and there is nothing to show for it. The department has failed to improve the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP); the entity has been without a CEO and COO for an entire year. GEP is the worst performing entity of the department and the MEC still refuses to release the findings of two forensic audits performed on GEP. Most of the department’s budget is spent on administration and salary costs for all the various entities. If return on investment is expressed by comparing the budget spent versus Foreign Direct Investment, then the province lags far behind the Western Cape and even the City of Johannesburg.

**Department of Agriculture and Rural development – Score: 3/10**

The department underspent its budget by R111 million in Programmes 2 and 3. As a result, many infrastructure projects were not completed, including Agri-parks and the Isigayo Milling Plant. Misstatements in financial reporting and non-compliance with Treasury regulations continue due to a lack of consequence management. The Supply chain issues identified in the 2017/18 financial report are still not being addressed.

81% of this department’s replies to our written questions were late.

**MEC Tasneem Motara: Department of Infrastructure Development and Property Management**

**Score: 3/10**

The Department of Infrastructure Development and Property Management (DID&PM) has many long-standing weaknesses such as its inability to complete projects within time and budget, a lack of resources and expertise to manage its property portfolio, an inability to develop infrastructure that provides value for money and management that is not held to account. This department has a substantial impact on other departments, hence its low score.

 Despite being in the job since the May elections, the newly appointed MEC has as yet made no discernible impact on the performance of the department. Performance reports relating to the first two quarters of her tenure are as poor as they have been over the last five years.

To her credit, the MEC has visited project sites so that she can find out for herself about the status of projects. On the negative side, her propaganda machine uses all her public appearances as opportunities to boost her personal profile. Public relations and propaganda does not cut it. What is required is a hard-nosed and tough approach to poor performance and inefficiency.

It is also disappointing that the MEC appears to be insecure and has instructed her officials not to interact directly with members of the portfolio committee and only to respond to public queries via her office. 50% of this department’s replies to our written questions were late.

**MEC Panyaza Lesufi: Department of Education**

**Score: 4/10**

The MEC does have a vision for his department which is an inclusive and quality basic education for all our learners. Grade 12 matric results showed that out of 15 districts, only 10 performed well at a national level.

Considering the state of the department’s financials and performance as outlined in the Annual Report, the MEC achieved 41 out of 46 performance measures; received an unqualified audit; achieved an 87.92% matric pass rate which is the highest since 1994. Eight out of 15 districts in the province were amongst the top 10 best districts in the country, and more than 300 township schools have access to e-learning.

However, many schools have infrastructure which is in a dilapidated state and is in dire need of maintenance. There is also a shortage of classrooms, which is leading to overcrowding; the MEC has failed to eradicate asbestos schools in the province. He is constantly promising to replace asbestos schools with brick and mortar schools but to date this has not yet materialised. Yet, in 2018/2019, as well as the previous financial year, the department failed to spend nearly R1 billion; in both instances the money was sent back to Treasury.

The safety of learners and the assets of our schools has been under threat for a while now, yet the MEC fails to put an adequate safety plan in place. Our schools have turned into war zones with learners taking weapons to schools.

The MEC is always accessible and is an activist MEC, however at times, he says things which make parents uncomfortable. His stance on Afrikaans is also divisive which negatively affects social cohesion. We do believe that he can do more to hold officials to account, especially on underspending and strengthening the role of districts.

61% of this department’s replies to our written questions were late.

**MEC Lebogang Maile: Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs**

**Score: 2/10**

MEC Maile’s department is mandated to co-ordinate the various spheres of local government, yet he consistently uses his department to fight political battles, using municipalities as political footballs, rendering the department ineffective. The MEC should stop posturing and concentrate on the many failing ANC municipalities.

The department’s financial plans for rescuing municipalities in financial difficulty are extremely weak. The individuals who created this mess are expected to implement rescue plans that have not been properly costed.

The targets for the Red Tape Programme meant to facilitate Mega Housing Projects, the handover of title deeds and assistance with development plan were not met. There was material underspending on the budget across all programmes; there was also high expenditure on consultants.

COGTA is not delivering on its’ core mandate of supporting municipalities. There are many ‘feel good’ programmes but no real commitment to properly addressing the failing West Rand District and Sedibeng municipalities.

**MEC Lebogang Maile: Department of Human Settlements**

**Score: 2.5/10**

Only 5% of housing development targets were reached.  Of 43 728 houses and hostels that fall under the Social and Rental Housing Programme, only 21 572 were delivered. Of 22 774 houses/stands, only 9972 were serviced/completed. Only 739 housing subsidies were disbursed instead of the targeted 10 255 due to a lack of developments. There was a fundamental lack of audit evidence to back up capital works, for compensation of employees, contingent liabilities etc. leading to a disclaimer from the Auditor-General. MEC Maile should perhaps spend more time on his portfolio and less time on his Twitter account.

78% of this department’s written replies to our questions were late.

**MEC Jacob Mamabolo: Department of Roads and Transport**

**Score: 6/10**

We awarded Jacob Mamabolo 6/10 for his performance as MEC. Unfortunately, he has not been in the post long enough for us to make a complete judgment of his performance so he does deserve the benefit of the doubt.

The highlight of his term thus far has been his intervention in the Moloto Road matter where he showed decisive leadership by having it transferred to Sanral and we laud him for this decision. However, he has not yet published his strategic plan as per the Premier’s announcement that each MEC will publish their plan within 100 days of the State of the Province Address (SOPA).

The MEC is also suffering at the hands of the previous MEC Ismail Vadi who left him a department that was completely hollowed out. It had almost no capacity to deliver on its mandate and the MEC has been slow to ensure that a permanent HOD is appointed to give proper direction to the department. The MEC has also not acted on the investigation into former HOD Ronald Swartz relating to the K46 (William Nicol) contract debacle and potential corruption. The irregular and fruitless expenditure in this department also needs to be reined in as a matter of urgency.

96% of this department’s replies to our written questions were late.

**MEC Bandile Masuku: Department of Health**

It is only fair as MEC Masuku is new, that he be assessed separately from his department at this stage.

**Personal score: 7/10**

**Department score: 2/10**

**Overall score: 4½/10**

MEC Masuku gets a reasonably high personal score due to his openness to change, responsiveness to issues and frequent visits to health facilities to see for himself what is happening. He loses points because of his defence of the expensive Cuban doctor’s programme and the flawed NHI proposals, and his poor response to baby deaths at the George Mukhari and Thelle Mogoerane hospitals.

The Department is scored low because of continuing poor management and spending of its budget - this includes R750 million underspend for the 2018/19 financial year, R2.86 billion irregular expenditure and R26.7 million fruitless and wasteful expenditure. Surgery backlogs and waiting times at hospitals are unacceptable e.g. five years for a hip operation at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital.

Hospitals continue to suffer from critical staff shortages, too many acting posts, and broken machinery. Medical negligence claims are more than R21 billion, many suppliers are not paid within the required 30 days, and not a single hospital is compliant with safety legislation.

96% of this department’s replies to our written questions were late.

**MEC Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko: Department of Finance and e-Government**

**Score: 3/10**

The MEC is completely out of her depth, and is clueless as to the functioning of her department. She inherited the SITA/GBN Phase II fiasco from the previous MEC Barbara Creecy, and it appears as if her officials, especially the HOD Boy Ngobeni have not given her the real status of e-Government, while Treasury looks after itself with minimal disruptions.

This MEC is more open to working with the opposition and we have a much more open relationship with her than with MEC Creecy. However, this does not mean she will be able to cope as a MEC. Given the current economic climate, the MEC will have to exercise prudent fiscal management going forward - this means that we will have to do more with less money available, while still trying to keep the wage bill below 60%.

54% of this department’s replies to our written questions were late.

**The late MEC Thuliswa Nkabinde-Khawe: Department of Social Development**

**Personal score: 7/10**

**Department score: 1/10**

**Overall score: 4/10**

This department scores a two for failing to deliver on its mandate and for its underspending. The vulnerable have been let down in this province. This department consistently sends money back to Treasury, while there is a severe lack of social workers in our province. Furthermore, social workers have a heavy case-load and have to share resources like cars, 3G dongles and computers. The money that was not spent, could have been used to employ more social workers and purchase much needed equipment.

In addition, there is also a huge backlog in foster care placement.

We would like however to applaud the late MEC Thuliswa Nkabinde-Khawe for trying to turn around this failing department and her vision for social development in the province. May her spirit inspire the future MEC to take the baton and do what is right for Gauteng!

76% of this department’s replies to our written questions were late.

**MEC Faith Mazibuko (aka Ms. Combi Courts): Department of Community Safety**

**Score: 3/10**

The MEC for Community Safety does not have a vision for the goals which the department has set itself. If she has such, she has not articulated it. Her department has not put a plan in place to achieve the Premier’s promise of tackling crime and the promotion of safety in the province. This is all the more shocking because it is not the MEC’s first stint in this portfolio.

The MEC has attended the portfolio committee meetings as required. Generally, the answers received from her department are fairly comprehensive. 100% of this department’s replies to our written questions were late.

The MEC has had about three questions for oral reply where she could have been more forthcoming with information. She has without hesitation resounded positively to our requests for meetings, which were constructive. The MEC seems to keep her officials on their toes, but then given her attitude toward officials in the past, we don’t believe it is about accountability but more about control. We are keeping a keen eye on this situation. To her credit, the MEC was on the ground speaking to and negotiating with residents in areas affected by the violence a few months ago.

**Conclusion**

As highlighted above, the overall picture looks grim.

As the electorally mandated official opposition in Gauteng, the DA strives to not only hold the executive to account on behalf of our voters, but on behalf of all of Gauteng’s residents. It is in this spirit that we work tirelessly to ensure that every person in Gauteng is afforded the humility as enshrined in our Constitution and to make this a prosperous province that affords every resident a chance at a better life.