

ANC's failures are making the lockdown crisis worse for ordinary South Africans

By **Ashor Sarupen MP** – DA Spokesperson on Appropriations

***Note to Editors:** The following speech will be delivered during Parliament's debate on the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill and is under embargo until delivery.*

Madame Speaker,

The lockdown crisis and the current pandemic has exposed the impact of decades of ANC mismanagement in provinces and municipalities. The consequence of this is, at our time of greatest need, that entire towns and villages are without water due to infrastructure collapse, and healthcare systems are ill-equipped to treat patients.

Harrowing stories of patients fighting over oxygen should bring shame onto the ANC. Instead we see mutual back-patting and self-congratulations.

This mindset is so pervasive that we even saw a civil servant in the form of a junior presidential speechwriter, a Mr Saul Musker, write a piece riddled with insults and falsehoods, attacking people who were bringing attention to the ANC's failures that have led to our lockdown crisis.

It is against this backdrop that we look the Division of Revenue Bill, and the amendments are akin to reshuffling the deckchairs on the titanic.

Let's look at conditional grants, which are being massively cut to provinces:

The Fiscal and Finance Commission (FFC) found that these grants are output driven with no care for outcomes, and there are no links between budgets and outputs, making it near impossible to measure efficiency.

No impact indicators exist for measuring the success of these grants. The FFC also found duplication in outputs to artificially improve dashboards and make the governments many millionaire managers look good while doing very little.

When one looks at local government, to whom an additional R11 billion are being allocated, the situation becomes even more dire, because:

- Only 20 of 257 municipalities have received clean audit, and the bulk of clean audits come from DA-run municipalities;
- 28 municipalities could not be audited because they didn't even have financial statements to submit;
- Across 200 municipalities, 2-billion Rand were lost to corruption and unaccounted for expenditure;
- 32-billion Rands were classified as irregular expenditure at local government level

- Municipalities are spending over R1-billion a year in consultants, which is only made necessary as a result of appointing politically connected staff who cannot do their jobs; and
- Provincial and Municipal debt to Eskom is 37-billion Rands.

It is clear, speaker, that the ANC's failures are making the lockdown crisis worse for ordinary people, and the ANC cannot be trusted any further.

The DA therefore rejects this Amendment Bill.