

ANC's unwillingness to take appropriate action now is costing SA Transport dearly

By Chris Hunsinger – DA Shadow Minister of Transport

House Chair,

Upsetting scenes on roads were captured on the N1, N3, N5, & N7 during the last couple of days depicting horror-full images & stories where Truckers got petrol bombed, shot & hurt. The DA condemns any form of violence & also the unwillingness of government to take appropriate action & prioritise proper employment legislation. Since March, it was the trucking industry that arrived & kept shelves filled - delivering megatons of essential goods & medical supplies. This, despite being denied a decent meal along the road. The DA acknowledges the road transport sector amongst the frontline fighters against COVID-19 & to each & every Trucker we say: "thank you".

Apart from less money, increasing backlog in service delivery provision & growing needs; the unwillingness to act appropriately, now needs to be added to the cost in keeping the ANC in the Transport decision-making seat of South-Africa. During nearly each Budget occasion, another entity under DoT poses a fiscal risk to our economy.

Here are some specifics: In this budget - 2,5 Billion Rand is given to GFIP eTolls instead of helping other near completely-destroyed transport businesses like, Scholar Transport, City-to-city, long distance bus & specialised transfer, charter, delivery services, & many more – instead, 2,5 Billion Rand is used to uphold this conspiracy infected Gauteng eToll scheme with no appropriate action to date.

After the incredibly sad aeroplane crash & in the absence of our SACAA-calibration staff & aircraft; - I am told that King Shaka International Airport has been seriously downgraded. This, while I am aware of at least three companies with suitable South African pilots, aircraft & equipment who could have continued immediately. Unwilling to take appropriate action.

Only 10% of rail under PRASA's control now is in service. 10%, not because of COVID but because assets are not protected. Fact is that security companies left because they were not paid. From tender & contract-fraud in the comfortable offices of PRASA buildings, cuddled by rows & rows of company vehicles in reserved parking bays; right through to theft of cables, rail track & signal equipment to the destruction of stations & buildings we've witnessed the unwillingness to take appropriate action by 5 Ministers in 4 years, recent toy-story war room fairy tales & a contentiously appointed administrator. Latest being that Transnet diesel locomotives are pulling Metrorail commuter coaches unable to close the doors & control the brakes, again undermining safety by not taking appropriate action.

Safety of passengers, commuters & travellers should be of highest importance, also the protection of assets & capital which cannot be separated from due diligence & accountable responsibilities.

Instead, with this unwillingness to take appropriate action, plunder is enabled, adding to institutional & economic destruction – something which the DA cannot support – therefore also not this budget.

I thank you