



# One year of Covid-19: Cabinet Report Card

## THE CLASS:

<b>The Class Captains</b>	
President Cyril Ramaphosa	E
Deputy President David Mabuza	F
<b>The Star Students</b>	
International Relations and Cooperation (Naledi Pandor)	B
Minister in the Presidency (posthumously, Jackson Mthembu)	B
<b>The In-Betweeners</b>	
Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development (Thoko Didiza)	D
Basic Education (Angie Motshekga)	C
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (Barbara Creecy)	C
Finance (Tito Mboweni)	C
Justice & Correctional Services (Ronald Lamola)	C
Mineral Resources and Energy (Gwede Mantashe)	D
Public Service and Administration (Senzo Mchunu)	D
Public Works and Infrastructure (Patricia de Lille)	D
<b>The Failures</b>	
Communication & Digital Technologies (Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams)	F
Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs (Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma)	F
Defence & Military Veterans (Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula)	E
Employment and Labour (Thulas Nxesi)	F
Health (Zweli Mkhize)	E
Higher Education, Science & Technology (Blade Nzimande)	E
Home Affairs (Aaron Motsoaledi)	E
Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (Lindiwe Sisulu)	E
Police (Bheki Cele)	F
Public Enterprises (Pravin Gordhan)	E
Small Business Development (Khumbudzo Ntshavheni)	E
Social Development (Lindiwe Zulu)	F
Sports, Arts and Culture (Nathi Mthethwa)	E
Transport (Fikile Mbalula)	E
Trade & Industry (Ebrahim Patel)	F
Tourism (Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane)	F
Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (Maite Nkoana-Mashabane)	F
<b>CABINET</b>	<b>E</b>

## THE CLASS CAPTAINS

<b>President</b> (Cyril Ramaphosa)	<b>SCORE: E</b>
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- In the last year, the President has tried desperately to provide leadership to a country in troubled waters. “Family Meetings” on occasion inspired, sometimes entertained, but mostly exasperated as we tuned in to each new episode in the firm knowledge that whatever the President announces, it might be walked back by the unofficial Prime Minister, NDZ, the next day.
- Covid exposed exactly how weak Cyril’s position within the ANC is. He has failed time and again to act against Ministers running mini-dictatorships on his watch: banning the sale of flip-flops plakkies and cooked chicken; arresting South Africans setting foot on beach-sand while ignoring gangsterism, farm attacks and a plague of gender-based violence; or helping their friends steal millions in funds earmarked for PPE procurement. He never has the final say on lockdown regulations, and instead submits to the dictates of an irregularly-constituted and illiberal National Command Council.
- The President has often been silent when he should have taken the nation into his confidence, and loves passing the buck: rising unemployment figures are the fault of the pandemic, of the international economy, or of South Africans who buy cooked chicken – everyone except him and his cabinet.
- At the end of the day, the President is still the Captain of the ship. Our economic woes, our staggering unemployment figures, rampant corruption, and a police force that terrorises citizens: it all happens on his watch. Yet while the country falls apart, he continues to make irresponsible decisions such as supporting expropriation without compensation, further driving away investors and hobbling our economy.

<b>Deputy President</b> (David Mabuza)	<b>SCORE: F</b>
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- It is hard to grade an absent pupil. Apart from attending class every now and again to make some irresponsible call for expropriation without compensation or duck and dive questions in Parliament, the Deputy President has shown no leadership and has been largely missing in action.

### THE STAR STUDENTS

<b>International Relations and Cooperation</b> (Naledi Pandor)	<b>SCORE: B</b>
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- Despite a lacklustre response to democratic regression in Africa, the Department should be commended for taking a leading role in Africa’s response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Through the COVAX facility, South Africa was at the forefront of negotiating access for any potential vaccines for the African Union.
- With lockdown restrictions across the globe, Minister Naledi Pandor led a global repatriation effort for South Africans who were stranded at airports, students who were asked to evacuate their places of residence and the elderly and those who needed medical attention.

<b>Minister in the Presidency</b> (Posthumously, Jackson Mthembu)	<b>SCORE: B</b>
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- Communicating on the pandemic and the response to it was always going to be a challenge for the government. While this left many South Africans frustrated, the late Minister in the Presidency – Jackson Mthembu, did not shy away from answering difficult questions from the media. It was unfortunate that, at times, he had to shoulder the burden of communicating some of the most unfortunate directives from the National Command Council. The constant blunders by some of his colleagues in government exposed government’s disjointed and chaotic response to the pandemic. Notwithstanding this, Minister Mthembu’s willingness to account and the depth of his responses, made him one of the very few solid performers.

### THE IN-BETWEENERS

<b>Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development</b> (Thoko Didiza)	<b>SCORE: D</b>
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- While R1.2 billion was set aside to assist farmers contain the impact of the pandemic, disbursement to distressed farmers was very erratic and the criteria for qualification could potentially have excluded a lot of small scale farmers.

- The Department must be commended for its general position to ensure that the agricultural sector remained open, including wine farms. The challenge that sector had is that they were not allowed to sell their wine stocks, which falls under a different Department.
- Still, there were moments when this 'open policy' was punctuated with confusion over crossing of provincial boundaries, transportation, and housing of large numbers of employees, and troubles with importing and exporting produce.
- The pandemic also amplified the Department's land reform failures of the past decades. Under their watch illegal evictions, such as that of Mr. Cloete in the Western Cape, took place during the pandemic and the looming threat of land expropriation without compensation is hanging over the sector like a dark cloud.

<b>Basic Education</b> (Angie Motshekga)	<b>SCORE: C</b>
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- Covid-19 has undoubtedly brought on additional challenges that needed to be addressed by the Department. Additionally, chronic issues in the department persist, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic. 1 800 schools still have water challenges, 1 600 teachers are teaching in subjects they are not qualified to teach, and school infrastructure not conducive to social distancing.
- Inefficiency has plagued the Department to the detriment of learners in the fight against Covid. Last year the Gauteng province spent a shocking R420 million on sanitising schools in a period of just three months.
- With regards to the delivery of PPE, tenderpreneurs have plagued the Department which has ultimately led to poor quality of PPE being delivered to schools or delays in the delivery of PPEs to schools as tender processes were not streamlined. This meant that teachers, who are viewed as frontline workers, and their learners were put in dangerous working environments.
- In order to create jobs and assist schools and teachers, the President announced the Presidential Youth Employment Stimulus. Over 300 000 teacher assistants were employed for 3 months from December. Although this was a great initiative, the Department failed to pay these teacher assistants timeously, seeing many being paid two months later.
- Wasted funds could have been used more efficiently, potentially working towards improving online learning platforms. The Western Cape Basic Education Department on the other hand, has succeeded in ensuring learners are not academically excluded and

established an online learning platform, which are now being used by learners in other provinces.

- The matric exam results represent a broken system. The minister announced the matric pass rate of 76.2 per cent, excluding the dropout rate. The real pass rate, which calculates the dropout rate from learners since grade 10, paints a grim picture – a mere 44.1%. Just in 2020, 557 170 learners dropped out between grade 10 and matric. There are no clear plans to ensure learners stay in school. Poor planning to address this phenomenon has affected the Ministers result.

<b>Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (Barbara Creecy)</b>	<b>SCORE: C</b>
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- The Department often goes under recognised and was one of the first to experience major budget cuts in light of the covid pandemic. Nevertheless, its work will severely impact thousands of lives and contribute to the environmental sustainability of the country. The Department is tasked with drafting the country's response to major issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. Even though the Minister was responsible for the disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions data of the biggest polluters, holding them to account has been a challenge. Eskom being one of the more notorious examples, with the energy sector accounting for 48 percent of the country's greenhouse emissions. Health concerns relating to high emissions remain a massive concern and this contributes to comorbidities relating to COVID.
- Additionally, the minister celebrated the success of the drop in rhino poaching numbers in Kruger Park and attributed this to COVID but failed to properly acknowledge the 70% drop in rhinos over the past 10 years. Rhino poaching in Kruger Park has started up again and SAN Parks is failing to contain rampant poaching from inside and outside our borders. This year, the Department has bungled the small-scale fishing allocation process for the Western Cape during the COVID lockdowns, putting many livelihoods at risk and creating uncertainty in the fishing sector. The Department also delayed the very important Fishing Rights Allocation Process (FRAP) due to COVID and said it would be concluded by the end of 2021. Some analysts have looked into the timelines and have suggested that this process will likely now only be complete by the middle of 2022. Not enough has been done during the COVID period to encourage the reduction of harmful emissions and the Department has only set a target of 2025 to begin taking action in some instances.

- Minister Mboweni has been faced with a tremendously tough job ever since he took over the reins as Minister of Finance. The pandemic and the subsequent irrational lockdowns have put the fiscus under pressure never seen before, and whilst the Minister must be commended for nevertheless managing to rein in public debt to some degree and cutting unnecessary expenditure here and there, the mistakes of the Minister simply cannot be ignored at this point, as it would be unfair to South Africans to turn the other cheek.
- South African Airways has seen its fair share of handouts, and whilst Minister Mboweni's hand might have been forced to dish out billions to settle debts guaranteed by his predecessors, one cannot ignore the R10.5 billion dished out to SAA during the 2020 October MTBPS in order to implement a business rescue that should never have been initiated in lieu of liquidation in the first place. This is unconscionable when we are in the midst of a pandemic, for which we need every possible cent. Excessive cuts were made to vital public services such as policing and social welfare to fund the frivolous attempt at resurrecting our dead national airline.
- Minister Mboweni also failed to enforce financial discipline upon other state-owned entities as well, with the Land Bank being handed R5 billion on a silver platter even though the management at the bank is woefully inadequate to turn it around.
- However, Treasury was not at all generous towards private businesses who were made to gasp for air and financial relief in the midst of arbitrary and irrational restrictions placed on economic activity. The R200 billion loan guarantee scheme had a stunningly low uptake rate. Admittedly, this was not solely due to Treasury's actions, but the issues lies with the double standards and lack of action on the part of Treasury. Failing state-owned enterprises who could not even manage to be profitable before the pandemic were given handouts left, right, and centre, whilst ordinary entrepreneurs were subjected to credit risk evaluations that made it difficult for them to incur more debt in such dire economic circumstances, even though the difficult times, unlike those at our SOEs, were not of their own making.
- But when it came to the most crucial issue of all – ensuring timeous payments to secure vaccines – Minister Mboweni arguably failed the worst. Not only did South Africa fail to meet two payment deadlines to secure participation in the Covax facility, National Treasury also managed to get itself involved in a spat with the Health Department over expediting of emergency payments for purposes of vaccine procurements. And just like the Health Department, Treasury was extraordinarily vague and unforthcoming with the details.

<b>Justice &amp; Correctional Services (Ronald Lamola)</b>	<b>SCORE: C</b>
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- Before Covid, our justice system was already weighed down by long backlogs in the court roll, a prosecuting authority paralysed by years of political interference, and overcrowded prisons failing to meet even the most basic requirements for rehabilitation. These problems were all exacerbated by lockdown. But the backward slide has continued post lockdown. Court functioning and the administration of Justice continue to be unsatisfactory. The Department of Correctional Services continues its decline, and the entire system requires a new and innovative reconstruction.

<b>Mineral Resources and Energy (Gwede Mantashe)</b>	<b>SCORE: D</b>
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- While Minister Gwede Mantashe should be commended for keeping the mining sector open after the announcement of the state of disaster, his delay in introducing Covid-19 operational protocols proved costly. This led to a spike in infections, totalling 1 796 at the peak of the pandemic. With added pressure to prevent an infection blow-out, some mines had to take extra precautionary measures which resulted in a drop in production. The sector has experienced high mineral prices over the past year but continues its downward spiral because of policy uncertainty and poor government administration.
- The declaration of the state of disaster shut down most of the economy and this resulted in reduced demand for electricity. However, as the economy began to gradually open up, Eskom started implementing rolling blackouts due to a lack maintenance and planning, which raised concern about patients who were on ventilators and vaccine storage. The reluctance to open up the energy sector to IPPs could be cited as having placed the country in peril when it was confronted with a global pandemic and has placed our economy under tremendous pressure. Mantashe also needs to answer for his continued fervent belief in nuclear as a solution to the energy crisis, when it is clear this is both unaffordable and would take far too long to implement.

<b>Public Service and Administration (Senzo Mchunu)</b>	<b>SCORE: D</b>
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- Frontline workers, from nurses, doctors and teachers, should be commended for the excellent work that they did in risking their lives so that they could keep serving citizens. Many died in the line of duty and South Africa will always remain indebted to their selfless service.

- However, some bad apples in the public service tarnished the image of their hardworking colleagues. When the Covid-19 scandal broke, it emerged that 1 539 public servants had been conducting business with the state in violation of the Public Service Act.
- While commitments have been made by Minister Mchunu to hold those implicated to account, no discernible action has been taken to address Covid-19 corruption in the public service despite a steady stream of investigations and reports from the SIU and the Auditor General.

<b>Public Works and Infrastructure</b> (Patricia de Lille)	<b>SCORE: D</b>
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- Minister De Lille and her Department’s most spectacular failure came in the form of the Breitbridge border fence fiasco. Almost R1 million per kilometre was spent on this 1.8 metre wire fence and shortly after completion, gaping holes began appearing in this poor excuse for border protection. Unsurprisingly, 14 officials in the public works department and Minister’s office were implicated in irregularities in the procurement and construction process of the fence. Even De Lille could not defend the fence, as she announced that no further state money would be used to repair or maintain this R37 million fence, due to it being “not fit for purpose”.
- Finally, the Department failed to authorise the start of the Non-State Sector NPO Expanded Public Works Programme at the beginning of the financial year contributed to close to 55 000 beneficiaries being left without a stipend for 9 months. While Covid was blamed for this, the real issue emanated from the Minister’s unilateral and unlawful decision to close down the Independent Development Trust which is the implementing agent for this programme. Political pressure and the threat of legal action by the affected Non-Profit Organisations resulted in the programme being signed off in December 2020.

### THE FAILURES

<b>Communications and Digital Technologies</b> (Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams)	<b>SCORE: F</b>
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- Perennial problems such as the continued delay in releasing spectrum and the inability of the Post Office to effectively distribute grants were all highlighted by the effects of the pandemic. In addition, the Minister's stubborn opposition to downsizing at the SABC has delayed its rationalisation and turnaround process to get it to better financial health. The Minister also demonstrated immense hypocrisy by visiting her friends for a dinner party while ordinary South Africans played their part by staying at home during the lockdown.



This dinner constituted a violation of the regulations and showed utter contempt and disrespect to the ordinary South African public. The Minister eventually confessed and paid a R1000 fine and was suspended for two months (with one month paid). However, this was simply not good enough - Stella's actions amounted to "do as I say, and not as I do".

<b>Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs</b> (Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma)	<b>SCORE: F</b>
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- Since the declaration of the national state of disaster in March 2021, Minister Dlamini Zuma, has arbitrarily extended the emergency measure on a monthly basis using a procedural flow in the Disaster Management Act. The monthly extensions have been done arbitrarily without input from Parliament. The declaration of the emergency and its subsequent extensions has given the national government wide-ranging powers over the lives of citizens, with almost no limits, and little to no oversight from parliament.
- The five-phase lockdown approach taken by the government saw a massive jobs bloodbath, with more than two-million people losing employment, which has taken the expanded unemployment rate in the country to 42%, according to Statistics South Africa.
- R20 billion of the R500 billion Covid-19 relief package was earmarked for assistance to municipalities – to relieve the strain of the lockdown on municipal revenues and to slow the spread of the pandemic. But the lack of collated information, which National Treasury can obtain by issuing a Treasury Instruction, has allowed many mayors and municipal managers to fly under the radar of public accountability.
- In July 2020, the DA called on Minister Dlamini-Zuma to appear before the relevant Portfolio Committee to account for the spending of municipal Covid relief funds. Having ignored our request, in January 2021 we wrote to the Director-General of National Treasury, Dondo Mogajane, to ask for a comprehensive account of municipal Covid-related expenditure. We are yet to receive any outcome or accountability.

<b>Defence and Military Veterans</b> (Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula)	<b>SCORE: E</b>
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- The Department lurched from one scandal to another during the course of implementing the lockdown restrictions. On 10 April Collins Khosa died after an alleged altercation with members of the SANDF and the Johannesburg metro police department at his home in Alexandra. Mapisa Nqakula initially tried to defend the soldiers but had to change course

after the DA and the media presented her with evidence showing that the SANDF had acted improperly. A total of 124 complaints were lodged against SANDF conduct during the lockdown.

- To cap off a bad year, the Department made a purchase of R200 million for Cuban medicine, Interferon Alfa 2b, that was not approved by the Health Regulatory Authority for the treatment of Covid-19 symptoms and had been banned by the Health Department. The AG found proof that 40% of the R245m shipments was exposed to temperatures outside the prescribed 2 - 8°C, which made them worthless and must be destroyed. To date, no one has been held accountable.
- Nqakula also abused state resources by commandeering an Air Force jet to Zimbabwe, with Ace and his ANC cronies, to meet with ZANU-PF party functionaries.

<b>Employment and Labour</b> (Thulas Nxesi)	<b>SCORE: F</b>
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- Minister Nxesi fails the standard for a proper Minister by any metric. Before the lockdowns commenced, the Minister told DA Shadow Deputy Minister for Employment and Labour that the UIF would be able to handle major claims properly and that it would simply not be an issue. Reality played out very differently. There were thousands of UIF claims that were simply not paid out either to employers or directly to employees, as well as overpayments that had to be recouped.
- Minister Nxesi simply failed to oversee the implementation of a proper system for UIF even though they were fully aware of the extent of the claims that lay ahead. When internal UIF systems collapsed on numerous occasions and the DA requested the Minister to hand over administration of the systems to SARS, the Minister bluntly refused for some unbeknownst reason.
- Minister Nxesi also did not take kindly to legitimate and substantiated allegations of blatant fraud occurring at the UIF, even going as far as threatening those levelling the accusations with disciplinary action. Not even the department's own Ministerial investigation failed to bring about accountability, and it was only after the Auditor-General's report that the Minister took the allegations somewhat seriously; the Minister still took a whole month to suspend the top echelon of the UIF, though they still enjoy full pay for no work to this day. We are yet to see the outcomes of the promised disciplinary actions that were to be taken against corrupt UIF officials.
- On top of UIF fraud that the Minister failed to reign in, the Minister also opted to exert even more economic pressure on an already dying industry – the restaurant and catering industry – by extending minimum wage agreements for the industry. To make matters

worse, the Minister decided to add to the woes of workers in two other industries as well - the agricultural and domestic service sectors – by implementing above-inflation double digit increases in the minimum wages in these sectors which are simply going to exacerbate the job losses caused by the pandemic and the lockdown. Instead of taking a reasonable approach to increases, Nxesi has endorsed an approach that is going to backfire and worsen the unemployment crisis.

- But if this were not enough, there are still thousands of individuals who have still not received a single cent of the TERS monies that they are entitled to. The Minister was more than happy to shift the blame to employers regarding TERS issues, even though he had ample opportunity to hand over the reins to competent officials at SARS to administer the payments. But it is doubtful the Minister and his department ever took these struggles of working-class South Africans seriously, considering the numerous instances of distraught claimants being met with closed doors and off-duty officials at Labour Centres across the country. The CCMA were also not exempt from complete chaos caused by ill-considered budget cuts.

<b>Health</b> (Zweli Mkhize)	<b>SCORE: E</b>
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- The purpose of lockdowns, especially the hard lockdowns was not to stop the spread of the virus, but rather slow the spread for a period of time, during which the Health Department can prepare its systems for when the cases do indeed spike. As much as Minister Mkhize sought to follow all the advice of his team of scientists and we appreciated the mammoth task ahead, unfortunately his Department was unable to implement such preparations, leaving hospitals without available beds, and with severe staff and medical equipment shortages.
- In Gqeberha, patients were fighting one another for oxygen and the Health Department in the Eastern Cape is on the verge of collapse. The province is already sitting at a total of R3.1 billion worth of lawsuits. Despite the severe medical staff shortages, many community service doctors are without jobs as they have not yet been placed into the system by government. Instead, the Department chose to import medical staff from Cuba at a cost of R239 million, just in salaries.
- Under the leadership of Mkhize, the Department has utterly failed in its communication strategy. It took months to get more detailed, area-specific Covid-19 data from the Department and they could not provide any clarity or set criteria for implementing lockdown measures. This lack of transparency failed the country with many experts lamenting government for insufficiently providing us with information.

- The most prominent failure of the department is, however, the failure to implement a real vaccination rollout, to this date. Starting with months of slow procurement negotiations. Indeed, there have been many unknowns regarding the state of the virus and its ability to mutate. But as it stands, we do not have a real vaccination rollout plan. We have been given the “extras” produced from the Johnson and Johnson trial. At the current rate of inoculations, South Africa will reach its herd immunity target in 10 years’ time. That means that a return to normality will take a decade, if not more.
- What the pandemic has highlighted even further the chronic plague of our government, and that is its inability to root out corruption. This time however, corruption having a direct impact on the health and lives of South Africans. We saw rampant PPE corruption take hold of the country, with citizens being on the losing end. Even Mkhize himself was drawn into nepotism and corruptions claims.
- The centralised procurement and distribution strategy during Covid-19 by government has proved to us that when all our eggs are in one basket, when government fails, we will all suffer. This brings to the forefront the question: How will the NHI be effectively rolled out when the vaccination program, which is a microcosm of the bigger NHI project, has failed so miserably?

<b>Higher Education, Science and Technology</b> (Blade Nzimande)	<b>SCORE: E</b>
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- In response to the first lockdown, the Department issued a tender for 730 000 laptops to be issued to 430 000 university students, and 300 000 TVET college students. The aim was to provide the tools of trade to disadvantaged students in order to prevent academic exclusion, a direct result of lockdown. The procurement processes were riddled with mismanagement resulting in its continued delays. Until today, they still do not have their laptops.
- The Department is experiencing student unrest as many are speaking out against academic and financial exclusion. The Department promised fee free education but has created a poorly managed institution along with an unsustainable funding model. Today, NSFAS is struggling to meet the demands of student fees, countering the consequences of its inefficiency by axing funding to crucial courses such as Bachelor of Education, Nursing, and all post-graduate studies. This is against the backdrop of the institution sitting with R7billion of irregular expenditure. If managed more efficiently, all student issues raised in the current protests could have been prevented.

- In response to these issues, the Minister seems to be unsympathetic to students stating that “student fee protests are like a soapie”. Instead of implementing practical solutions, he seeks to discredit students plights with patronizing comments like these.

<b>Home Affairs</b> (Aaron Motsoaledi)	<b>SCORE: E</b>
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- The absolute chaos witnessed at the Beitbridge border left thousands of migrants stranded with one fatality reported to have resulted from fatigue. The department was completely incapable of clearing this backlog. It was shocking to witness crowds of people stranded at the border with no access to ablution or sanitisation facilities. Instead of dealing effectively with the chaos at the border, the department chose instead to close the land borders in early January. In addition, immensely long lines and waiting times were experienced in Home affairs offices across South Africa in conditions where social distancing was nearly impossible.

<b>Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation</b> (Lindiwe Sisulu)	<b>SCORE: F</b>
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- South Africa has a human settlements, water and sanitation crisis on its hands. The Department tasked with fixing this has been embedded in so much corruption. Minister Sisulu told Parliament in early 2020 that in the wake of the pandemic, the extent of housing needs across South Africa is a priority. She presented her department’s plan for the relocation of informal settlements residents to transitional residential units (TRUs) in an attempt to curb the spread of Covid-19. Subsequently, a number of high profile scandals subsequently erupted:
  - The Temporary Residential Units (TRU’s) built at the Talana Hostels in Limpopo drew the ire of residents when the Premier arrived at the hand-over ceremony to find 40 units resembling tin shacks, built at a cost of more than R64 000 per unit.
  - In Gauteng, the deadline for 1000 TRU’s in Mamelodi was extended twice, and by November 2020 less than a quarter of units had been completed whilst not a single beneficiary had yet received keys.
  - Of the 1174 units announced for emergency delivery in Duncan Village in April last year, to date only 276 units have been completed. Furthermore, despite the multi-million price tag, like in the case of both the Mamelodi and Talana Hostels, the few TRU’s delivered in Duncan Village to date do not comply with the National Standards according to an assessment conducted by the NHBRC.
  - R600 Million allocated to the Residential Rent Relief Scheme. These funds were meant to be used to benefit all tenants occupying affordable rental housing in

both the subsidised and unsubsidised rental sectors. However, to date, none of these funds have been used.

- The Department announced that it is ending free housing projects by instructing provinces to put measures in place to immediately downscale the delivery of top structures (government houses). This means that the African National Congress (ANC) has unilaterally changed its housing policy as it can no longer afford to build houses for destitute South Africans.
- Water problems continue to plague communities, with the Minister highlighting South Africans' need to have access to water. The Minister in her own words called on all South Africans to "rally around the government's call to wash our hands frequently in order for us to defeat the scourge of Covid-19."
- The Minister's proposed solution has been to buy 18 875 water tanks at the cost of R99.9-million. It was also budgeted to cost a further R104-million to fill the tanks, and an additional R12.5-million for the implementing agents. However, the Minister's plan has failed to address water shortages in communities all over the country. The delivery of thousands of water tanks at a cost of millions to vulnerable communities is nothing but wasteful expenditure as these tanks are not filled regularly and consistently, therefore limiting vulnerable communities' access to water and failing to assist in preventing the spread of Covid-19.

<b>Police (Bheki Cele)</b>	<b>SCORE: F</b>
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- The South African Police Service (SAPS) was instrumental in ensuring law and order during the lockdowns, especially the hard lockdowns. Instead of doing their job within the bounds of the Constitution, SAPS, under the leadership of National Commissioner, General Khehla John Sitole, and Minister Cele, has failed dismally.
- From the get-go SAPS officers abused their powers and violated the rights of South Africans. 50 people have died allegedly as a result of police action and in police custody between the 26 March and 05 May 2020. In January this year, we saw two Worcester officers who were captured on camera assaulting civilians with a sjambok. And recently a SAPS officer shot and killed an innocent bystander during a protest at Wits.
- Minister Cele was encouraging heavy-handed policing by suggesting that SAPS "push" people home and said that SAPS must deal with criminals "harshly". He also made insensitive and ignorant comments about a SAPS officer who allegedly rapes his wife. He is to be blamed for the militarised actions At SAPS where it became more important to chase people off the beach than to fight crime in vulnerable communities.

- To make matter worse, the DNA case exhibit backlog has hit the 200 000 mark recently with National Forensic Science Laboratories (NFSL) being in complete shambles. This allows rapists and murders to walk free on streets with impunity. The tracking and tracing system has also been offline since last year and subsequently 8 million pieces of evidence are essentially “lost”.
- There is a clear leadership crisis at SAPS with Cele and Sitole openly blaming one another for the mess. With crimes such as murder and sexual offences being on the rise, we need a competent, professional police service, with a Minister and Commissioner that are above reproach. As rural communities are still waiting for the implementation of an effective plan to combat crime, and gang-stricken neighbourhoods fear for their lives every day, we reiterate our call on President Ramaphosa to immediately fire Minister Cele.

<b>Public Enterprises (Pravin Gordhan)</b>	<b>SCORE: E</b>
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- The DA presented Minister Gordhan with comprehensive input on SOEs and Covid 19 specific responses by way of our Blue Book recommendations – to no practical avail as the input, while acknowledged, was ignored.
- The minister is on record as saying that SOEs in general will be repurposed, redirected and reorganised to be an exemplary set of institutions. The reality is otherwise: this year, load-shedding remained a defining feature of South African - life, adding to the devastating effect of the Covid-19 pandemic and Minister Gordhan has committed to keeping the SAA business rescue process going in clear opposition of business and economic fundamentals. Unlike privately owned airlines that, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, are up and running and in some cases expanding their operations, SAA remains firmly on the ground and only undertaking unsafe taxpayer-funded vanity flights to fetch small quantities of vaccines. Other SOEs, face bankruptcy and crumbling infrastructure.
- Minister Gordhan additionally, failed to show leadership in addressing the chaos at South African ports caused by Covid-19 restrictions. Western Cape MEC for Finance, David Maynier, had to write to his office and request that he provides resources to resolve operational challenges at the port of Cape Town. Vessels were waiting at the port for weeks at a time before getting an opportunity to berth. Shipping lines were either cancelling their calls to Cape Town or were imposing a Cape Town congestion surcharge. This was as a result of Transnet suspending the usual berthing windows at ports.
- The public enterprises portfolio is capable of playing an important role in driving the country’s economic growth but Minister Gordhan’s insistence on statist command and control measures continues to fuel chronic inefficiency and state capture – to the

detriment of our already hobbled economy. Poverty, not prosperity seems to be the order of the day.

<b>Small Business Development (Khumbudzo Ntshavheni)</b>	<b>SCORE: D</b>
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- Minister Ntshaveni simply failed to assist small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) during the toughest economic times that modern-day South Africa has ever faced. Early on in the pandemic, the Minister was called out by the DA for her failure to provide economic relief assistance for spaza shops, informal traders, and the self-employed.
- Women, who are still facing marginalisation in many respects in society and the economy, were indirectly discriminated against through the prohibition on yoga and Pilates studios and other similar institutions which are majority female-owned. Even worse than that, her Department also employed outright racist criteria in the context of distributing disaster relief funds to SMMEs, showing flagrant disregard for one of the constitutionally enshrined principles of our democracy: non-racialism.
- An extremely small proportion of relief funds allocated to SMMEs were paid out, with the relief program being nothing more than an eventual failure. In South Africa, when SOEs require billions in handouts, it is simply dished out, but when small businesses need it, Cabinet members like Minister Ntshaveni fail to fight the good fight on their behalf.
- The pandemic was the opportune time for the Minister to show true grit and pass the necessary reforms to improve the ease of doing business in South Africa; we have been falling down the global rankings with respect to this very important metric of economic health. Overall, the Minister's support to SMMEs in general was sluggish at best, encompassing racist policies, indirect discrimination on the grounds of sex, and an overall failure to support small businesses.

<b>Social Development (Lindiwe Zulu)</b>	<b>SCORE: F</b>
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- When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, South Africans were concerned about what would happen to our country's most vulnerable people. Minister Lindiwe Zulu promised that people that food parcels would be distributed, and social grants would be paid. More than R40-million was allocated for the provision of emergency food parcels to households. But people all over the country complained they had never seen the food parcels promised to them. Some said these were stolen.



- Instead of investigating the looting and supporting efforts to feed the poor, the Minister thought it wise to block food distribution by NGOs that have been doing this work for years, with her now-infamous draft regulations. Without the necessary court action brought by the DA, these regulations would have caused hunger and malnutrition and, accordingly, Minister Zulu deserves censure for actively harming the lives of South Africans.
- Then there was the challenge with the Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres that due to a lack of guidance and communication forced numerous EDCD centres to close their doors.
- In mid-2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the R350 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant, which provides some much-needed short term relief to the most vulnerable and distressed people of South Africa against the devastating socio-economic effects of the pandemic. However, the Minister and the Department have failed, due to its inability to plan, to ensure that thousands of South Africa's most vulnerable citizens received the necessary relief.
- The most vulnerable of South Africa where required to sleep and queue outside SASSA Offices with risk of possibility getting Covid-19 and being subjected the inhumane treatment. One only has to remember images and videos of the police using water cannons to enforce social distancing measures outside the SASSA Bellville Office. Minister Zulu, then decided to address these applicants from a police Casspir, once again proving how out of touch she is.

<b>Sport, Arts and Culture</b> (Nathi Mthethwa)	<b>SCORE: E</b>
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- The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on the sports and arts fraternities. In attempt to assist artists and athletes to alleviate the calamitous impact of the Covid-19 lockdown on their livelihood, the Department introduced the Arts and Sports Sector Relief Fund. The Fund application process have been marred by controversy. Numerous athletes and artists who have successfully applied for relief funding but are yet to receive any payments from the Department.
- Minister Mthethwa and the National Art Council's (NAC) came under fire for its mismanagement of its R300 million fund which has been allocated to benefit artists. The NAC and the Minister are yet to engage with artists who staged a sit-in at the NAC offices in Johannesburg. The Minister's recent tweets, lack of political will and his poor handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in the industry shows he knows next to nothing about the sector and has done nothing in the past year to remedy the situation. Minister Mthethwa

has again proven himself the “minister of condolences and congratulations”. Unfortunately, there is nothing to congratulate in his Department.

<b>Transport (Fikile Mbalula)</b>	<b>SCORE: E</b>
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- With many sectors in South Africa, the national lockdown had a negative effect on the transport industry. The Department had to manage the burning of trucks by protesters who were against the employment of foreign truck drivers. Mbalula struggled to contain the chaos leading to millions of damage costs. In addition to being attacked, during level 3 lockdown truck drivers, who were at the forefront of delivering medical and essential goods across the country, were denied a hot meal due to ridiculous item bans. The bus industry also took a knock, which led to the closure of decade-run bus services such as Greyhound. The Department was unable to assist a company like Greyhound to keep its doors open, which is a major loss to the economy.
- Due to covid, the department operated with limited capacity leading to massive backlogs and long queues with regards to vehicle registrations. Despite this, ordinary vehicle registration licenses were not extended resulting in 1 million unregistered vehicles. The minister showed limited political will to implement an immediate solution. Lockdown has also led to millions worth of damages to rail infrastructure. Security contracts lapsed, leaving the railway vulnerable to cable theft and vandalism.

<b>Trade and Industry (Ebrahim Patel)</b>	<b>SCORE: F</b>
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- Minister Patel abused his powers and instated arbitrary and frivolous regulations that costed us dearly. Trade and industry are prerequisites of a functioning economy, and in the face of a global pandemic and an overzealous state hell-bent on barring hard-working people from earning a living, one would expect the Minister charged with protecting the economic freedoms of all who live in South Africa to rise to the challenge and fulfil his mandate.
- Alas, the Minister instead opted to engage in the epitome of frivolity by banning the sale of flip-flops and roast chicken, amongst other things. He also opted to endorse Minister Dlamini-Zuma’s irrational bans on alcohol and tobacco products.
- Whilst it was indeed entirely possible for the Minister to put in place reasonable regulations that merely limited the negative externalities associated with excessive alcohol consumption, he instead chose to place an outright ban on alcohol sales which

cost the economy, and the fiscus which was in dire need of billions to expand healthcare capacity, billions, coupled with thousands of job losses and shattered livelihoods.

- One also cannot evaluate the Minister’s performance during the pandemic without mentioning the entirely nonsensical and unconstitutional ban placed on the sale of tobacco products. Whilst Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma got the most pushback for it as she took point in implementing the lockdown regulations, Minister Patel must be condemned and held accountable for an action that punished an innocent industry based on dubious scientific evidence at best. Billions lost to companies, livelihoods gone, and a thriving black market effectively subsidised by the state were the results.
- Even “non-sinful” economic activity was not spared the Minister’s statist rod. E-commerce – arguably the safest, most socially distanced form of peaceful economic interaction reasonably possible under the circumstances – was simply prohibited. Whilst e-commerce entities such as Amazon experienced tremendous booms in foreign countries such as the U.S., allowing them to at least save those jobs that could be saved, domestic e-commerce entities such as Takealot were made to suffer for no apparent reason other than Minister Patel’s pure authoritarian tendencies.

<b>Tourism</b> (Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane)	<b>SCORE: F</b>
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- In March last year, the Department announced that its Tourism Relief Fund would be subject to race based criteria, with at least 70% of the beneficiaries required to be black. The fund was meant to be for all South Africans irrespective of race, making it shameful for the Department to discriminate on race in the allocation of relief funding.
- The Department, furthermore, dragged its feet in re-opening the tourism sector, with regulations still remaining in place until August prohibiting accommodation establishments to open for leisure travel. The government also stalled in refusing to provide firm dates on when international travel would be re-opened until as late as September 2020. These actions served no purpose other than to destroy the tourism sector and result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs.
- In October, the government released a red-list which banned a number of countries from travelling to South Africa. The data used to determine which countries are placed on this list were not revealed, with the list appearing to have been determined unscientifically, and tourists from some of South Africa’s biggest markets were banned from entry. This further decimated the local tourism industry after it had already been battered by the initial lockdown.

- The draconian and nonsensical closing of beaches during the December festive season, extended well into January. This cost thousands of jobs in coastal tourist cities, where mass cancellations were made by travellers who no longer saw the value of visiting ocean based accommodation. Most egregious, was the different treatment that KZN received to the Garden Route in the Western Cape. KZN beaches were closed for only the busiest days during the holiday period, while the Garden Route was subjected to a blanket ban that lasted over a month. This appeared to be driven by purely political motives.

<b>Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities</b> (Maite Nkoana-Mashabane)	<b>SCORE: F</b>
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- South Africa is one of the worst places to live in as a woman. The crimes against women and the major prevalence of gender-based violence in the country is viewed as one of the major pandemics currently being faced. The rise of covid has undoubtedly exacerbated the issues faced by women, with many needing to be in lockdown, in direct contact with their abusers for long periods of time.
- With regards to our country's youth, the NYDA continues to provide inadequate funding and skills development for young people in rural areas. The entity continues to be used for cadre deployment and fails to provide widespread delivery to all young people regardless of political affiliation. It seems that the Department shifts responsibility with addressing the issues faced by people with disabilities to the NGO sector. Unfortunately, the sector is not capacitated resulting in suffering that could have been prevented. Lastly, the rights of persons with disabilities bill have been delayed.