

'Step aside' is just empty rhetoric at DIRCO

By **Mergan Chetty MP** - DA Shadow o Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

Minister Pandor, your statement during your recent interview with ENCA, *"All corrupt ANC officials must go to jail."*

Two discrepancies caught my eye.

Firstly, what about the corrupt ANC politicians? Surely, shouldn't they also go to jail as well?

And secondly, allow me to correct you. It's not *"that President Ramaphosa is trying to address the 'absence of ethics and integrity' in the country"* but the 'absence of ethics and integrity' within the ANC.

Also, you further stated that *"the President is resolute in his intention to address malfeasance prevalent in our country"*. Again, it's not to address malfeasance prevalent in our country but in the ANC.

This corruption and corrupt officials, you speak about, is not a South African problem, it's an ANC problem.

Minister Pandor, talk is cheap.

You had failed to take action when the behaviour, tantamount to insubordination of the currently suspended DIRCO CFO, Ciaphius Ramashua, was reported to you in 2019 after his inappropriate behaviour, where he seemingly lied to the portfolio committee and dismissed staff members before they could appear before the committee.

It was only after the DA had placed pressure on you, you succumbed and suspended the CFO, two months ago.

Also, after continued pressure from the DA, regarding the highly controversial R118m New York Pilot Project, you have suspended other senior officials.

And to date Minister, no one has been charged in your department for this fruitless and wasteful expenditure. Oh yes, and we all know the outcome of your New York Pilot Project case which just seemed to be a whitewash and a smokescreen to fool the South African public that you are serious about corruption.

Clearly Minister, you are not stepping aside, but side stepping the issue.

Furthermore, the DA is now vindicated in our call that the appointment of ambassadors should be the responsibility of Parliament and not the President.

The Zondo commission has exposed the flaws and concerns raised by the DA, as the President uses this power to dispense political patronage and/ or retirement packages for embarrassed or disgraced comrades.

Specific mention was made of the ambassadorship appointment of disgraced Bruce Khalone, who immediately after the internationally embarrassing Guptas waterfall shenanigans, he was appointed as an Ambassador to Denmark.

Once again Minister, you failed to act, and act decisively when the portfolio committee recommended in its report adopted by this

Parliament to suspend Ambassador Jerry Matjila, for his misconduct, who incidentally was also appointed as an Ambassador to New York, immediately after the R118m New York Pilot Project debacle in 2016.

Yet another act of dispensing political patronage.

Clearly there may be some truth in the Zondo commissions allegations that ambassadors donate a portion of their salaries to the ANC, not as a donation, as implied by the President during his grovelling session at the Zondo commission, but as a payback to the ANC for this lucrative deployment.

The law abiding South African citizens are sick and tired of your corrupt ANC and the abuse by senior politicians and officials who through the ANC's cadre deployment committee, have plundered the coffers of our country. Minister, this time around, not even your fancy Queens English, will be able to allow you to spin the corrupt antics of your corrupt ANC from deceiving the South African public and the international world anymore.

And at the polls on the 27 October 2021, the South African public will punish your ANC at the ballot boxes and vote to Save South Africa from the corrupt ANC

Thank You.