

## **President stuck with moribund party committed to failed ideologies**

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***Note to Editors:** The following speech will be delivered today during Parliament's debate on the State of the Nation address and is under embargo until delivery.*

Madame Speaker,

The President made a bold statement this year was when he stated, and repeated, that the role of government is not to create jobs, but to create an enabling environment for business to create jobs.

Unfortunately, this statement was met with derision and even disagreement from the extremists in his own party – some of them took to online platforms and the press to indicate their disconnect with reality. They've even used their friend at independent newspapers to slam the president. Which shows that no bad PIC loan goes unpunished. Even in this debate, some ANC speakers have contradicted the president on economic policy already.

Some of these individuals in his own party call themselves the Radical Economic Transformation grouping – but there is nothing radical about what they propose. These RET policies have demonstrable outcomes: one needs to look no further than the Estina Dairy Farm to see what this lot have planned. There are two volumes of a judicial enquiry into state capture that shows us exactly what the consequences of these RET policies are.

So, when the president told us in his address that there was a criminal syndicate that had infiltrated the state to engage in state capture, he neglected to mention that they all had ANC membership, and that this network included the his predecessor. He deliberately didn't mention that there were two key ANC policies that enabled of state capture: BEE and Cadre Deployment. BEE is an innocuous sounding policy – but its real intention is to enrich ANC members using government contracts – and when criminals seize control of power and leadership in the ANC, they seize control of these contracts and give it to their networks. They used cadre deployment to ensure that they put criminal ANC members into posts to award tenders and direct them to award tenders to their crony and criminal networks. They cycle of corruption and state capture is doomed to repeat until BEE and Cadre Deployment is scrapped. There are lots of ways to empower poor South Africans, but ANC policies only enrich ANC politicians and their criminal friends, leaving everyone else to struggle.

And this is what the RET faction and their masters in red want. They hide behind a figleaf of so-called radical economic policies. But the truth is, these policies are not radical – they are old, outmoded and deeply conservative. They have been tried in the 1960's across the world. They have been discarded by state after state. They have been rejected by electorates the world over after increasing poverty and misery. But in South Africa, we are being told these old, conservative socialist policies are 'radical.' A misnomer if ever there was one.

The president wanted to send a clear message to markets to shore up economic confidence, to investors to shore up capital investment, and to his own party that its time they turned the chapter on ideas that collapsed with the Berlin Wall.

It is unfortunate, then, that the President contradicted his commitment to reform by expressing his commitment to ideas that should have died with the Berlin Wall.

The first of these conservative, outdated and failed policies was extremist protectionism – which is termed localization – and was given excessive airtime by the president. It is backed by a trade and industry minister who is more concerned with defending a failed ideology than rebuilding the South African economy and helping the poor find jobs.

The second of these dangerous RET ideas is the National Health Insurance – an unaffordable, economically nonsensical monstrosity that will only destroy the few centres of excellence we have in healthcare without improving any healthcare for the poor. One just needs to look at the total failure of the NHI Health Facility Revitalization Grant to see what awaits us.

That being said, many proposals by the president are in line with reform, but the reality is that the President has lost control of his cabinet.

He cannot dismiss cabinet members who attack the judiciary, he cannot dismiss cabinet members who failed to co-ordinate and respond to the July riots, and he cannot dismiss ministers who fail to gazette or contradict his energy reform proposals.

For reform and an enabling environment for business to thrive – you need world class infrastructure. How can that be achieved with a Minister of Public Works that builds a washing line for a border fence?

For businesses to hire people, we need clear, simple and flexible labour laws. How can that be achieved with a Minister of Labour who told us that a swimming pool is a fire pool?

For the woman of our country to feel safe from harm, we need to have a strong, resourced and empathetic police force. How can that be achieved with a minister of police who said, and I quote, that ‘most woman don’t die on the first attempt of ‘GBV.’

The President is stuck with a moribund party committed to failed ideologies, and we live in a country that is fast moving on from the ANC. If the President does not seize control of his cabinet of crooks and charlatans and show some leadership, if he does not drop the RET policy proposals, and if he does not find his courage to give meaning to his commitment that ‘government creates an enabling environment, and business creates jobs,’ then the voters of this country will close the chapter on ANC government, thank them for their service, and move on in 2024.