

Parliament: The no good, the bad and the ugly

By Natasha Mazzone MP – Chief Whip of the Official Opposition

I have had the honour of serving in this house since 2009. Many of my so-called honourable colleagues filling the benches here today have been found unfit to hold office. They should be facing criminal charges, as indicated by Judge Zondo.

This is what is wrong not only with Parliament, but with South Africa as a whole.

There have been rare occasions where Parliament found its teeth. One such instance was the enquiry into State Capture at Eskom, where corruption on a massive scale was uncovered.

What did the ANC do? Instead of rewarding sterling leadership, bravery and patriotism, the Enquiry Chairperson saw out what little was left of her term and she was summarily replaced.

I am here today as a representative of all South Africans. I will say what many wish they could tell today: The Cabinet is made up of criminals and people who are completely unfit to govern our country.

People are sick and tired of an ANC government that always places them last. They are getting poorer by the day, with unemployment figures rising steadily. More and more people are subjected to violence and unspeakable crimes, while Ministers are protected by VIP security that cost taxpayers millions.

South Africans have had more than they can handle.

This is a bad government, governed by bad people.

Parliament went up in smoke and if the official opposition does not do something drastic like we are doing today, this whole country will go up in smoke.

All these Ministers seem able to do is line their own pockets with money that should be used to deliver services to our people.

I am not afraid to say it as it is. Every single Cabinet Minister is an absolute disgrace and they should be stripped of their posts and replaced by people who can do the job. We are run by a mafia-like syndicate and the DA will not allow this to carry on.

The jig is up. Judge Zondo himself said, and I quote *“one of the defining features that has emerged in the evidence before the commission is that in order to covert public funds for private benefit, it was necessary to populate key institutions with people who were going to comply with orders”*.

Our buildings may be destroyed but we are stronger in our resolve than ever. South Africa must always come first, and we, the DA, will stop at nothing to protect our Constitution and restore South Africa to the shining rainbow nation we were promised in 1994.

This Cabinet must go, and they must go now. Today we vote for the future of our country and long may our freedom and prosperity last.