

ANC government does not care for the freedom of the people

By Jacques Julius – DA Member of Parliament

In the William Shakespeare play, Hamlet, when soon after his father's death, his mother got married to his brother, Hamlet lashed out against his mother, saying, *"As if an increase of Appetite had grown by what it fed on"*.

Madam Speaker, this increase of appetite is exactly what happened in South Africa soon after the death of the evil Apartheid era. BEE and other empowerment deals meant to be distributed equitably was hijacked by powerful politicians, taking millions upon millions of rand in mining, banking and various other business deals. Politicians took for themselves and left the crumbs for the people to feed on.

Madam Speaker, we don't have to go very far. Just look at President Ramaphosa for instance. Soon after the new government came into power, he himself took millions in empowerment deals for himself and his cronies. The appetite has grown by what it fed on. How equitable was these deals and what does it say about our democracy?

The President and many other ministers and ex-ministers are now millionaires and billionaires and the people are still suffering today. Politicians from the ANC and their families live in opulence and the people are left with nothing. Poor education, unemployment, poverty, and widening inequality is the order of the day.

Madam Speaker, there is nothing wrong with empowerment deals, but was it done equitably and fairly? I doubt it.

What made matters worse is that this trend of greed and unfairness has not changed. In fact, it has gotten worse. The increase of appetite has grown by what it fed on. The need to become millionaires and billionaires filtered down to most politicians in all spheres of government. They all want to billions from dealings – whether corrupt or unfair, they don't care. Just like President Ramaphosa and his friends.

Nelson Mandela said, *"Real leaders must be ready to sacrifice all for the freedom of their people."*

Can we really say that the billionaire and millionaire leaders of today live for the freedom of their people? Have our democratic gains created a more equal society? Certainly not.

The only way to rid our government from this increasing appetite for self-enrichment that has grown by what it fed on is to get rid of the ANC in government.

I thank you.