

Ramaphosa – Just like Zuma – hates to be held accountable

By **Joe McGluwa MP** – DA Shadow Deputy Minister in the Presidency

Over the last decade, it has become increasingly difficult listening to government departments presenting their strategic plans, their annual performance plans, and budget allocations.

A case in point is this budget vote debate dealing with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) as well as that of Brand South Africa.

On 11 February 1990, South Africa was witnessing the release of the late President Nelson Mandela.

In 1994, when this ANC came into power, South Africa boasted with some of the finest infrastructure on the African continent. We had good roads, functional railways, and excellent schools and could maintain law and order. It was a foundation to build on.

Today, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation should play a vital role in terms of planning, annual performance, strategic monitoring and evaluation, also to assess the impact of policy priorities in relation to actual service delivery programs including various frontline monitoring programmes. But it does not.

The DPME's overall budget allocation for the years 2022/23 increased by 17.84% and will receive R470.9 million.

The budget increase is due to the appointment of a second Deputy Minister by President Ramaphosa. The President may have exercised his executive authority, but for many South Africans the beautiful words and nice promises of this ANC means nothing.

Sadly, we do not have a government anymore. A fish rots from its head. Following the developments in the Presidency and the role of DPME, clearly this department has become bankrupt and incoherent.

The ANC may sing like an angel, walk like an angel and talk like an angel but we got wise, Chairperson, behind the empty promises is a buffalo in disguise. We don't have to look any further than Cuba.

The Department's Program 4, which relates to Public Sector Monitoring and Capacity Development, aims to monitor and improve the capacity of state institutions with particular references to ministerial performance, performance of Head of Departments and a development system, including the monitoring of Covid-19 where crime has paid off so well for ANC comrades.

The Covid-19 corruption scandal has hit the R5 billion mark and while I am speaking, some are still cashing in.

President Ramaphosa's spokesperson, Khusela Diko, has swindled the public purse with PPE linked corruption under his nose. She was found guilty failing to disclose her interests and served with a written warning. What was DPME's role in this?

There are numerous allegations of those having a hand in killing Babita Deokaran, a key witness into more than R300 million spent on personal protective equipment by the Gauteng Health Department.

The DPME's role in monitoring national and provincial government departments, including Covid-19 programs, has failed the people of South Africa dismally. South Africans are now in desperate need for a vaccine to cure corruption.

The DPME announced with fanfare that the Department has develop a monitoring framework to ensure that all recommendations of the Zondo Commission report and its recommendations be directed to government departments and to ensure that it be implemented to close down existing gaps that facilitate corruption and abuse of power either in policy or implementation.

With the ongoing factionalism, the Guptagate, the travelgate scam, the Bosasa gravy train, the status of State Owned Enterprises, the absence without leave (AWOL) tendencies of the Deputy President – indeed an anatomy of scandals – it is hard to believe that even today, the tigers of this world still sing "Thuma Mina".

The Committee raised concerned about poor workmanship in government construction projects during floods in KwaZulu-Natal where newly built bridges collapsed.

Priority 1 and 6 of the DPME's Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) objectives is to address a capable, ethical and developmental state, ensure social cohesion and ensure safety of communities respectively. Instead, what features is the looting in KZN, the problems in Home Affairs, xenophobic violence, Digital Vibes, the North West departments under section 100 intervention, and people who beat the system.

But the list does not end here.

Then there is Brand South Africa.

It has no footprint amongst South Africans. Cabinet resolutions to rationalise similar entities should be applauded.

It is no surprise that the Brand SA Board of Trustees are opposing the merger between themselves and Tourism. The mission and vision statement of Brand SA bears no major difference than the mandate of Tourism. Instead, the tale is now wagging the dog.

President Ramaphosa and Mr Zuma have something in common when it comes to the Presidency – their love for Cuba the lack oversight committee and they both hate to be held accountable.

Minister Gungubele, your predecessor, Mr Trevor Manuel, has criticised the ANC and resigned. Former President Motlanthe has predicted the end of the ruling party.

Minister, your government is about to implode.

Merry Christmas, Mr Gungubele.