

Thieving ANC the cause of municipal collapse

Speech by Dennis Ryder MP, DA NCOP spokesperson on Finance and Appropriation

Honourable President,
Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members, and
Fellow South Africans good day.

Mr President,

How dare you stand up here and coldly quote statistics of failed municipalities as if you were a victim of this failure of government.

You, Sir spent 4 years as the Deputy President, The Leader of Government business. And today marks the 5th anniversary of your tenure as President. That's 9 years that you have had to fix the state of local government. Your very own 9 wasted years!

It was you that appointed Minister Nkosasana Dlamini Zuma as the Minister in the COGTA role. She has failed municipalities dismally, but more importantly she has failed residents. This is demonstrated not only in the implosion of municipalities, but also by her Department's own evaluation, having not achieved almost half of the agreed Departmental outcomes.

Mr President I am pleased that you have not mentioned the District Development model in this year's SONA speech. I trust that you have realised that this project was dead before it even began.

But Mr President the line that you spoke last week about enhancing capacity amongst officials was almost a copy and paste from your speech of 2021. In fact, a look back sees the same promises being made in the NDP when it was launched in 2013, and regularly repeated since. But on the ground sir, dololo.

Also in last week's speech you promised that interventions from National Government would take place where municipalities fail in their responsibilities. This too should not be new. The Constitution makes it an imperative, especially in cases such as the Emfuleni Local Municipality where the Provincial efforts have failed. 5 years of Provincial administration and the experience of people living there has become dramatically worse, not better.

But while speaking of the failed Emfuleni Local Municipality, one just has to look next door at Midvaal, which announced their 9th consecutive clean audit earlier this month. Service

delivery, while under pressure as the population grows due to people seeking a better quality of life, continues. This is simply because of good governance, a term poorly understood and perhaps better described as the DA difference.

But the Midvaal story is not alone. Instead of comparing two different municipalities, let's rather compare the DA led uMngeni municipality with itself when it was, until recently, under ANC government.

The stark contrast is understood after a brief discussion with the people of Mphophomeni who are receiving fair services for the first time ever - smashing the myth that the DA only services wealthy suburbs and raising the standard of living across all racial and economic groups. And doing this while also paying off the municipality's ANC incurred debts.

The residents of South Africa are voting with their feet, and migrating in their numbers to Democratic Alliance led Municipalities and to the DA led Western Cape Province.

Yes, it takes time to turn a big Metro around after years of ANC misrule, mismanagement and misappropriation. Especially with the underqualified and over-politicised cadres deployed in municipalities. Yes, coalitions are hard to manage, especially in minority governments. But overall if you live in a DA led municipality you can rest assured that the funds entrusted to the municipality are being well spent on service delivery focussed agendas.

While the model of Local Government in South Africa does need some changing, the model is not the cause of the collapse. The thieving ANC is the cause of the collapse.

Mr President I am sure I don't need to remind you that you are not only the President of our country, but you are also the President of the ANC. In fact you have made it plain to South Africans on numerous occasions that you disappointingly value your ANC presidency above that of South Africa.

How can you have allowed there to be 2 ANC mayors in the Ditsobotla Municipality for almost 2 years? How embarrassing and ridiculous to have an ANC mayor from each of the 2 biggest factions within your organisation..... and your minister did nothing. And you did nothing, neither as President of South Africa and not even as President of the ANC.

Mr President it is way past time for a decisive shuffle. The media is full of stories claiming that Minister Dlamini-Zuma will remain in the failed COGTA portfolio in spite of her proven ineptitude, perhaps ensuring that cigarettes and alcohol are banned because they may lead to increased electricity usage under your version of a State of Disaster. The fact is Mr President that any cabinet shuffle will still leave us with the same rotten ANC members that we already have.

The best of the ANC is substantially worse than the worst of the DA. This country does not need a cabinet shuffle, it needs a government shuffle.

Woza 2024. Woza true Freedom for the people of South Africa.