

The DA is winning the war against ANC cadre deployment corruption

Speech by Dr Leon Schreiber MP, DA Shadow Minister for Public Service and Administration

Honourable Speaker,

As has become routine, the former chairman of the ANC cadre deployment committee offered us a series of platitudes about building a capable state at the State of the Nation Address.

And, also as usual, he entirely avoided the most important cause of the collapse of the South African state, namely the corrupt ANC cadre deployment committee that he led during the height of the Zuma administration.

Over the past four years, the DA has run a laser-focused campaign against cadre deployment corruption.

We have warned the President, time and time again, that we would not rest until cadre deployment is abolished.

By giving the ANC unconstitutional powers to interfere in appointment processes, this system leads directly to the appointment of incompetent and corrupt individuals in government departments and state-owned enterprises.

Behind the collapse of every public service – from load-shedding to policing to railways – you will find an ANC cadre who should never have been appointed in the first place.

But our warnings fell on deaf ears.

The more the DA intensified our campaign against cadre deployment, the more vigorously President Ramaphosa and others in the ANC defended it. And then he has the temerity to stand on this stage and talk about building a capable state.

Don't you get it, Mr President? Not one person in this country believes that you are serious about fighting corruption when you never miss a chance to defend the cause of corruption: ANC cadre deployment.

But while the ANC clearly won't listen to reason, the rest of South Africa has taken note of the DA's work to expose and combat this evil system.

Today, the vast majority of South Africans stand united behind the DA on this issue.

To demonstrate this, allow me to read a few short quotes, and then perhaps the President can guess where they come from. Here we go, and I quote:

“When the ANC insists that officials should consider its Deployment Committee’s recommendations in making certain appointments in the public service or parastatals, it requires them to take into account something that is not provided for in the law that governs those appointments and, therefore, requires them to act unlawfully.”

Do you know who said this, Mr President?

The answer is Chief Justice Raymond Zondo.

Let’s do another one. Quote:

“Deployments may detract from the objectivity of the person so employed who has to ‘work’ on behalf of the ANC.”

Where does this one come from, Mr President?

From a ruling in the High Court granting the DA access to deployment committee records from your time as cadre chairman.

Let’s do one more. Quote:

“Recruitment and selection practices based on deployment have gained notoriety which has spawned cynicism. Some even questioned their constitutionality related to the principles of equality, and they may have a point...Deployment practices ought to be ditched in favour of a merit-based recruitment and selection system.”

Can you identify the source for this one?

It is a recommendation from the group of experts who drafted the Framework for the Professionalisation of the Public Sector, on the instruction of the Cabinet you lead.

So if judge Zondo, the courts, experts in your own government and millions of ordinary South Africans all agree with the DA that cadre deployment must end, why are you still so desperately defending it?

There can only be one answer to this question. Because you fundamentally support it.

It is for this reason that years of hollow talk on fighting corruption, state capture and incompetence have yielded exactly zero fruits.

It also explains why this government is ignoring the State Capture Commission's finding that cadre deployment is unlawful.

In fact, the hypocrisy of the President lauding the work of Judge Zondo during SONA, while knowing full-well that his government has not – and does not intend to – implement the findings of the State Capture Report, is shameful.

And so, it has fallen to the DA to lead South Africa across the Rubicon on this issue.

That is exactly what we are doing.

With every passing day, we move closer to winning the war against cadre deployment.

The State Capture Commission confirmed that our war is both a morally and a legally just one.

The deployment committee minutes from 2018 to 2021 that we exposed horrified the people of this country, as they showed how the ANC deployment committee even interferes with appointments to the judiciary, including the highest court in the land.

Our Private Member's Bill in Parliament to End Cadre Deployment has won support from across civil society.

We have won our court challenge to force the ANC to make public full records of the deployment committee from the period when President Ramaphosa chaired it, and we will defeat the ANC's desperate appeal of this ruling.

By the way, Mr President: I would say that you can mail me the documents once we win this case, but of course you have destroyed the Post Office. So I guess we'll have to rely on the private sector for a solution.

And finally, the DA's campaign will reach culminate when we win our court case to declare ANC cadre deployment corruption unconstitutional and unlawful.

When all of this is over, history will record the former cadre deployment chairman's personal complicity in the corrupt appointments that ruined our public sector.

And as the people of South Africa follow the DA across the Rubicon away from the era of ANC corruption and into a new era of DA engineered good governance, Mr Ramaphosa will be left standing alone on the wrong shore of history.

Thank you.