

The ANC has no interest in holding Eskom criminals to account

Speech by **Ashor Sarupen MP, DA Shadow Deputy Minister of Finance**

Madame Speaker,

The debate today was incredibly disappointing, but not surprising. Over the last decade we have seen, when it comes to corruption and accountability – scapegoating, obfuscation, blame-shifting and denial. It was the norm under President Zuma, and the ANC brought out the same playbook today.

The revelations around the Eskom, both in the Zondo Commission and again recently by former CEO Andre De Ruyter, point to a dire need for parliament to step up and fulfill its role to conduct oversight on the executive.

Parliament has a duty, when allegations of cartels linked to senior politicians are made, to probe this matter deeply. To summon documentation, to examine the evidence, to hold members of the executive to account, and to make findings accordingly.

But this does not suit the ANC. The ANC has systematically neutered Parliament and created an imperial executive – and it is only with an unaccountable imperial executive, that cartels in coal mining linked to politicians can arise, without a single prosecution or any accountability to show for it.

The ANC spent most of this debate being hypocrites – saying that Mr De Ruyter should have reported the matter to the police. This is ironic – the president took two years to report the theft of money from his couch. In any event, Mr De Ruyter clearly stated that, under obligation by law, reported his findings to his superiors in the ministries.

It seems that ministers have selective amnesia as to what was reported to them from Eskom over the last three years, and that the intelligence gathering was not taken further precisely because the gathering of evidence would implicate members of the executive.

The truth is that Hitachi Power Africa was fined in foreign jurisdictions for its collusion with Chancellor House. The seeds of mass scale corruption at Eskom, underpinned by a dubious relationship with the majority party, was sewn in 2008 when loadshedding began and cadres saw an opportunity to loot at a scale never seen before.

The consequence of this is that Eskom's massive debt burden, used to fund corruption and cronyism, is now being foisted onto the taxpayers.

By rejecting an ad-hoc committee today, the ANC has shown that they are not interested in learning lessons from the Zuma era. The ANC has shown that they are not interested in heeding the lessons of the Zondo Report. The ANC has demonstrated today that they are not interested in holding their own people to account.

This is why public polling shows the ANC is on its electoral knees and dying. Its death can't come soon enough, and once you are out of government, we will be happy to institute all the investigations required to find out who has destroyed energy generation in South Africa – and at that point, there will be a reckoning.