



CIC JULIUS MALEMA DEBATE - PRESIDENCY BUDGET VOTE 1

Wednesday, 02 June 2021

We were asking ourselves this morning whether we should participate in this debate or not because the person who was coming to present the budget vote lacks inspiration, speaks like a tired fellow who doesn't believe in anything he says. And to demonstrate that he doesn't believe in anything he says because everything he has says did not happen.

Yesterday, Statistician General released the latest quarterly labour force survey. The picture points to the dire state of affairs, a crisis that you have created. South Africa's real unemployment at more than 42% and at close to 50% for black people is at the worst levels of unemployment ever. When you took over in 2018 you said that at the centre of your national agenda is creating jobs, especially for the youth. We now know that this was baseless, superficial and ill-advised ambition. When you took over, 16.3 million people were employed, today 15 million people are employed – meaning more than 1.3 million people lost their jobs, unable to feed their families, put a roof over their heads, or live as active members of society.

Since you took over, the number of unemployed people increased from 6.1 million people to 7.2 million. You didn't make any progress. The number of discouraged workers remain at 2.9 million, and the number of people who are not in education, training, or employment. Many of this are young people who just loiter the streets, find refuge in drugs, drug abuse and crime because they do not have anything to do.

You are responsible for all this crisis. But knowing you, having left our people and families in Marikana, you would not be ashamed of these statistics because you took breadwinners in Marikana, and now you have taken jobs from breadwinners who are feeding a lot of our people.

Another issue that you paraded when you got elected is the land question. When you took over you said “ guided by the resolution of the 54th National conference of the governing party, this approach will include the expropriation of land without compensation, now we are at the

end-tail of the parliament process to finalize amendments of section 25 of the constitution to allow of land expropriation without compensation”.

Your MPs in the committees are zig-zagging and cannot make explicit submissions that speak to what you said when you took over. We told you to be honest that you never believed in the expropriation of land without compensation. We told you that you are bluffing on the land question, we told you that you will mess up the process because you are not convinced about taking back the land from colonial settlers.

As the EFF, we have made our submission – we want the constitution to acknowledge that land, like mineral resources and water, is a natural resource and the common heritage belonging to all our people.

We must expropriate all land and place it under the custodianship of the democratic state.

Custodianship is not the same as nationalization. When we talk about nationalization, the state takes control of whatever assets, and the state uses whatever is nationalized for the collective benefit of the population.

However, when we talk about custodianship, the state does not take the land to use it – instead, the land is only in the state custody, as a conduit or to facilitate for people to access land. With the land in the state custody, we will have a strong, clear, confident legislation on land tenure to protect our people from corrupt and scrupulous officials.

We are not talking about the expropriation of houses. People continue to have full rights to their own homes and other property. With the land in the hands of the state, people will apply for the land they want to use, or if they can't use it, they will allow others who will use it. This is the most practical way to address the land question and ensure that even those who want to invest in businesses with security can do so with certainty.

We are already doing so in Special Economic Zones. We have said many times before and will repeat it here, that we as the EFF will not vote for a sell-out amendment which still speaks of compensation. We will not vote for a constitutional amendment that refuses to acknowledge

state custodianship of South Africa's land because we know that expropriation of land piece by piece will take us more than 100 years to reclaim our land.

We want to make it clear to this parliament and to all people of South Africa, Africa, and the diaspora, the young and the old, those who died for freedom and those who are still going to be born that we have tried everything to persuade the ruling party to reposes our land in a peaceful and constitutional manner, and because they are controlled by white interests they refused.

The land issue Mr, President, is not something you can politic with. It is a serious, emotive issue, and it is either you are with us or with them.

We want our land for those who were dispossessed and were not compensated. We cannot compensate those who took our land without even this long consultation which is unnecessary.

When you appointed your trusted confidante, Jamnandas as Minister of Public Enterprises, we warned you.

You said you will intervene and decisively stabilize and revitalize SOEs. Mr Jamnandas has closed SAA, SA Express and now Mango airline. Workers were left stranded, lining up for COVID-19 food relief and unable to take their children to school. Denel is on its knees – the last time workers were paid salaries was in May 2020.

Today workers at Denel are owed more than R500 million. Post office is on a campaign to close more than 100 branches. Many communities depend on the post office including to receive SASSA grants.

People are going to lose their jobs and old grannies and young single mothers will have to spend high amounts on transport trying to reach the next post office.

We therefore demand, not even one office of the South African Post Office to be closed because such will make our people poorer.

If you could bail out SAA and the SABC, you must immediately put money to save the Post Office because it is on the face of providing basic services to our people.

You are privatizing ESKOM through Independent Power Producers. These IPPs continue to bleed ESKOM of its cash. You are aware of the collapse of ESKOM because of the size of the debt spells problems for all of us including the fiscus – but you continue to gamble with these assets in the bond market. The unbundling of ESKOM will cost our country more than R500 million and knowing how you handle business, this amount will be multiplied by 10 to R5 Billion.

We said to you several times here that you should not unbundle ESKOM. You are unbundling ESKOM because you are hellbent on privatization of the energy generation which primarily will benefit the people and companies associated with you in the past and present.

You have removed a capture tendency and replaced it with a capture tendency to allow corruption and collapse of ESKOM and other SOEs to continue.

Why is no one held accountable for load shedding that has become a common occurrence?

You keep saying that you want to rebuild the state government capacity – how are you going to it when you are dismantling it?

Earlier this year, you promised that government will deliver a mass COVID-19 vaccination that will reach all South Africans – but we know that your government has mismanaged the roll-out program

The Minister you have entrusted with the covid-19 roll-out is busy looting money through unnecessary Public Relations while nurses and doctors do not have access to vaccines.

The over dependence on the West countries is part of the reason your government has mismanaged the whole roll-out. Is the obsession with the American and European COVID-19 vaccine motivated by profit not blinding you and your government to available alternatives?

The only thing you do every time you take a platform on vaccines is to say that there is a process you are engaged in to process to approach Sinovac and Sputnik. That is the only thing you do. The reality of the situation is that the authorities have been given a mandate not to even entertain Sinovac and Sputnik. I asked you the other day if you are involved in transactions or you are involved in ensuring that you save lives. If you were a sensitive person who cares about the lives of black people, you would have by now doing a sit-in at the authorities offices to ensure that both Sinovac and Sputnik are approved. You need as many

options as possible – not as many money for your pocket as possible. You are involved in transactions and you are not involved in a program to save lives.

Mr President, you must know that the death of so many people because of lack of vaccine will be blamed on you. YOU WILL BE A PRESIDENT THAT HAS FAILED TO rescue a lot of our people when they needed you. Like in Marikana when our people needed you, you were not there for them. Today, our people need you to be there for them and to go and buy vaccine for them. When you took over, you pretended to be a very good singer and you said ‘Thuma Mina’. People have Thuma’d you to fetch vaccine, but you have not brought back any vaccine.

There is an emergence of an abuse of power, the same thing we saw. And this happens because some of the people who remain in your cabinet, including Jamnandas. The abuse of institutions of the state to prosecute those who disagree with you will haunt you to the grave. It will not only haunt you but your children and your children’s children. Let us not use the hawks, SARS, SIU, NPA, to settle political scores. I found one of your people crying that they are unable to express themselves because the SIU is on their neck for no apparent reason. There is a state of intimidation which has emerged in this country. And I want to promise you today that if you are going to use the state institutions to think you can threaten people and intimidate them, you will find us ready. WE HAVE GONE THROUGH THAT UNDER PRESDEINT ZUMA, and we are prepared to go through that even now. There is no amount of abuse of state power that can suppress political views – and it is not going to happen.

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