



EFF STATEMENT ON DURBAN PORT DEVELOPMENTS

Tuesday, 17 August 2021

The EFF notes the announcement by the Minister of Public Enterprises, Pravin Gordhan, that they have hatched a plan to partner with private companies in the expansion of the Durban Port. In the announcement, Gordhan said that there were plans to expand the Durban Port, to ensure that it is responsible for at least 60% of all container transportation into and out of the country, and that all this must be done and operational by 2023.

This announcement comes after President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the Port in April and committed R100 billion to revamp the port and make it a strategic transit point for goods coming in and leaving the country. Mr. Ramaphosa also affirmed his commitment then, to the rapid stripping of key State assets, in order for them to be handed over on a silver platter to the president's friends in the private sector. This is also a tacit admission that the so-called new dawn, which professed its aims as cleaning up corruption and the capture of the state, is no new dawn at all, but a continuation of a shameless project of capturing the State for private interests. It also shows that the group surrounding Mr. Ramaphosa was never against the capture of the State by private individuals, it was just against the capture of the State by individuals associated with former President Zuma.

The deliberate weakening of the State, the stripping off of State assets, the shameless grabbing of key State companies by a group of white businesses that had funded Ramaphosa's rise to the presidency is astounding and ought to shock and anger all patriotic South Africans. The modus operandi is almost always the same; State companies are deliberately run down in order to create outrage and a generalized perception that the State cannot operate anything, then private companies, sometimes in direct competition with the State are supported, and finally, these private companies take over. It has happened with SAA, it is happening with Eskom, and will happen to all strategic State-owned companies. When Ramaphosa and Gordhan are finished, the state will be left with nothing.

While Gordhan's announcement highlights that they will call for private companies to partner with Transnet in the expansion of the Durban Port, the ultimate plan is to hand over the

Durban port, and finally Transnet as a whole, to private companies. Plans to run down Transnet were placed in motion soon after this greedy group of leaders took over. In 2018, Transnet was able to move about 226 million tons of cargo, the second largest volume in its history, and generated the highest revenue in the history of that entity.

When the New dawn group took over, they embarked on a concerted campaign to fire previous executives, who they accused of being corrupt, and hired incompetent managers, who are hell bent on running the entity down. Now the entire entity is in disarray, with management forcing most staff to relocate to the Gqeberha Port, causing untold harm to the wellbeing of their own employees. The aim is to frustrate employees, to ensure that the take-over by their private buddies is seamless.

We will monitor the developments at the Durban Port very closely, and we will monitor the companies that will be roped in to partner with Transnet in the expansion of that Port, and their relations with any of the leaders of the ruling party. We must be unapologetic about rejecting any form of capture of the State by companies that have financed Ramaphosa's rise to the presidency.

We reiterate our call for Jamnandas to be removed from Cabinet before he concludes his project of handing over our strategic assets to his friends. The people of South Africa must reject and remove the corrupt ANC from government in the upcoming Local Government Elections.

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