



EFF STATEMENT ON DISAPPOINTING OBSERVATIONS ON SCOPA OVERSIGHT VISIT AT PRASA IN CAPE TOWN

Friday, 07 July 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) has observed with serious concern the disjointed approach by various government departments and agencies together with the City of Cape Town in their dysfunctional project team for the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) relocation project in Cape Town.

It was disheartening to witness technocrats engrossed in a competition of explanations and technicalities, rather than prioritising the simple and essential task of relocating the affected people from the rail line to a suitable environment.

The City of Cape Town, invoking a section 68(1) by-law, resorted to a technicality that they interpreted as excluding the pressing issue of restoring train services and relocating the residents living on the rail tracks. Rather than offering guidance to the project team on an acceptable approach, they opted to return the allocated budget to the National Treasury. What a heartless response!

As the EFF, we strongly condemn the City of Cape Town's unhelpful and legalistic approach, which we perceive as a thinly veiled racist response due to the fact that the affected communities are predominantly comprised of Africans and Coloureds.

The EFF also expresses its disappointment with the defeatist stance adopted by the Minister of the Department of Public Works, who had the power to invoke s25(2)(a) of the Constitution and facilitate the straightforward expropriation of the identified land for this urgent public purpose, which is also in the best interest of the public.

Additionally, it is disappointing that the Public Works Department accepted weak justifications instead of considering the option of relocating the SAPS training programs to more distant areas. By doing so, the land closer to the city could have been utilised for the purpose of resettling the affected people, rather than being utilised solely as a training ground.

The EFF has provided advice to the Public Works Department, suggesting the consideration of expropriating golf courses and transforming them into serviced stands for human settlements.

We are convinced that at the core of this blatant incompetence is the absence of the political will by the ANC government, which is allowing by-laws at the municipal level to undermine Constitutional imperatives.

The EFF remains committed to closely monitoring this project and ensuring that the elitism of the City of Cape Town does not hinder or obstruct the establishment of habitable conditions for all.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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