



EFF STATEMENT ON ANNOUNCEMENT THAT JAMNANDAS GORDHAN IS TO RETIRE FROM POLITICS

Friday, 08 March 2024

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) welcomes the confirmation by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) that Mr. Jamnandas Gordhan is going to retire from politics after the 2024 elections. Gordhan's decision to retire comes after he left a trail of destruction in South Africa's strategic state-owned companies.

South Africa's strategic state-owned companies, which are important to any effort to re-industrialise, lie in ruins because of Gordhan. He spent the better part of his deployment at the DPE trying to dismantle the state electricity utility company into separate entities to hand over electricity generation to the private sector.

Since 2018, South Africa has witnessed high levels of electricity blackouts and interruptions because there was a deliberate effort to bring in independent power producers with their exorbitant prices. Despite scientific evidence that the solution to ESKOM's problem is a dependable and well-resourced maintenance programme, and additional generation capacity from coal, nuclear, and hydro sources, Gordhan has insisted on renewable energy scams peddled by the financial sector, which is busy financing many of the renewable energy farms throughout the country.

Today, the Durban harbour port is barely functional because Transnet was deliberately sabotaged to pave the way for privatisation. Transnet's operation and human capacity has been reduced to a weak institution that cannot fulfil its mandate without relying on the parasitic private sector, which is only concerned with profit at all costs, including human lives.

Denel also remains on the brink of complete collapse because Gordhan was determined to ensure that it no longer produces anything, including book orders that guaranteed payment upon delivery. As a result, Denel's operations today are a merely insignificant part of the business.

The EFF maintains that Gordhan's biggest fraud and corruption since his appointment at the DPE is the now wobbly and disfigured Takatso deal to partially privatise South African Airways (SAA). Gordhan attempted to sell SAA for R51 to a group of cronies and friends who do not have the money or industry experience to run a complex organisation.

Even after the deal was exposed as a fraud, Gordhan still insisted on the deal, including compromising the democratic foundational principles of transparency by trying to hide documents from democratically elected Members of Parliament.

While we welcome the expansion of the aviation industry, however, it's regrettable that under Gordhan's management, this came at the cost of SAA. The emergence of new airlines largely stemmed from SAA's collapse, which Gordhan facilitated, as many of these airlines emerged during SAA's complete shutdown.

Other entities such as South African Express, Mango, SAFCOL, and Alexkor are merely a former shadow of themselves as Gordhan has successfully reduced them to broken institutions to pave the way for privatisation.

South Africa's economy has suffered unimaginable harm because of the deliberate sabotage and collapse of ESKOM and Transnet, as they remain at the heartbeat of the country's economy. Without a dependable and affordable port and rail system, and energy supply, South Africa cannot re-industrialise, create jobs, or grow the economy needed to address issues of unemployment, poverty, and inequality. This will remain Gordhan's legacy, something for which he will be remembered, and a lesson on the high cost of deliberately collapsing strategic state-owned companies in pursuit of privatisation.

The EFF maintains that all signs were there that Gordhan had mafia tendencies in his style of leadership and approach to governance. The admission that the South African Revenue Services (SARS) under his watch used former apartheid spies and operatives to conduct clandestine surveillance without having jurisdiction, should have sent the message to all that he is not a man to be entrusted with responsibility. The man essentially confessed to running a rogue unit at SARS.

The EFF government will ensure that Gordhan is held accountable for the destruction and shoddy dealings, regardless of his retirement. Now that he has completed surrendering public strategic assets, he thinks he can just walk away after having stolen the nation's future. While we say good riddance, the EFF maintains that we will ensure that he is held accountable.


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