**Budget speech 2016 amendment suggestions:**

“Health and welfare services

R4.5 billion is budgeted over the medium term for revitalizing health facilities in the eleven NHI pilot districts, and related health system reforms. An additional R740 million has been allocated to strengthen TB programmes to encourage early detection and treatment, and R1 billion for expansion of the antiretroviral treatment programme.

Additional funds are allocated for new substance-abuse treatment centres in the Northern Cape, Free State, Western Cape and North West provinces.”

Suggestions: Fewer South Africans are dying from HIV/AIDS but more are dying from diabetes – according to the International Diabetes Federation website, there were 2.28 million cases of diabetes in South Africa in December 2015. There needs to be a budget allocation for a diabetes programme.

**“**Transport and logistics infrastructure accounts for nearly R292 billion over the next three years under Minister Peters’ oversight. Transnet is acquiring 232 diesel locomotives for its general freight business and 100 locomotives for its coal lines. There is R3.7 billion to upgrade the Moloto Road, R30 billion for provincial roads maintenance, R18 billion for bus rapid transit projects in cities and refurbishment of over 1700 Metrorail and Shosholoza Meyl coaches.**”**

Suggestion: The Metrorail trains travelling particularly between the lines of De Wildt to Pretoria and Mabopane to Pretoria are very problematic and they transport most of the working class in these parts of South Africa. If they don`t run late or are reduced in number because of maintenance issues it`s a case of cable theft. May the budget allocated address this hurdle.

We look forward to the possible merger of SAA and SA Express. Secondly we appreciate that cabinet listened to the workers of South Africa when we raised our concerns about the Revenue Laws Amendment Bill 2016.

Ms Laurika Nxumalo