**African Christian Democratic Party**

 **24 May 2022

ACDP Parliament
Budget Vote 13: Public Works and Infrastructure
Speech by ACDP Deputy President, Wayne Thring MP**

**ACDP calls for external investigation into R85 million jersey barrier wall project during DPWI budget vote**

 “Honourable House Chairperson,

As we consider this budget vote, the ACDP is cognizant of the vote allocation of R8.55 billion for 2022/23, increasing to R8.95 billion in 2024/25, with which to accomplish the priorities in the budget programmes.

The ACDP notes and supports the stated intentions to improve ten areas of business within the Department, which includes: A Change Management Programme, establishing an Ethics and Compliance, Infrastructure and Consequence Management Unit and Sustaining a Clean Audit for DPWI and PMTE. However, Honourable Chairperson, we all know that many a noble path is paved with good intentions that are never realized.

The ACDP was the lone voice in our Committee meeting calling for an external investigation into the R85 million jersey barrier wall project, along the South African and Mozambique border, close to the Kosi Bay border post. It is our belief that the corruption to be unfolded here, will make the Beitbridge border fence scandal look like a Sunday School picnic. In this regard, the ACDP welcomes the investigation by the SIU into the tender awarded to a joint venture, in August 2018. Our PC oversight visit showed a barrier wall of about 100 metres in length, despite millions of rands having been spent.

An oversight visit was also made to the Telkom Towers project and while some progress has been made, there are still ongoing challenges with the project, with reports being called for on the contracts to secure the unoccupied building, and the ten rental lease contracts to accommodate SAPS, so that this can lead to savings instead of ongoing losses.

The ACDP is keenly aware that the major mandate of the Department and PMTE is to oversee the state’s immovable assets to contribute towards economic and social development and transformation of the built environment. This mandate will never be accomplished, without a complete Immovable Asset Register. How can the State unlock land for social and economic development if the state has no accurate record of what it owns?

In conclusion, the ACDP calls for an accelerated public/private partnership to unlock the potential of assets worth hundreds of billions of rands. It is shameful, that the Department, as the largest property portfolio holder in the country, is unable to leverage the competitive advantage it has.

I thank you.”