Honourable Chairperson

“It is not money that matters, it’s how you use it that determines its true value”

The honourable Wessels said during the recent debate on DORA that while there is an expectancy on the taxpayers to fund state projects there is more and more the question in the minds of taxpayers as to why they should pay taxes if they do not receive services and corruption is epidemic.

Chair, this question becomes more and more relevant during the COVID-19 pandemic when taxpayers hear of emergency funds being looted and misspent.

To name a few:

Government officials claiming from the Community works program and claims for deceased people;

The UIF scandal;

the North West health department crisis;

the Eastern Cape health crisis and the ambulance scandal;

inflated prices of PPE procured by government;

a loss of R32 billion due to fraud and corruption;

only 20 out of 257 municipalities received clean audits;

A R1.2 billion expense on consultants whilst officials are employed at exorbitant salaries to do the very jobs outsourced to such;

Appointments made fraudulently;

Senior officials involved in VBS and the call for the dismissed officials to return to work;

Councillors selling food parcels meant for the poor;

Electricity blackouts due to municipal non-payments;

Collapsed municipal infrastructure;

Then SIU revealed that since 2002 only 32 corruption investigation were concluded out of 239 cases and only 13 convictions.

Kickbacks from tendertrepeneurs, and companies of officials that get irregular contracts with massive overpriced goods and services, and the list can still go on.

Yet government sees it fit to increase the Budget of Municipalities through the equitable share to the amount of R11 Billion but reprioritises the drought relief funds and give less money for municipal infrastructure.

The report states that the reprioritisation of the funds will assist an additional 1.4 million households. Assistance with regards to basic services such as water and electricity is much needed during these trying times but it is only short term and unsustainable. Funds should be prioritized to create a conducive environment for economic growth and job creation. Infrastructure maintenance and development and service delivery on local level are needed to create such an environment where private sector can grow and invest.

Agbare Speaker

Die Covid 19 Pandemie beklemtoon die onbevoegdheid van die ANC waar daar nou eers plekke is waar water geinstaleer word weens die krisis, maar is dit in sommige plekke soos Makwasi hills Munisipaliteit slegs die tenks wat daar geplaas word sonder enige krane of koppelings. Waar is die waarde van geld en hoekom nou eers?

Sou die miljarde wat verlore is aan wanbestuur en onreëlmatige uitgawes nie reeds lankal die instandhouding van infrasturktuur kon befonds het nie.

Is the increase in municipal rates and taxes value for money in terms of how it is being spend? There are municipalities where literally no service delivery takes place. Mafube Local Municipality which has been under section 139 administration for the past more than three years is a prime example. No refuse removal for the past four years; no maintenance or repairs to water pipelines. The community fixes burst pipes themselves. The community is doing service delivery themselves but they still have to pay rates and taxes. So they are paying double. Is that fair, minister? What are they paying for?

Die gans wat die goue eiers lê is moeg gelê. Die belastingbetaler gaan nie vir altyd aanhou betaal om sodoende ‘n gesteelery en korrupsie te befonds terwyl hy nie dienste ontvang nie.

Balastings en tariewe moet verdien word. Daar moet waarde vir geld wees.

Ek dank u.