**ADJUSTED BUDGET NOTES: VOTE 3 COGTA**

1. EFF reject this budget vote of the department of Cooperate Government and Traditional Affairs
2. Local government in South Africa is supposed to be a sphere of government that is at the forefront of service delivery. Municipalities and municipal services were supposed to be the last defence for our people against COVID-19 but our people are on their own.
3. Majority of municipalities are dysfunctional and they have been dysfunctional for a very long time.
4. In his latest results of the municipal audit, the AG was clear to say all bad, wrong and filthy hands of politicians and officials are at the till of municipal coffers, looting tax and rates payers money.
5. Your department, like municipalities, is also mired with corruption, wasteful, irregular and wasteful expenditure. In the previous year, the department reported a total of R11.9 billion unauthorized expenditure and R2 billion fruitless and wasteful expenditure, a fertile environment for corruption.
6. Misa CEO is charged with Corruption and is business as usual, no suspension, no action and no answer from a written question to the Minister.
7. Out of 257 municipalities, **ONLY 20** municipalities have a clean audit. What does it mean? It means the R11 billion special adjustment budget will continue giving looters at OR Tambo district greenlight to loot another loot.  O. R Tambo must be turning in his grave.
8. It will mean that the saga of last week at eThekwini whereby hawks raided officials’ residents in probing corruption worth R 200m in water and sanitation department.
9. It will mean that Cebo from ward 43 Kwa Mashu who have reported on the 10 June the burst pipe of waste. No one from Municipality came to fix it. The community had to get a local plumber as they could live with water running down the street when there is a shortage of water.
10. It will mean that Irregular expenditure of R2,4 bn of BCM for COVID-19 which they intend to write it off without accountability.
11. It will mean that R 100 million irregular tender awarded for water at Ndlambe municipality will continue.
12. It will mean that in Beyers Naudé Municipality, the officials who allocated R39 million for water project but can only account for R5 billion continue will continue to loot. These and many other cases are examples of how this department has failed in its mandate.
13. But the challenge of local government in South Africa is both ideological and structural.
14. As the EFF, we said South Africa’s industrial policy should be based on land redistribution, beneficiation and decentralized municipal-led industrialization.
15. At the moment, the majority of the municipalities are the only economic activity in town, and this is not sustainable.
16. We must give our people land. We must nationalize mines, banks and other strategic sectors of the economy to build industries in all municipalities and create jobs for our people.
17. We must allocate the majority of the revenue we raise nationally to local government, and amend the municipal finance management act to compel municipalities to spend 80% in locally produced goods.
18. Our municipalities must build food markets, malls and industrial sites that emerging manufacturers can rent for a fee much less than what is charged by the greedy private sector.
19. We must repurpose our municipalities for life under COVID-19 but the failure to allocate enough resources and deal decisively with corruption means that we are rubber-stamping a meaningless budget adjustment that will not have an impact in the lives of our people.
20. At the end of the day, municipalities that cannot deliver water will continue to fail. Municipalities that cannot collect waste will not start collecting refuse and useless provinces that have failed to step up in the fight against COVID-19 will continue to be a waste of resources.
21. We reject this Budget.