Address by (MP) Cde Hubert James Tyotyo on the Budget Vote Debate of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Honourable Chair,

Honourable Minister and Deputy Minister,

Honourable Members,

Members of the public

Government understands the need and implications of monitoring and evaluation, which assist us with identifying the most valuable and efficient use of government resources. It provides useful essential information for better strategic planning, to design and implement government programmes, and to allocate government resources and appropriations in better ways, and to where they are most required.

That is why we recognise its important and will always ensure for robust monitoring systems backed by evidence to allow for effective monitoring and evaluation of the Medium- Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) to assess effective implementation government policies. This is significant in this regard as, to assess the impact that our policies have on the masses of our people, for as revolutionaries, our primary objective is to bring about change to our people to uplift them out of the current socio-economic conditions they find themselves in.

Noting that the NDP is our planning framework for a developmental capable state, and fully reaching the goals in the NDP will bring out social and economic change to our country bringing about a better world through the building of a capable developmental state that is responsive to the needs of its population; a developmental state that bring about economic transformation and job creation to see to the wellbeing of its citizen.

We acknowledge that macro- planning and coordination is crucial in the implementation of government policies as it assists government to decide how the goals of the NDP can be attained. We have set out clear recommendations in the NDP to build a capable state.

The Department therefore plays a crucial role to allow for better macro policy coherence, coordination of planning systems in the medium-term; to improve government outcomes to society, and to evaluate critical government programmes with the intention to inform planning and monitoring, government interventions, as well as budget prioritisation.

As the ANC we recognised that the need to improve and strengthen government planning and coordination and, listed that to be one of our priorities, so the department may be able to achieve their medium-term goals.

DPME is pivotal in supporting implementation of government programmes that bring about change to our economy and society, to stimulate investment and also local economic activity. This is done through the steering of various operations that are adamant in bringing about structural change such as the Operation Vulindlela in achieving higher rates of growth in our economy and to stimulate employment and investment in the country through various sectors of our economy, including electricity, water, telecommunications and the transport sectors.

In attaining government’s goals through the medium-term the Department has adopted, the Department will utilise the programme of action monitoring system which will identify critical steps that are to be taken to attain government goals, and the programme of action will enable the department report to parliament bi-annually regarding the implementation of the MTSF.

**Budget Allocation**

As the ANC in the committee, we welcome the budget allocation of the Department and note that it is progressive. In the 2020/21 financial year the department received an allocation of R400 million, and for this financial year, 2021/2022, the department has been allocation R453.9 million.

There is an additional of R53.9 million to the budget allocation and compared to the previous financial year, and it will increase over the medium-term. The department has received an increase throughout its various programmes this is ensure for better coordination and planning in the department to assist oth er government departments in executing their programmes.

Provided the that the COVID-19 Pandemic had a devastating impact of the government department and service delivery and our economy, the budget allocation is an enabling one as it will enable the department to provide innovative and predictable planning paradigm and discipline within and across the spheres of government.

This will also bring about improvements in integrated planning and implementation across departments and spheres of government, furthermore it will allow for better policy implementation.

The budget is a tool that will assist the department to implement SONA priorities and monitor the implementation of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. With the budget allocations, we are optimistic that department will improve its various monitoring and evaluation tools and will be able to come up with creative measure to better measure Sona priorities and the impact thereof.

As the ANC, we commend the department for having acted has swiftly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the reprioritisation of programmes and resources in to tackle the pandemic, we have no doubt that with the allocated budget, the department will be able to accelerate economic recovery from the devastating effects of the COVID-19, and implement structural economic reforms to create sustainable jobs.

This is in response to the high job losses experienced by our citizens which increased the unemployment rate to above 40%.

Noting that the pandemic had exacerbated unemployment levels in the country, in collaboration with Brand South Africa, we welcome the notion of repositioning Brand South Africa to be more appealing and enticing in its efforts to market the country’s brand locally and globally to draw and increase foreign investment in the country, to stimulate economic growth and financial stability and to increase job creation.

Acknowledging the devastating effect that the pandemic had on the tourism industry, we therefore recommend that the Department, Brand South Africa should pursue a merger with the Department of Tourism to promote the country’s brand locally and internationally to attract domestic and international tourism in the country.

Noting the importance of service delivery to our people, the ANC realises that providing proper coordinated planning, monitoring and evaluation will better improve the implementation of government programmes, which improves the quality-of-service delivery, so that maximise the impact of service delivery.

The ANC moves is support of Vote 9 of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

I Thank You.