Address by (MP) Cde Mirriam Thenjiwe Kibi on the Budget Vote Debate of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Honourable Chair,  
Honourable Minister and Deputy Minister,  
Honourable Members  
Fellow South Africans,

The central focus of the Budget Vote on Planning Monitoring and Evaluation must be its ability through the allocated resources to ensure effective planning, monitoring and evaluation across departments, and to provide the support in building a strong culture to plan, implement, enforce, monitor and evaluate to achieve the objectives of the Medium-Term Strategic Framework.

The core issues are governance, configuration of the state, a public service that can deliver to the needs of the people, efficiency and effectiveness of the administration supported by a clear accountability framework.

The main goal of state transformation as articulated in the ANC’s Strategy and Tactics is “building a developmental state that provides effective basic services and with capabilities to take forward a far-reaching agenda of national economic development, whilst at the same time placing people and their involvement at the centre of this process”. This objective is the guiding principle for the ANC’s management of the State.

Quality service delivery aimed at uplifting the living conditions of our people, is a priority of the ANC government. We have undertaken to build a capable developmental state, strengthening capacity and capability designed to meet the needs of the people through strong governance and oversight of public institutions.

We have committed to improving integrated planning and implementation across government departments. The Departmental programme of National Planning Coordination is vested with the responsibility of developing, and implementing planning frameworks and facilitating the alignment of planning and budget functions across departments.

This is in pursuit of the goals that we set for ourselves in the NDP, a state that is both capable and plays a developmental role in the lives f our people, shapes the national agenda and draws the nation forward.

For the department to attain its goals, the programme has been allocated R80 million which is a significant increase compared to the allocation of the previous financial year.

The revised annual performance plans have been aligned to the MTSF and the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.

The Integrated Framework Bill that will be finalised by the end of this financial year, will enforce coordination, collaboration and coherence of planning and budgets across the spheres of government this in turn strengthen state capacity in the implementation process.

The signing of Performance agreements between Heads of Departments and Ministers. Has taken place.

We note that there is a need to strengthen capacity monitoring to assess coherence to policy in the Performance Management and Development System for senior management and across government departments.

An allocation of R54.8 million to the departmental sub-programmes of Monitoring and Support is to strengthen the implementation of the Ministerial and Head of Department Performance Management Development System.

The budget Vote responds to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has also ensured proper planning, coherence and coordination even during the most distressed of times and ensured that the re-adjusted annual performance plans and programmes are still aligned to policy mandates and deliver to the needs of our people.

With proper monitoring and evaluation tools in place, the Department managed to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the country. This demonstrated the usefulness of the District Developmental Model (DDM) which seeks to improve the coherence and impact of government service delivery, the DDM is the proactive response to the issues that have hampered our society.

As the ANC we move in support of the Vote as it places great emphasis on the SONA commitments, among which is to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. this also include the monitoring of the implementation of the NDP. Understanding the importance of clear national and provincial spatial plans aligned with municipal Spatial Development Frameworks, the process is still yet to complete transfer of National Spatial Development Framework to the Department.

The Presidency remains the strategic centre of governance. The strategic centre must be the central driver of the developmental state and the following core resource based administrative functions must form part of the centre of government to support the strategic centre. As part of this state macro-policy and planning; budget and resource allocation and prioritisation; cooperative governance; public services; and performance monitoring and evaluation are central issues that the Department must be seized with as these areas determine the functioning of the administration of the State.

The DPME must be strengthened focusing on macro policy coherence and planning; policy impact assessment; resource prioritisation linked to the budget strategy mandate paper; and spatial planning.

IDPs should remain the central planning tool in which all other spheres of government participate to address alignment of planning – both bottom up and top down. Alignment of planning cycles and budget cycles, especially with respect to local government remains crucial.

Planning must result in a predictable planning paradigm and discipline within and across spheres. Clear national and provincial spatial plans aligned with municipal Spatial Development Frameworks and municipal land use management plans remains crucial;

Streamlined coordination structures with clear roles and responsibilities in planning, budgeting, integration of plans and implementation modalities must remain our goal;

The strengthening of inter-sphere institutional coordination mechanisms remains critical and clear operational and implementation systems, processes and modalities must remain the priority.

We are a country that is adamant on bringing about change, ensuring that our programmes and policies are responsive and have a direct impact to our society. We acknowledge the damage brought by the pandemic we remain resolute in rebuilding our economy to serve all South Africans.

We remain resolute in building a capable public service that will work tirelessly in fight the high levels of poverty, poor access to service delivery by ensuring that South African from all corners of our land have access to their most basic needs. The creation of job can never be stressed enough, particularly amongst our youth. We have to rebuild the economy so that our youth may find it intact and not inherit the burdened of debt and a poor economy. we will not deter but we will continue to find innovative measure to strengthen our economy.

The African National Congress Supports Vote 9 of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation.

I thank you.