**DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS BUDGET VOTE**

1. Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa Nqakula has been a Minister of defense and military veterans since 2012.She became  SANDF AND MILITARY VETERANS minister against a background of the notorious arms deal corruption scandal. Billions of rands were lost and never recovered. Nobody was held accountable. It became just normal in the ruling party. Minister, you should have known better that your term of office in the department of defence will always be under scrutiny.
2. The 2011 Military veterans act was established to address the wellness of military veterans and their dependents. It is 9years to date wherein the department of  military veterans cannot manage and establish a credible data base of military veterans. Their dependents of school going age cannot access institutions of learning because of the failure of the department to pay institutions on time.
3. The few that managed to enrol remain unsure of their future as the department has signed a pact with the most untrustworthy NSFAS bursary scheme which currently has failed ordinary students who have been expelled from rented student accommodations and forced to abandon their studies in the middle of their academic year.
4. The non-statutory forces from the ranks of Apla, Mkhondo we Sizwe and Azanla remain homeless, begging for accommodation in renting shacks. A former APLA combatant namely Zola Prince Mabala, just to name one amongst many liberation fighters is a victim of a flawed  ,data base and incompetence of the department.
5. They are men and women who engaged the nonsensical brutal apartheid regime. They were once praised and worshiped when the DE KLERK government crumbled under heavy artillery from such honourable fighters who were on the picket lines. You are today in parliament being chauffer driven, with security guards while they suffer under your command structure.
6. The SANDF spend almost 900 million rands on food and catering per annum
7. guess what, Investec is the one supplying food to your department. The department established a project called KOBA  TLALA. The  purpose of the project was to create employment in the food value chain
8. and produce enough food that could also benefit the needy and the country. Resources were availed to kickstart the project there has never been an  impact study conducted and it is also a failed project, yet millions  of rands. were spent.
9. There are almost 73000 soldiers deployed to help thousands of police to curb the scourge of COVID-19 infections. To date  there is 364 328 covid19 infected people  which is a clear indication our soldiers are nowhere near to defeat the virus Minister. you failed to rejuvenate the SANDF. failed to renew the aging military hardware and vehicles
10. The only military hospital in Tshwane is in a dilapidated state, roofs are leaking on rainy days. Medical equipment  are  dysfunctional. and old. The same soldiers you pride yourself are succumbing to the disease  due to poor  maintenance of the health infrastructure.
11. The soldiers military accommodation is inhabitable. The Tshwane military base is a typical example of such horrendous accommodation. The list is long to mention here.
12. Minister, you were the one agreeing with your subject generals who contemptuously emphasised that they listen to no one but only to .. Mr Ramaphosa. THEY VOWED to react when provoked by unarmed civilians'. Collin Khoza and others died in the hands of the soldiers and police who were armed with assault rifles. Instead of showing remorse, they attempt to manipulate the case like the Marikana massacre where there is no one to account for such atrocities.
13. MINISTER ;The military ombudsman is conflicted. It is the entity that cannot recommend cases that are in favour of the aggrieved soldiers and personnel. Soldiers remain suspended and expelled unfairly with no recourse. Reserve force members in Mpumalanga 53 in number won a case against the department to be reinstated, yet nothing is done to bring relief to them.
14. Armscor has presented their capability and capacity to produce PPEs, sanitisers and good quality ventilators. The department opted to purchase the ventilators in China, as a result creating more employment for the Chinese  in china. JUST a fraction of the PPEs are manufactured locally, the rest is sold to the department by the monopoly industries e.g. INVESTEC. After careful considerations THE EFF REJECT THE BUDGET VOTE.