Vote 11, 7 & 12: Public Service and Administration (National School of Government and Public Service Commission

Honourable Speaker,

The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) is an important institution that gives effect to our constitutional vision for a professional and accountable public service. Professional public service is a key component for South Africans to reach their developmental goals. With the huge demands of social and economic upliftment needs of South Africa, our public service cannot allow for unprofessional, unethical and unreliable employees within our system.

South Africa is a state capable of great success, but only with a government and public service that has the will to see us as a collective reach these achievements.

Honourable Speaker, with this in mind, it is unfortunate that some sections of our public sector have not as yet reached the professional standards that the citizens of this country deserve. As a nation, we have been left stunned by the lengths people have gone to in order to defraud, misuse and blatantly steal public funds, in the state capture commission of inquiry. Unfortunately, what saddened the people of this country was the fact that it was public service employees who were complicit in the looting of public funds. Whilst the commission only highlighted a specific scope of the investigation, the public of this country is left wondering how deep widespread corruption and mismanagement of their public funds run on a day-to-day basis.

Under the DPSA’s care, the National School of Government (NSG) is tasked with providing education regarding public sector competency requirements and its professionalisation. One of the recommendations for vote 7 is that the NSG should conduct more training through eLearning. Online learning will help to better reach all employees whilst also keeping them up to date with the latest educational developments within the field. It also can reduce the costs that contact learning imposes on the state.

Why should we not further train and capacitate our state employees to have a full understanding of government theory, practicality and ethics? State employees who are developed under state educational programmes can significantly reduce the reliance on consultants which cost the state far more in terms of cost and also the transfer of skills. We need committed employees to realise the state development goals and those who chose to act in unacceptable ways must be brought to book.

There are a number of disciplinary cases of government employees that are outstanding whilst a salary is being paid to them during their lengthy suspension. These matters must be concluded in the shortest time frame in order for the state to reduce its wasteful expenditure on these employees.

I thank you