**DRAFT BUDGET VOTE DEBATE: HIGHER EDUCATION**

1. Greetings to the Commander in Chief of the EFF, Julius Sello Malema, all The officials, commissars, fighters and ground forces of the only movement that cares about the youth in this country.
2. We have once again been forced, due to lack of leadership that is imminent in this department, to raise the persisting issue of gender based violence and violent crimes that continue to engrave themselves in institutional culture of higher education institutions.
3. The brutal rape and murder of Precious Ramabulana from Capricorn TVET Ramokgopa Campus two years later has still not resulted in intentional and intensified building of university and TVET residences with the urgency this requires.
4. Students outside of institutional accommodation continue being vulnerable to crime as even when it pertains to something as basic as resident busses, they don’t have access to that and thus become easy targets for criminals lurking in surrounding corners knowing very well students carry with them laptops, cellphones and other educational materials of value.
5. It is a horrifying reality that parents send their children to get an education and their children return home raped, tortured and in coffins because the thugs of the ANC are struggling to decide who amongst them must be next in line for the tender or to get accommodation accreditation like Philemon Lukhele.
6. That Hillary Gardee who was tortured, raped and killed was possibly hidden in one of these places for days where your department has entrusted with the safety of students calls for a deeper look. You have effectively led the higher education sector into total disarray and it’s highest ever seen level of violence meted against students, especially Black girls and women.
7. All corrupt gorgons and amateurs find solace in the existence of this department. Our institutions of higher learning have been turned into practical sites of corruption as the primary module and no tangible consequences unless if you’re collateral damage like Sibongile Mani. Motheo TVET college is on its third week of closure because of issues of money. Nobody is held accountable. The gravy train of your department is always on the move.
8. In your praise speech dubbed “Debate on the State of the Nation Address” in February, you unashamedly lied to the people of South Africa by claiming that NSFAS has registered an increase of 316% from 2015 to 2021. Minister, – thousands of graduates who were beneficiaries of NSFAS are unable to access their qualifications as they are told NSFAS hasn’t settled their fees and these very poor students are now expected to settle their fees or never get their qualifications. These young people are made part of stats to give an impression that your department is hard at work yet the opposite is true.
9. There is a general collapse of governance in Universities and TVET colleges because of corrupt and unethical council members, some of whom are deployed by your department. Universities such as VUT, MUT, WSU and many others that have experienced unprecedented corruption. They demand tenders and force Executives to hire their families and the best punishment given to them when caught is mere dissolution of councils.
10. If you were still a communist I was gonna caution you about the possible corporate capture of Higher Education but seeing that you enjoy talking left yet walking right, let me advise you to pay attention to the growing interest of big corporations in Universities and Colleges. Universities and Colleges are spaces of knowledges and skills production not to feed hyenas that are always looking for tenders and all sorts of projects. These hyenas start by donating funds into research projects and thereafter corporatize faculties. Just as the EFF warned your party about the kleptocracy that had become the order of day in the country few years ago when it was unpopular to say anything about State Capture, I put it to you that there’s a war amongst big companies to take over ICT Infrastructure in Universities under the guise of 4IR and advancing online teaching amidst the pandemic.
11. Support these institutions with Infrastructure and Efficiency Grant (IEG) to develop university owned student accommodation that is safe and conducive for learning. Let Universities stop outsourcing this critical responsibility to private companies that are only driven by profit motive and nothing else. A big chunk of NSFAS money goes to student accommodation. The exorbitant private student accommodation fees are so high that a single bed is equal to two bedroom apartment rent as rented by non-students. It is ridiculous that a student can pay over R70 000 per annum on student accommodation, four (4) student renting one apartment can therefore pay R280 000 per annum. This is where NSFAS money goes, to fund the greedy capitalists who see students as customers they should profit from.
12. Ensure that each campus in the country has campus security with a sex crimes unit and that all criminal cases opened with institutions are directly linked with SAPS.
13. Synchronise the goals and needs of the economy with the number of places available at each institution of higher learning.
14. Require each university in the country to offer degrees and courses in coding, computer hardware development, artificial intelligence, robotics, the internet and biotechnology
15. Establish a satellite campuses of the University of Pretoria, University of Free State, University of the North West in their Faculties of Natural and Agricultural Sciences which will focus on agriculture and agro-processing. Utilise the same system in various and relevant institutions for mining and mineral beneficiation and renewable energy.
16. We reject this report, we reject the executive of this department, we reject Blade Nzimande, we reject Buti Manamela who thinks Twitter spaces will hide his inadequacies.