**VOTE 18 HEALTH BUDGET ADJUSTMENT SECOND DRAFT**

1. Greetings to the Commander in Chief of the EFF, Julius Sello Malema, the Deputy President of the EFF Nyiko Shivambu, officials, commissars, fighters and ground forces of the EFF.
2. We are once again burdened with the curse of begging the ANC to govern with integrity in the least whilst the priority at the center of their politics is to continue stealing from the poor.
3. Minister Zweli Mkhize spent the first two months of this lockdown telling the whole country that our public health system was ready for the COVID19 surge.
4. However, through the instruction of my organization, on the 23rd of June I went to Bertha Gxowa Hospital and learned that the mechanical ventilation of the hospital is non-functional and that Persons under investigation and those with confirmed cases of COVID19 currently stay in one ward and area.
5. I went to Stanza Bopape Clinic which is one of the facilities that you piloted the NHI at. It is astonishing that patients with injuries and in critical condition are subjected to sitting outside because the clinic is too small.
6. On the 20th of July I went to Mamelodi West Clinic and was told by the staff and management that workers at Mamelodi West Clinic have taken salary cuts without ever being informed nor with any justification despite the fact that they are now more overburdened because fellow nurses are falling sick, in isolation and cannot resume their work.
7. There currently isn’t any HIV testing happening in Mamelodi West Clinic because the staff personnel and counselors were struck off. In this recent budget adjustment, you have decided to reduce funding from people with HIV a whopping R600 million despite the warning of the WHO that 73 countries have already been affected adversely by COVID19 in delivering ART and that this will result in the doubling of AIDS related deaths and an increase in infections.
8. I also went to Tembisa Hospital and found that there is a Shortage of ICU Nurses. The hospital also registered a complaint that Epicenters, namely Winnie Mandela and Ivory Park call for great concern - social factor contributing to spread of the virus is space. There’s no social distancing possible. Casualty and emergency wards are overwhelmed with suspected cases and persons under investigation. This means that there will be people who come in with broken legs and will leave Tembisa hospital with Corona Virus.
9. I also conducted oversight at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, the very hospital that the Minister uses to brag about readiness. In this hospital, there is a challenge with water shortage and assistance with reservoirs. Only two water reservoirs are currently in the hospital which won’t even last for more than 3 hours if there were to be a water cut. Furthermore, the parking lot is 30 minutes walk away from the entrance of the hospital doors. Patients with disabilities, in severe condition, with respiratory challenges, are expected to walk 30 minutes inside the hospital.
10. It has become apparent that the only reason why you have ignored the solutions given by the EFF in this house week in and week out, is because these solutions to you will mean less and less chances of stealing and seeing illnesses of the poor as a money-making scheme.
11. We have long cited for district-based strategies as interventions with the help of demographics that include race made public. This not only to track, respond to and curb the spread, but also to start devising recovery strategies for millions of Black women and children who are always affected the most with picking up the pieces caused by catastrophic diseases and the failure of government intervention.
12. This parliament must move towards implementing the proposed National Health Amendment bill by the EFF that will seek to ensure that every ward has a clinic that operates for 24 hours and open every day of the week.
13. If this was done, our issues with overburdening of health facilities, lack of human resource and facilities, delivering primary health care and preventative measures and thus our response to thus pandemic, would have been a less hopeless situation than what we are seeing now.
14. Besides the lack of leadership imminent in this department, our issue is that le mogodu and you are blatant liars. People spent months on end resting on the assertion by Minister Zweli Mkhize that the public healthcare system is ready when this was far from the truth.