**BUDGET VOTE 33: HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

1. Chairperson, right in the middle of a very cold winter day in Cape Town, South Africa and the whole world witnesses the brutality of landlessness, the inhumanity of not having a home, and the sheer violence of the State, when Bulelani Qolani was mercilessly pulled out of the structure he called a home by the City of Cape Town.
2. He was completely naked, because he was taking a bath when the City of Cape Town arrived. They did not even offer him an opportunity to dress up, and they later lied and said he undressed himself deliberately.
3. As with all the violence meted out against black people in this country, the nation has moved on, and Qolani has become a historical annexure.
4. Qolani and the many black people evicted from their homes all over the country are sad examples of how the post 1994 establishment has completely abandoned its historical mission.
5. He is a reminder of how corrosive, insensitive and demeaning to others power can be, if held by those without emancipatory consciousness.
6. More importantly, his example shows the urgency with which those of us who still have some conscience should prioritize the resolution of the land question in this country.
7. The resolution of the urban housing problem is tied at the hip with the resolution of the land question. People end up building in unsuitable places because they have nowhere else to build.
8. There are almost 1.4 million households in informal settlements in this country, housing millions more people.
9. These places have no running water, no toilets, no electricity, are congested. These are perfect conditions for the spread of COVID 19. There can be no physical distancing in informal settlements Minister Sisulu.
10. What COVID 19 has clearly demonstrated is the spectacular failure of the post 1994 brigade to safeguard the dignity of the people.
11. The downward adjustment of the overall budget of this department shows in earnest that ensuring that people have access to proper housing was never a priority of this brigade.
12. We have also noted the so called new proposal by President Cyril Ramaphosa called the new district development model, which is just a renaming of the previously failed government programmes. This again proves that the ANC has run out of ideas and they are swimming in a pool of bankruptcy when it comes to new ideas. They are unable to come up with new concepts and ideas that will deal with the socio economic challenges that our people are facing.
13. We call upon for the establishments of housing access coordinating units that include national, provincial and local governments, which will then, on a regularly basis, report to the Presidency on progress with housing provision, the elimination of slums and the provision of dignified sanitation.
14. Such units will not only allow the Department of Human settlement water and sanitation to monitor progress and curb down corruption in local municipalities but it will also assist the Department to carry out its work in a more effective and efficient manner.
15. In the immediate, we call for a complete ban on evictions of people whose only sin is homelessness.
16. We further call for a moratorium on bank repossession of houses for at least a year, to allow people who have lost jobs as a result of COVID to get back on their feet again.
17. We call for a permanent ban on bank repossession of people who have paid their bonds for at least 10 years or more.
18. We cannot, with the necessary revolutionary consciousness, accept this adjusted budget.