

BUDET VOTE ON DIRCO:

I am more than happy to support Dirco's budget. We as a political party are of the opinion that our country has accomplished realistic results by maintaining good and fair relationships with several countries over the past two and more decades.

We admire the way Dirco steered international relations as he encountered choppy industrial relations affairs regionally, continentally, and globally. South Africa is proud of Minister and Lady Pandor for stepping in the shoes of Oliver Tambo as we remember him for establishing solid relations with countries all over the world. Our form of opinion is that Dirco's drafted a budget for 2022-2023 that was reasonable and judiciously divided considering the abnormal circumstances in the world community face and we trust that a budget for 2023-2024 will deliver better results.

At this juncture allow me to say that it is indeed difficult for our country in general and Dirco in particular to sustain the ties with each and every country including both rogue states and non-rogue states across the world. It was observed that despite the challenges internal and other external factors our country's department has done reasonably well and here I wish to congratulate Minister of International Relations Dr. Naledi Pandor and the team for having kept their fingers on the global pulse. We should remind ourselves of industrial relations ties that our country has with certain rogue states, ones that have rebelliously ignored human rights laws within their borders. We think of Netanyahu, Zionist Israel and we think of the occupation of western Sahara by Morocco. There are other countries under occupation and our voices seem to be silent.

Our country's duty bound to proactively come to these communities' assistance by showing our eagerness to firmly tackle matters that affect us as a global society and even provide them with weapons like they did in the hardest, days of apartheid to defend themselves but not to use the weapons to attack.

Thank you. Let me wave the flag for diplomatic staff in South Africa who struggle for residency in spite of qualifying and having sons and daughters born in South Africa graduate their universities. These include countries like Iran and Indonesia.

While this is the prerogative of the Home Affairs, we must bat for them. Dirco must insist that the official desk be established at Home Affairs to fast-track their application. We cannot wait for 10 years of qualifying.