**BUDGET DEBATE ON MILITARY VETERANS**

Members I have received a request from Honourable Hendricks. So, I will use my discretion to give him 3 minutes.

Thank you very much. Honourable chair.

Our military veterans do not deserve to be treated with disdain by this government. Yes, progress has been made in certain areas, but there is no excuse that thousands of military veterans continue to live in abject poverty. There is no excuse for that thousands of military veterans continue to live in abject poverty. I was a child soldier at the age of eleven and I led the first Poqo March in Rochester Road in District Six.

I’m very passionate about military veterans. When I got the awards, as a pioneer of the Internet and I opened an internet cafe for them in Canal Walk. Honourable House Chair, we heard the Deputy Minister say tension is building up within the military community.

Government must restore the dignity of our military veterans. Roll out pension pay-outs’ December 2002 the veterans were promised by the former Deputy President and the Minister. The budget has been set aside to pay pensions before Christmas. But six months later no pensions were paid to any of them. And the question is where is that money? There’s another Christmas coming up in June in the Muslim community maybe to be paid before Labarang.

Please let us not make promises to them but see that their needs are dutifully addressed. Military veterans must give their faith. They should be given land so they can produce and create generational wealth. I presented a petition on behalf of 500 sailors in Simon Town. There is enough land. Land has been identified, but this process is dragging for three years. Military veterans can't afford land in Simons Township. They give the land free. Then the cost of the houses will be reduced.

At a presidential impeachment in Drakenstein on Friday, the19 May Minister Skwatsha spoke about the chicken farm managed by military veterans in the Cape Winelands. In this regard, none of them have the foggiest idea where this farm is. Anyway, it’s important that substantial training we provided for those engaged in farming and cooperatives. Maybe President Ramaposa declared chickens as one of the thousand products that can only be marketed and sold by small businesses and hopefully military veterans.

(So chairperson, I think it's out of order for the speaker to bring in another party which is not on the speaker list. It says it must be used. So there is no that you can use your interpretation on a chair. So please, I don't see Al JAMA on this speaker’s list, chair, and it says it must be used. So if I can just bring that forth. Thank you very much, honourable member. I am not using my interpretation. I said, I'm using my discretion, so there’s a difference between the two. So I will return on the exact ruling regarding that particular interpretation of that clause to you. Just complete what you are saying, Honourable Hendricks.)

Yeah, it disturbed me. That's how they disturb democracy in South Africa. If the DA government and the other opposition governments from apartheid takes over a government, they will double the pensions and benefits of state era apart operatives. But our military veterans must stand in the queue and wait for their pensions. The interjection is disgusting.

Thank you very much, honourable house chair.