

Jaco Mulder MP FF Plus 17 May 2023

Honourable House Chair

During the annual debate on the Budget vote of the Department of Home Affairs I always measure the performance and budget outcomes to the mandate of the department namely been the custodian, protector of the identity and status of citizens and other persons resident in South Africa and secondly the Department’s ability to control, regulate and facilitate immigration and the movement of persons through ports of entry.

The Freedom Front Plus welcomes the fact that the committee mention a series of fundamentally serious issues which is in line with what is reported in the media about poor performance of the department which is reason for serious concern.

Offices with a branch booking system does not work properly and walk in enquiries could not be assisted, the call centre of the department is rather disfunctional m calls not ansewerd and clients frustrated.

Queries forwarded by members of parliament to the department on behalf of frustrated members of the public is answered and should be accounted for.

The department is unable to track undocumented migrants or persons who’s documents has expired and is not able to deal with companies that employ undocumented employees.

Long queues are a daily occurrence at Home Affairs offices and regular down times frustrate members of the public to unacceptable levels. Mobile offices are without power back up systems and cannot function when load shedding occurs.

There is a huge back log with the issuing of birth certificates and travel passports are issued late or not at all.

There is a enormous back log with process of considering working permits. The staffing level of 36 % in the department makes it virtually impossible for the department tot fulfill it’s mandate.

Chair

The Department for Home affairs should ensure that the IEC is capacitated well to conduct a free and fair general election in 2024 and that the issuing of Identity documents are therefore not frustrated.

If only 25 million South Africans citizens out of 40 million is registered to vote and the IEC aims to have 29 million registered for the 2024 election, democracy has already failed.

A government with a mandate of less than 37 % of citizens who are eligible to vote does not represent democracy.

Chair

The department has already failed it’s mandate to such an extent that extraodinary to measures address the serious state in which the department find itself should have been implemented years ago.

Thank you chair