

Budget Debate on Vote 9: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

Speech by Joe McGluwa MP

DA Shadow Deputy Minister in the Presidency

President Ramaphosa has referred to 2008 to 2018 as being a lost decade, yet there is no difference between former president Jacob Zuma's nine wasted years and Ramaphosa's failed presidency.

Even the late Desmond Tutu said that the ANC was worse than the apartheid government.

This budget vote is characterise by an imperial system abusing executive powers to cover up corruption, maladministration and the abuse of public funds.

Since its creation in 1999, there has been no oversight Committee on the Presidency.

It undermines the check and balances of the Constitution and leads to the abuse of power by the President and his Cabinet.

Just like Lady R, Minister Ntshavheni is now docked at the Presidential aquatics centre to protect the President at all costs.

In 1994 we had a wonder President – today we wonder whether we even have a President.

Allow me to summarise the regime, or rather period, of systematic looting that has taken place under President Ramaphosa's presidency.

I dub it - the imperial Presidency

To show how bad things really are, even former Minister in the Presidency and Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, resigned from the ANC because the party, and I quote, "lost its moral leadership since the events post-Polokwane in 2007 already".

The Minister of Coal Gwede Mantashe called Manuel a free agent, after he asked former Jacob Zuma to pay back the money used for non-security upgrades at his Nkandla homestead. Let us never forget the firepool!

There have been 5 reshuffles in the Presidency since President Ramaphosa's tenure.

These are Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the late Minister Jackson Mthembu may his soul rest in peace, Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni twice, and Minister Mondli Gungubele

Minister Gungubele and Ntshaveni have been changed like under wear between the two Ministries.

Typical characteristics of an imperial President.

The Presidency was alleged to have developed a frame work to ensure that all recommendations of the Zondo Commission are implemented.

To date the Imperial Presidency has done nothing of the sorts.

In terms of the ANC's step aside resolution it seems that only a selected few, including Former State Security Minister Bongani Bongo, have been removed from their positions – the rest continue as business as usual.

Bongo and 11 others appeared in Court over R74m fraud and corruption charges for defrauding the Mpumalanga human settlements department during the purchase of two farms.

Former Minister Zwane better known as the Minister of the Guptas is one of the 15 accused in the R280-million Estina corruption case and has only been suspended from the National Assembly for a full parliamentary term.

The Presidency is running scared on the ropes from some of the Zondo Commission's recommendations.

Even House Chairperson Honorable Frolick is believed to have received cash for setting up a meeting between Bosasa and former ANC MP, Vincent Smith. It is said there were reasonable grounds to uncover prima facie evidence of money laundering, corruption and/or fraud, and it has been recommended by Zondo, that Cedric Frolick be investigated – yet not investigation has been considered.

The Zondo Commission recommended that President Ramaphosa must consider the position of Zizi Kodwa as deputy minister of state security because of his tainted relationship with a controversial businessman.

It was found that Mr Mackay had funded Kodwa's luxury holidays and even loaned him more than R1.7m. On his own version, this was a debt that he could not immediately repay.

Instead of punishment, this imperial Presidency rewarded Mr Kodwa with the Minister of Sports.

The former Minister of Defence and Military Veterans was removed during a cabinet reshuffle following a spree of deadly unrest and looting in parts of the country.

She came under fire for her perceived incompetence in responding to the violence, and for contradicting President Ramaphosa's claim that the events had been a pre-planned "insurrection"

She was also accused of allegedly ferrying ANC officials, including suspended secretary-general Ace Magashule and newly appointed Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana, to Zimbabwe.

And there were many more blunders under her watch including some very serious allegations of being involved in criminal syndicates.

Today she is appointed the janitor of this august house. Isn't the objective of program 3 to ensure effective implementation of Governments medium term strategic frame work (MTSF) and to monitor and report of targets between the President and Ministers? Surely special intervention was needed here.

Now let us gaze into the Presidency's role during the KZN riots. There were warnings. They could feel it in their own midriffs.

But hell no, the ruling elite failed to respond effectively to the unrest.

They rather lurk around in their gloomy offices running up and down aiming for the toilets because if "they" spill the beans, "they" will show them the mirror and "they" will see themselves.

The panel found no evidence of Mr Ramaphosa or the NSC giving directives to ministerial heads — instead everyone acted as they wished. The report concluded that there were clear differences between Minister Bheki Cele and former National Police Commissioner, Mr Khehla Sithole.

Finally, this Presidency has failed to ensure the merger between Brand South Africa and Tourism.

They had no clue about the Billion Rand sponsorship to Tottenham Hotspurs, nor will South Africans ever forget the R22 million foolish flag pole idea.

Everything that I have mentioned now is but the tip of the very large corruption infested iceberg. The saying is true that the rot starts at the top, and if the top is rotten what hope do we have for the rest of government. It's time to cut out this cancer called the ANC, and 2024 is that time.