**MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY BUDGET VOTE DEBATE**

1. We want to wish Minister Gwede Mantashe and all mine workers who are infected by COVID-19 speedy recovery, and send our condolences to the families of mine workers who passed away because of COVID-19. The only way we can win the war against the spread of coronavirus is complete lockdown with new social and economic practices that provide shelter for the most vulnerable.
2. A complete lockdown that closes mines as these are not essential services and we should not be willing to risk the lives of our people who minerals. We cannot always restart mining operations; we cannot restart our people's lives.
3. The EFF rejects the Mineral Resources and Energy adjusted budget vote. The truth is for far too long, the mining sector has operated above the law, fails to protect workers and all rehabilitations resources put aside as required by law have not served their intended purpose.
4. We warned you not to allow mining operations to resume when we are heading towards a peak of COVID-19, which we are not even sure it is a peak because we have abandoned all epistemological
5. When reported cases were below 10 in Mponeng Gold Mine in Carletonville in Gauteng Province, we warned you but you allowed them to continue with operations.
6. There few cases in Limpopo until you allowed workers to return to mines and now Sekhukhune, a mining area has become the epicentre of infections in the province.
7. Mining companies are lying about the number of infections. They lie about their taxes, about their operations, they lie about safety measures, why would they tell the truth now about infections when they want to continue to operate at all cost, including human cost.
8. Anglo-Gold Ashanti continues to lie about the number of infections, putting the lives of workers in danger. We want to warn, it is not going to end well. Close all mines with immediate effects.
9. We should not waste resources with mine inspectors, we must just close all the mines.
10. We will not sit by and watch the as the ANC plan to massacre mine workers the same way it massacred Marikana workers.
11. We are facing a pandemic that has collapsed our economy. Many businesses and households have suffered. Workers have lost their jobs and are finding it difficult to make ends meet, including paying for electricity.
12. This is the right time to cancel all the purchasing power agreements with independent power producers that continue to milk Eskom to this day.
13. We cannot afford to cut the budget for integrated national electricity programme grant which means more than 43 000 households while Eskom continues to spend billions in IPPS even when they contribute very little to overall electricity generation.
14. It is the people in Lesedisele, Lekoko, Marikana, Tshing, Jouberton, Khuma, Ditsobotla, Kraaipan, Menoto and Tlholakae in North-West; Matlharantlheng, Baipehing, Vrede Ext 4 and Memel in the Free State; and Madelakufa, KwaThema, KwaMkhancwa, Khutsong, Sonderwater, Vuka Setshe, Jabulani and Siyahlala informal settlements, Kromdraai ward 39, Mathumbu section ward 23, Chief Mogale New Section, Prince, Chris Hani, Denver and Sofaya informal settlements, Lethlabong ward 36, Sobukweville ward 21 who will have to long to receive electricity.
15. The only practical and sustainable solution is the nationalization of mines without compensation.
16. We must beneficiate our mineral resources and create jobs. Eskom coal mines must come back under the control and operations of a state-owned mining company. Municipalities must pay their Eskom debts and if they cannot, we must take the money from municipalities equitable share.