Mineral Recourses and Energy

Hon. Chair

The main purpose of the department’s budget is to formulate policy and regulations to ensure that the necessary structural reforms occur to stimulate economic growth.

Unfortunately chair when it comes to ensuring economic growth I fail to see that this department is living up to its mandate. On the contrary chair, with constant load shedding that has an enormous impact not only on the mining industry but also every business big and small I fail to see how economic growth is ensured. Not to mention the sky high fuel prices that is constraining our economy even further.

The ideal would have been to provide fuel at an affordable rate in south africa to ensure that not only the mining and other industries, but also businesses in general can operate more cost effectively to stimulate economic growth and job creation. But instead government hikes fuel prices with more that R10 per liter of fuel going towards taxes and then the department blames the weak Rand and oil prices for the high cost of fuel. Surely this is not policies and regulations ensuring economic growth.

With regard to electricity, congratulations on connecting another 166 000 households to the grid and giving them access to electricity, as well as for the 640 000 households to follow. But Chair, government can’t even supply the country with sustainable electricity at this stage, where is the extra electricity going to come from for an additional more than 600 000 households?

In his speech the honourable minister stated that no imbedded generation facility with a capacity of more than 10 megawatts have been registered sofar and this begs the question, Why? The department will have to ensure realistic policies, regulations and incentives to ensure the development of these facilities. Is this the case?

The honourable minister also stated that Eskom is the primary supplier of electricity and that all other projects are intended to only supplement Eskom. This narrative Honourable Minister is the reason why load shedding will be a part of our day to day lives for the foreseeable future. Any fool knows by now that Eskom has deteriorated into nothing more than a bottomless pit of corruption and failure under the ANC government. It is now time for new solutions by independent stakeholders if we wish to see the sustainable supply of electricity in south africa. Every person, company and stakeholder willing and able to contribute to the generation of electricity should rather be embraced in our current situation instead of being haltered by policies and red tape

All the projects and developments that is planned for the future from nuclear generation to natural gas and so forth are all good and well. But how are these projects going to be funded if and when the economy collapses as a result of load shedding?

Dink aan die toekoms, maar werk aan die hede sodat daar iets is om te kan belê in toekoms.

Suid Afrika bly steeds n land met potensiaal. Nie net is suid Afrika mineraal ryk nie, maar hy is ook ryk aan entrepreneurs en denkers. N bereidwillige volk wat strewe na n beter land en toekoms, maar om dit te benut sal hierdie departement eers moet voldoen aan sy mandaat

Dankie