

Local government plays a crucial role in ensuring effective service delivery, promoting community development, and safeguarding the interests of our citizens.

One of the key aspects of local government is service delivery.

Communities deserve efficient, reliable, and sustainable service delivery that meets their basic needs. The FF Plus advocates for accountable local government structures that prioritize service delivery and ensure transparency.

Assessing the financial health of municipalities with the State of local government report from treasury tells us that, municipalities is not permitted to close the financial year with any short term borrowing or overdraft, if they do it is a strong indicator of a municipality in financial distress.

Furthermore, at a minimum municipalities must maintain a positive cash position, if not it is the first indicator of financial distress.

The report also states that a funded budget is a budget that derived from realistic anticipated revenue to be collected. Yet it is a common practise that most municipalities tend to overstate revenue projection resulting in cash flow difficulties... in laiment words not able to pay for service delivery and this was reported already in 2011.

We know that the OR Tambo District municipality is not able, in total, to render services today yet there where a warning in 2011 stating that OR Tambo have a overdraft of 5 months worth of operating expenditure, the finances of the district municipality must be investigated immediately to establish the extend of the financial problems and intervene.

Interessting is that the annual report in 2022 of OR thambo read that the annual report was not made public and local communities was not invited to submit presentation. Council failed to adopt a oversight report, performance management systems not properly implemented and no steps was taken to do so.

In 2012 financial year the state of municipalities report, state that Siyathemba municipality reported that they have a overdraft of 11 months worth of operating expenditure, today the audit report reads that the SDBIP was not developed, performance targets not set, mid year performance not done, performance management systems was not established UIF and W was not investigated and allegations of theft of over a R 100 000 was not reported to the authorities. Prove the ANC did not govern in the best interest of communities

The 2012 state of municipalities also reported that 30% of all municipalities have a negative cash balance, also, that Mangaung Metro tabled and adopted an unfunded budget and have no reserves to cover any shortfall. And today the metro has fallen to no or little service delivery. Furthermore, 52 municipalities reported a negative closing cash position with 25 municipalities not even reporting.

In 2014's report it stated that 52 % of municipalities wont be able to cover monthly expenses adequatly.

In 2016 the State of municipalities report, states that there were an increase of 246% of municipalities reporting a negative cash flow position against the previous years and in 2017 an increase of a further 717% of municipalities reporting a negative cash position with 27 municipalities not even reporting.

Over the period of 2011 to 2017 a total of just over R90 Billion was not spend on capital projects

Lets fast forward to 2021 state of municipalities report, unfunded budgets have significantly increased over 5 years from 74 in 2017 to 106 in 2021, a 133 municipalities had a cash ration of less than one month, 90% of municipalities spend less than 8% on repairs and maintainance, 60% of municipalities underspend on asset renewal to adequately protect infrastructure. Only 152 out of 242 CFO's and, only 182 Municipal managers out of 242 and only 485 out of 863 senior managers meet the minimum required competency. The report also state that 165 municipalities is in financial distress.

These facts speaks to the fact that the ANC has failed to govern, they were warned from 2011 and done nothing to safe the situaution in local government as it only worsent. The ANC failed local communities for the last 13 years as the State of Municipalities report confirm this and they will fail every year that comes if they stay in government.

But the silver lining is that the ANC's support detoriated just like that of local government.

The ANC must make way as a coalition is the future of South Africa where different parties represent different voters thus a true representation of all the people therefore working in the interest of all the people.