**Budget Vote 9: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation**

**N Singh**

**“If You Fail To Plan, You Are Planning To Fail”**

Honourable Chairperson,

The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation is tasked with leading the development of the National Development Plan (NDP) by facilitating, influencing and supporting effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of government programmes which are aimed at improving service delivery, outcomes and the impact on society. This is because planning and monitoring are the backbone of any successful programme, as the words of Benjamin Franklin above tell us.

As a result of this, it is of paramount importance that government allocates a budget which is appropriate to the needs and functions of this department, it is equally important that the department itself is accountable by delivering on its stipulated strategic and annual performance plans.

We do, however, have a few concerns that we believe the department needs to address and implement. First and foremost, to ensure that there is effective intergovernmental cooperation amongst all concerned departments, the department needs to conduct workshops on the Policy Framework on the Integrated Planning.

The department also needs to include improving the coherence and coordination across the three spheres of government by working closely with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to develop mechanisms to enforce all spheres of government so to fully participate in the District Development Model.

To ensure that there is accountability and transparency in the deliverance of the objectives of the NDP, the department ought to see to it that the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) Monitoring and Reporting System tool is used in assessing the performance of various departments by compiling reports on progress made.

There is a continuous need to monitor the implementation of the 2019-2024 revised MTSF targets and indicators as set out in the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, this ensures that the 2024-2029 MTSF will tackle the challenges experienced during the 2019-2024 period.

The success and achievement of the department and subsequently the NDP relies heavily on collaboration, integration and cooperation across all levels of government as well as the private sector.

The IFP supports the Budget.

**Ngiyabonga!**