**BUDGET DEBATE ON SCIENCE AND INNOVATION:**

1. Chairperson, the EFF rejects the budget vote adjustments for the department of science and innovation.
2. What this COVID crisis has clearly shown is that as a nation, we are ill equipped to tackle the challenges of development of the twenty first century.
3. The basis of the current conjecture of our development is based on consuming what we do not produce, on depending on other countries for equipment that is critical for our development and health.
4. How is it possible to explain that with institutions such as the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, with the amount of money made available to researchers through the National Research Foundation, South Africa is running short of testing kits for COVID 19?
5. Why is it that we do not have sufficient ventilators and do not have enough oxygen machines? How fast should it take institutions of science such as these to develop equipment needed to keep the country alive?
6. The reality is that we have stopped imagining things. We have stopped thinking about creating the necessary conditions for development in this country. We have stopped science backed innovation.
7. Rather, we have become a society bent on thieving and on dependence on other people.
8. The CSIR should be the science behind the mass production of testing kits and ventilators in this country. We should have all the medical equipment needed even for other ailments produced here in this country.
9. This would also create the necessary jobs to shield people from the storm of unemployment.
10. Time is now opportune for the country use science, technology and innovation not as ends in themselves but to produce the knowledge, information, skills and talent needed to support, facilitate and fuel the development and growth of strategic industries and sectors of the economy and society which are central to the overall independence and sovereignty of South African and African people.
11. In order to do this, we must focus on knowledge acquisition and deepening, knowledge creation, knowledge transfer, developing and nurturing a culture of innovation; and ensuring that research and development spending accounts for 2.5% of GDP in the near future.
12. We need to start talking about connecting all schools to high-speed fibre, about building and upgrading computer and science labs and provide all necessary equipment to every school.
13. We need to start integrating critical thinking and problem solving into every part of the school curriculum, and institutionalize the use of technology across the curriculum, and into teaching methods. Our public schooling must include robotics and coding into the curricula at all schools as well.
14. All this requires a Science and Innovation department that is aware of its developmental role in society, and that actively uses science to resolve societal problems.
15. This current department is unfortunately extremely limited, it has divorced science from the day to day lives of our people. It has entrenched the idea that science must only be accessible to those from richer households, and is not for the poor blacks in rural areas and townships.
16. We reject this budget vote.