

## Vote 33 Human Settlements and Vote 41 Water and Sanitation

Hon SF Du Toit- 4 June 2021 (5min)

Agbare voorsitter:

“Affordable housing brings stability, Economic diversity and Improves the physical quality of the neighborhood”: John Woods

Do we have stability, Economic diversity and improved Physical quality in SA?

The answer is NO! We do not!

Minister, if one would open National Treasuries Big Red Budget –book and turn to page 611, Vote 33 for the first time, it reads like a novel.

It represents character and action and has some degree of realism.

The **Purpose** of the vote is assiduous: “To Facilitate the creation of sustainable human settlements and the improvement to household quality of life” (*Assiduous: showing great care and perseverance*)

Both Vote 33 and Vote 41, water and sanitation read like Pilot Projects. New initiatives for new challenges. This is absurd! Greater focus must be placed on infrastructure for water reticulation systems as well as additional Sewage works and settlement establishments seem to be politically motivated rather than planned for true purpose.

With respect, when you are on the road at night in an unfamiliar area, you smell the next town, you don't see the lights. One of the reasons for this is the absence of a municipal master plan.

A large percentage of municipalities does not have municipal master plans for water, electricity, sewage and infrastructure. This results in fruitless expenditure when development take place without proper planning on all levels. Currently professional services are outsourced at very high cost to most municipalities, because of a lack of skilled personnel and vacant posts. In most instances as a result of failure to fill posts due to Affirmative Action and BBEEE.

I have seen fist hand how an opportunistic, obscure contractor, lure people to occupy land illegally, to put pressure on a municipality, to establish a settlement. Only for these people to be uprooted again, since the area was not suitable for Human settlement. In the JB Marks municipality councilors allegedly invited and instructed, individuals to settle on agriculturally-zoned land. Up to now, there is no indication that the speaker acted against SAID alleged misleading and opportunistic ANC councilors. There are allegations that stands were sold by councilors. Actions like these are disruptive and contribute to social unrest.

Another dilemma is corruption that take place with regards to tenders. The involvement of Gangs in rural towns like Matlosana, that act as the so-called tender-mafia is a great concern. Yes, the law-enforcement agencies are investigating some of the cases, but it only happened after the FF Plus blew the whistle – Why didn't the municipal executive alert the authorities timeously? Are they involved, do they benefit financially form this?

Voorsitter, Dit is algemeen bekend dat Suid-Afrika tans, meer as ooit van te vore, met "n reuse- water tekort sit – "n vars water tekort!

Die inisiatiewe en projekte wat in die huidige begroting beplan word, wil voorkom of iemand kort voor die opstel van die begroting, ontnugter is en besef het dat daar na voorsiening van voldoende water-beplanning gekyk moet word – maar ongelukkig het die realiteit van die erns van die saak nie ingesink nie. Hierdie projekte kom voor as beplanning vir algemene nuwe uitbreidings, waar daar GEEN humanitêre krisisse bestaan nie!

Provinsies soos die Noordwes gaan meer as gereeld gebuk onder geweldadige Protes-aksies wees ongelukkigheid oor watervoorsiening.

In a written response to a question posed to the Minister of Police, on the number of violent service delivery protest actions that took place between 1 August 2020 to 31 January 2021, the minister indicated a total number of 909! Do you realize what effect these disruptions have on the economies of rural towns!

Towns like Kethleng River, Ditsobotla (Coligny and Lichtenburg), Sannieshof, Makwassie Hills, Tswaing and Vryburg, where people are being deprived from their basic right of water – because of failed ANC-Rule.

Raw sewage running into water systems in Madibeng, JB Marks, Matlosana, to name but a few.

The mandate of the department of water and sanitation is to ensure that the country's water resources are protected, managed, used and conserved. The department is failing in its mandate Minister!

With low water-levels in rivers and concentrated sewage-percentages in among others, the Vaal River System. Sewage-foam is clearly visible on the water-surface and the stench is unbearable.

Needless to say, the solids are drained to provide water for the residents of Matlosana and every one Down-stream.

Sies!

Bring an end to this horror story minister. Intervene as a matter of urgency!