

**ANC Parliamentary Caucus  
National Assembly  
Budget Vote 2**

**22 July 2024**

**Comrade D. Dlakude ANC(MP)**

**An activist Parliament that represents the interest of the People**

The Parliament, for the better part of its existence, has been a tribune of a minority to assert their domination over the majority. The ANC, over the past 30 years led a legislative reform which has transformed our country and laid a basis for the creation of a nonsexist, nonracial, united, democratic and prosperous society.

The laws that have been passed since 1994 are an expression of the interests of the people. The majority of the people in all corners of South Africa, as well as various social partners, have played a meaningful role in developing the South Africa we live in. A nation with a constitution and legislative framework which protects our human rights, the rights of workers, protecting the vulnerable and giving expression to the social and economic rights of all.

The commitment to transforming our society is an ongoing process and in the sixth Parliament we passed 145 bills, which shows the ongoing process of transforming our society.

The 2024 National and Provincial Elections created an outcome that required political parties to work together to constitute a majority, which constituted the Leadership of Parliament and the Executive. For a national executive to exist, a majority should be constituted by political parties.

The African National Congress called for a Government of National Unity and provided the leadership required to constitute a government that should continue to advance the people's interests and the promise of a better life envisaged by our constitution.

A number of aspects of the function of Parliament will require a shift to adapt to the changed conditions to ensure there is adequate support and systems for a functional Parliament.

An important function of Parliament is to oversee the executive branch and ensure accountability. This is a function that enables Parliament to advance the interest of the people and the issues they want addressed. It is this function that also enables Parliament to intervene and recommend interventions to resolve problems.

Strengthening the capacity to support oversight and accountability functions of

Parliament is fundamental for public representatives to have an impact on communities. Parliament is relatively underfunded, but this function is critical to the work of Parliament and should be strengthened.

As Parliament we, oversight a government which is quite vast and complex and for us to robustly do our oversight, we need enhanced capacity. We should continue to strengthen our relationship with institutions supporting democracy as their reports resolve challenges and appraise Parliament of the insights of various challenges affecting government, society and the political economy.

We need to continue engaging with the National Treasury to change the funding formula for parliament. We believe that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces will prioritize this matter.

Honourable Members, the Judicial Commission on Allegations of State Capture and Corruption, known as the Zondo Commission, made various findings on Parliament, and the sixth Parliament has undertaken a comprehensive approach to respond to the various recommendations. The seventh Parliament should continue to build on the work undertaken by previous Democratic Parliaments.

In 2022, January, a tragic incident happened when the Parliamentary Precinct was burned. We have since focused on the restoration of Parliament project, which the Development Bank of South Africa is implementing. We will closely scrutinise the project cycle to ensure accountability and that the project is finalised within the project plan and cost.

We welcome the redesign of Parliament to reflect the diversity of our nation and to have the required accessibility for persons with disability and other needs for an inclusive environment.

Honourable members, our work as Parliament should be rooted in our constituencies. We should strengthen Constituency work and ensure we allocate sufficient resources and time for contact with the people. Our method of functioning should increasingly involve public participation, and civic education must be strengthened to achieve high public participation. We must ensure all our people understand their rights and use petitions, submissions, public hearings and letters to public representatives. South Africans must know Parliamentary Constituency Offices and know that they are for everyone and are not just for party political members.

Another critical matter is ensuring we have adequate structures that meet the well-being needs of members of parliament. We believe we need to continue pursuing resolution of the Pamed challenges in a sustainable manner that reduces the financial risk to Parliament.

Honourable members, we have always reached a consensus or constructively disagreed on matters in the past. We have also made our collective efforts to restore and maintain the decorum of the house, and we pledge our commitment

as the ANC to work with the Presiding officers and the administration of Parliament in the noble task of serving our nation and its people.

To serve the people of South Africa, is an honour which requires all of us abide by the oath or affirmation we took, to represent the people of South Africa. We all represent different constituencies and through our cooperation and engagements, we will be able to have an activist and robust Parliament which is ceased with challenges affecting, the poor in the most remote and rural areas of our country, to those in the townships, and informal settlements, and those living in urban areas.