



**TO : ALL MEDIA HOUSES**

**DATE: 22 FEBRUARY 2023**

## **ATM CALLS FOR TIGHTER CONTROLS TO GUARD AGAINST MISUSE OF PUBLIC FUNDS**

The African Transformation Movement (ATM) notes the budget speech of Minister Godongwana with mixed feelings. The ATM appreciates the quantum of revenue collection but not confident that all the controls are in place to avoid the irregular expenditure that has since become a regular line item. We however welcome the upward adjustment of thresholds to ease the burden of the lower paid citizens,

The finances of this country are grossly mismanaged by debt hungry leaders, who are ready to drown South Africa in a debt that swallows 73.6% of the GDP, eternally condemning the citizens to a life of dependency.

The ATM, without fear of contradiction, calls out the ruling party as the number one enemy of any gains this country will ever experience under its leadership and so will be the case with the many Government interventions during this new fiscus.

ATM calls for tighter controls to guard against misuse of public funds.

The ATM applauds the South African Revenue Services for the reported sterling job it has done and continues to do, exceeding revenue target. The ATM calls on SARS to pay special attention to all tax evaders for the benefit of the growth of this country.

The ATM commends Government for finally listening to the counsel of the ATM on assisting State owned enterprises; this will go a long way towards turning the fortunes of these institutions and in securing the future of workers and the country.

On Eskom, the ATM maintains that an administrator with the financial injection by government is enough to usher Eskom to health and rejects the appointment of a Minister of Electricity.

Though the ATM welcomes the condition of the installation of pre-paid electricity to instil a culture of paying for services, ATM rejects the decision that allows the biggest contributors to the revenue of Eskom, e.g. mines and affording municipalities to generate their own electricity. This strips Eskom naked and leaves it with a small revenue base. This undertaking will soon render Eskom a non-viable entity.

The ATM also views the incentives for the Installation of roof top solar panels as another misguided strategy that will strip the Eskom revenue stream from the middle class and the wealthy.

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ATM cautions the Government not to rush under the circumstances, for migration to renewables, the country is battling debt, ailing infrastructure, power outages and a crippled economy. Eskom must focus on fixing its fleet to stabilise electricity generation and improve on Energy Availability Factor.

The inability of the 91% of the 247 municipalities to account for their allocations is further evidence of incompetence, mismanagement and corruption by officials of the ruling party. We call upon the Auditor General to invoke her powers to hold the culprits accountable.

**END**

**ISSUED BY THE AFRICAN TRANSFORMATION MOVEMENT (ATM)**

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