

## Disappointed at Ramaphosa's Cabinet

THERE was much talk about trimming the size of Cabinet with the aim of reducing costs, and also introducing effective, committed, and competent personnel of Cabinet ministers.

Personally, I was deeply disappointed, but certainly not surprised. We are told, "it is the prerogative of the president to appoint ministers". Really? If so, does the president consider the minister of basic education to have excelled in this portfolio? After reading the article by Xolela Mangcu, and also taking into account the number of children that drowned in pit latrines, one wonders if the president is oblivious of her track record. Also, does Dr Motsoaledi possess the ability to manage home affairs following his dismal failure to extricate the Public Health by perpetuating the mess created by his predecessors and instead wasted much time on radio and TV? Think again, and be realistic Mr. President. China has a population of 1.3 billion citizens, the second biggest economy in the world, and has a cabinet of 15 members of parliament, unemployment is 3.8%.

The US population is 327 million, with 12 MPs and an unemployment rate of 3.6. Compare these statistics to South Africa, I wonder if indeed we are serious about trimming the Cabinet and reducing costs.

Second, the fringe benefits accorded to ministers are extremely extravagant and superfluous. If we are serious, car allowances should not exceed R450000 per minister. Countless overseas trips that happened in the past should be curtailed, and first class tickets on flights be abolished. Public Works to implement strict control on ministers housing renovations. Annual appraisals on key performance requirements on responsibility to be assessed, and failure to meet minimum standards of performance to be punished effectively.

Last, municipalities used to have their own departments that had fully employed workers with all the necessary worker benefits. There was no outsourcing of essential public services, which dissipated monies on private companies. As a consequence, strict by-laws were maintained.

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