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PROCEEDINGS AT JOINT SITTING

Members of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces assembled in the Nieuwmeester Dome at 14:01.

The House Chairperson took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Please be seated. Hon members, will you take up your seats? Thank you. The Secretary will read the Order of the Day. Order, order, hon members, order. Will you please settle down? I will ask the Secretary to read the order of the day.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE PRESIDENT'S STATE-OF-THE-NATION

ADDRESS

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE COUNCIL: House Chairperson, to the hon Speaker of the National Assembly, Mme Thoko Didiza, to the

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Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, Mme Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane, his Excellency, President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, his Excellency the Deputy President, Paul Mashatile, hon Ministers and Deputy Ministers, the President of SA Local Government Association, SALGA and the entire delegation from SALGA, distinguished delegates both permanent and special delegates, to the hon members, ladies and gentlemen, greetings [madume].

House Chair, Richard Morin, who is a veteran political commentator of the Washington Post and an accomplished researcher of the Pew Research Center, which is one of the largest nonpartisan links on social issues, public opinion, and demographic trends, is credited for having invested the term "whistlers" or "whistling".

The meaning of whistlers is concisely defined by Professor Witten from Massey University in an article titled "*The Whistle Politics: The New Pitch of an Old Narrative*" as meaning:

An overt intentional speech or act that is designed, with intent, to allow two plausible interpretations with the sole

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intention of paddling misinformation, lies and half-truths in such a way that the audience is unaware of the existence of the second and coded interpretation.

Professor Jennifer Saul from the University of Waterloo, in her seminal article titled "*Political Manipulation, and Philosophy of Language*", also cautions us to be aware that those who resort to whistling often covertly and intentionally seek to divert attention or distort the true state of affairs through witch hunt and distortion that is intended to pursue narrow political gains.

Hon President, through you House Chair, the history of literal and metaphorical whistles gives us crucial insight into some of the speeches that have been made on this podium since yesterday.

They were to the larger degree less substantive, less meaningful but deliberate manipulation of facts to divert attention from the real issues that the President has presented to the nation last week.

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Hon House Chair, we stand firmly with the President and the people of our great nation, and we will not be deterred. We will not be silenced, and, indeed, we will not be bullied.

As once reaffirmed by the supreme pan-Africanist and intellectual nationalist revolutionary poet Amílcar Cabral:

Hide nothing from the masses of our people. Tell no lies. Expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, and failures. Claim no easy victories.

Hon President, the ANC has always identified the democratic state in all its configurations, and especially Parliament, as an elected tribune of the people, as a contested terrain of struggle in the battle of ideas for the victory of the national democratic revolution.

This makes a compelling case for this debate to assure our people, among other things, how Parliament is going to reposition itself to oversight and ensure there is successful implementation of the strategic priorities that the President has outlined.

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This is especially so against the backdrop of the sustained falsehoods and distortions by some sections of political parties in this august House that this Government National Unity, GNU, is not a popular choice but an elite pact.

Hon House Chair, hon President, these whistlers among us have been sustained despite the hard evidence that none but our people, united in diversity, have gone in their great numbers to vote for the political parties of their choice.

Hon President, we stand before this august House, not just to engage in debate but to reaffirm to our people our unwavering commitment to the fundamental visions that we outlined in the Freedom Charter.

Indeed, we wholeheartedly agree with you President that:

South Africa belongs to all those who live in it. The people shall govern, and no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people.

Hon President, through you House Chairperson, it's important that we reassure our people that, contrary to false claims and

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distortions. The strategic priorities of the GNU, as outlined by the President, indeed mirrors what the Freedom Charter has outlined.

The 70th anniversary of the Freedom Charter this year makes a compelling case to reflect on the extent to which our government has pushed back the frontiers of the apartheid colonial legacy of unequal power relations defined by race, class and gender.

We do this, hon President, to demonstrate that the vision of the Freedom Charter, which has inspired the preamble of the Constitution of our country, as the supreme law, is not just a collection of revolutionary sounding phrases, but a living document and a call to action for the victory of the national democratic revolution.

The Freedom Charter has and continues to inspire the widest sections of the people of South Africa across all races, class and gender.

Therefore, House Chairperson, at the core of the architecture of our democracy, as articulated in the Freedom Charter, is

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the centrality of our people, especially the working class and the poor.

This has inspired heroic struggles by the masses of our people across the length and breadth of our country, the rural masses, the youth, the women, and the working class in demand of the transfer of power from the white minority to the masses of our people.

Hon House Chair, as Jeremy Cronin reminds us in one of his seminal articles, the vision of the Freedom Charter on democracy, he raises three fundamental element; firstly, Representative Democracy - where elected officials act on behalf of the people; secondly, Constitutional Democracy - where governance is bound by the rule of law and a transformative Bill of Rights; thirdly, Popular Democracy - where ordinary citizens are active participants in shaping their future.

Hon House Chair, these elements are not in competition but complementary and mutually reinforcing to anchor the vision of a democratic South Africa.

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It is important that we outline the fact that this participatory mechanism raises three fundamental issues from comrade Cronin: taking Parliament to the people, community policing forum and ward committees. And it is of the view that, these are not mere formalities that can be measured by the ticking of the box but concrete expressions of the people in real action to construct the future.

The culture of participatory democracy, hon President, which has become the defining feature of the post-apartheid colonial polity in South Africa, has its roots in the forms of struggles waged by our people under the leadership of the ANC way back before the 1994 democratic breakthrough. [Applause.]

It is through this culture that transparency and accountability as the core features of the democratic culture have been entrenched in the political traditions and culture of the ANC.

Hon House Chair, in pursuit of the Freedom Charter and the transformative vision of the Constitution, Parliament has always adopted a mission and a vision of "an activist's

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Parliament that is responsive to the needs of the citizens for better quality of our life.

It is our view that critical to the supreme test of an activist's Parliament that is responsive to the needs of the citizens is not endless policy debates and hecklings among ourselves as elected representatives of the people but the political will and the capacity to push back the frontiers of poverty, unemployment and inequality. [Applause.]

Hon House Chair, a Parliament that does not deliver tangible transformation to improve the lives of the citizens, risks becoming irrelevant to the masses it serves and meeting the wrath of the rebellion of the poor. [Applause.]

It was for this reason that the Fifth Democratic Parliament initiated a bold review of the impact of the post-1994 legislation through the High-Level Panel team led by former President Kgalema Motlanthe. This review was not an academic exercise but a revolutionary audit of whether our laws were accelerating transformation or entrenching the status quo.

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Hon House Chair, the assessment of this panel was ...

[Inaudible.] ... key pillars amongst them, unemployment and economic transformation, the equitable distribution of wealth, the land reform, restitution, and social cohesion.

Indeed, this initiative will forever remain in the annals of history as an indelible demonstration of the people's movement that is self-critical in pursuit of the aspirations of the masses of our people. The findings and recommendations of this panel were indeed processed by Parliament through its select committee and portfolio committees.

House Chair, the Sixth Democratic Parliament marked the coming of age of our Parliament as a critical institution of democracy as it coincided with the 30th anniversary of our constitutional democracy. And building on these lessons, achievements and setbacks of the preceding period, this Parliament has accomplished a myriad of qualitative strides in pursuit of a better life for all with a targeted focus on the elimination of the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. Critical among these strides are the robust oversight and repositioning of state-owned entities.

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On the legislative front, we have witnessed significant improvement in the capacity and quality of this Parliament to scrutinize Bills presented before it by the national executive. And indeed, this is more illustrated by a smaller number of Bills that we returned by the President to Parliament.

The Sixth Parliament has also passed groundbreaking pieces of transformative legislation, that were related to yesterday amongst them; National Health Insurance Act, the BELA, Basic Education Law Amendment Act, the Expropriation Act and also the Public Procurement Act. [Applause.]

Hon House Chair, because of enhanced and robust parliamentary oversight in the last administration, many strides have been made to improve government services to our people.

Parliament have effectively overseen the successful and seamless intervention of the executive in disaster-hit areas, provinces like KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and also Northwest.

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Hon President, it is for this reason that we support the strategic priorities of the GNU and your commitment to accelerate economic transformation through the transformation fund, assisting municipalities and also to address the challenges of infrastructure and basic services to our communities.

Hon House Chair and President, according to the Diagnostic Report of the National Planning Commission, among the critical challenges of governance is the persistence of fragmented planning, poor policy coordination and resource allocation among the three spheres of government since 1994.

And therefore, hon President, we acknowledge and welcome your policy intervention as part of strengthening the capacity of local government through the District Development Model and also the specialized technical support as is the case with eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. Thank you, House Chair.
[Applause.] [Time expired.]

Mr N NDHLELA: Hon Speaker of the National Assembly, hon Chairperson of National Council of Provinces, honourable Members of Parliament and fellow South Africans, we rise today

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on behalf of the uMkhonto weSizwe Party, the official opposition in Parliament, to respond to Mr Ramaphosa's 2025 failed state of the nothingness address. An address that regrettably felt less like a reflection of our nation state, and more like a maiden speech of someone who's just been newly appointed to a job, laden with recycled promises, hollow rhetoric and dressed in the usual fanfare that has become the hallmark of this kind of annual events.

The state of the nation address platform is not meant to be a ceremonial spectacle or a stage for lofty promises. It should be a moment of accountability with the nation hears an honest assessment of past commitments and concrete plans for the future. Instead, we witnessed yet another episode of political theatrics, a fashion show camouflaged with empty hot air rhetoric. Mr Ramaphosa's speech was filled with promises eerily like those made in 2023-24 and even earlier. Let us not be fooled by his eloquence. South Africans deserve more, Mr President, then promises, they deserve results.

We have listened to these commitments before and yet the realities on the ground tell a different story. [Applause.] A story of betrayal, neglect and failure. Now, let's look at the

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military sacrifices. We mourn the loss of 14 South African soldiers with this number still rising, these young men and women died not to defend our sovereignty, but to protect the government's economic interests in foreign lands. The least you could have done was to equip them better, yet you led your incompetent less caring Finance Minister to keep defunding the military budget. Their blood is in the hands of the government that prioritises profits over people. A failed state.

Regarding unemployment and poverty, the President speaks of economic growth and job creation, but the facts expose the truth. Whilst the population grows at the rate of 1,3 million people a year, the South African unemployment rate remains the highest globally, sitting at 42% with young people as unemployment exceeding 60%. Millions of our people, particularly the youth, are stuck in a cycle of poverty with no clear path out. The so-called inclusive growth has excluded majority, particularly black working-class. Again, it's a failed state. [Applause.]

About crime and gender-based violence, the President mentions crime reduction efforts, but South Africans live daily in fear, violent crime rates have surged with over 27 000 murders

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recorded last year alone, women and children continue to face the brunt of this violence. Gender-based violence remains a national crisis. Yet, the government's response is fragmented and unfunded. Our police are underresourced, demoralised and often complicit in the same crimes they are meant to prevent. Let alone the fact that, the 10111-contact centre number doesn't work. Again, a failed state. [Applause.]

Regarding landless and homelessness, land reform has been short of nothing of a disaster under this administration. Expropriation Act recently signed into law, is nothing but a rebranded apartheid relic, a repackaging of the Expropriation Act of 1975. It does nothing to address historical land issues. It is the same apartheid wine in a different bottle. The MK Party will not endorse half big legislation. We will push for an amendment of section 25 of the Constitution to enable genuine land expropriation without compensation to return the land to our people. And again, we know it's a failed state. [Applause.]

Regarding the diluted National Health Insurance, the National Health Insurance signing to lose a betrayal to the needs of our people and not collapse private medical aids but will

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instead make them richer. This government remains committed to protecting white capital interests, always pleasing whiteness at the expense of our people. Our hospitals continue to fall apart. Clinics lack basic supplies. Mothers give birth in corridors, and children are dying due to preventable diseases. President, this is a failed state. [Applause.]

Education crisis, our schools have become drug dens rather than centres of learning. Infrastructure is crumbling. Children still learn under trees, pit toilets, and overcrowded classrooms. The Basic Education Laws Amendment Act now in the hands of the DA, in consultation with the AfriForum, will not transform our education system because of the racist DA, who will then never implement that good for blacks. It will be another law gathering dust while our children suffer again. This is a failed state. [Applause.]

In conclusion, the MK Party stands firm, we will not be complicit in endorsing laws and policies that betray the people. We will fight relentlessly for real land reform, genuine economic transformation, and for the dignity of the restoration of the crumbling health of our education systems. We will champion justice for poor marginalised and those left

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behind. This is not just our responsibility, as the official opposition, it is our revolutionary duty, born from the struggles of our forebearers to hold this government accountable. Mr President, Sir, you lead a failed state.

IsiZulu:

Gwaza Mkhonto! Gwaza! [Ihlombe.]

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon House Chairperson, Mr President and honourable members, this afternoon we reflect on the state of our nation which is currently one that is under construction. However, words alone are not enough and, Mr President, time is not on our side. For 30 years, many promises have been made with little or no results. When the Democratic Alliance joined the Government of National Unity, GNU, seven months ago, I committed to turning South Africa into a construction site to drive economic growth and job creation, and to use public assets for public good.

What I found in the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure was an organisation crippled by neglect, inefficiency, and overtaken by corruption. Morale was low, and its core mandate to build infrastructure, create jobs, and

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ensure public assets serve the people was failing. However, in just seven months, that story is now beginning to change. We are building a department with a bold vision, with staff that are motivated and where big ideas are embraced ... [Applause.] ... One of our most important decisions has been to use public assets for public good. For far too long, state-owned properties have stood vacant, attracting crime and decay.

In a major policy shift, we have released public properties for requests for proposals, inviting both the public and private sectors to submit their ideas. Soon, we will be converting eyesores such as the barracks in eThekweni into a mixed-use development, where the first new skyscraper will be built in Durban in the last 20 years. In our first round of proposals, we have released 31 properties for redevelopment, at a valued R1,4 billion. Mr President, this will generate up to R10 billion in private investment, create 165 000 jobs and generate close to R200 million in rental income for the South African government. This is what the DA is delivering in the GNU. [Applause.]

In Tshwane, we have handed over state-owned land to community projects in Mamelodi after years of delays, which demonstrate

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our commitment to community development. We are taking decisive action against corruption and mismanagement. In just seven months, we have launched investigations into the failed Telkom Towers project which cost more than a billion rand and the R800 million Independent Development Trust, IDT, oxygen tender. Mr President and hon members, I am taking a zero-tolerance approach to corruption and will hold officials and politicians to account for their roles in these scandals ... [Applause.] ... This is what the DA is delivering in the GNU.

Hon members, through Infrastructure South Africa, we have launched the first of its kind project preparation fund worth R180 million to prepare and package infrastructure projects across government. This first bid window has been completely oversubscribed and is a testament to the big reforms we have introduced in just seven months.

In another first, we have launched the adopt-a-municipality programme where we will pilot an infrastructure partnership programme with four local municipalities to maximise infrastructure spending and efficiency. Soon we hope to role this programme out across the country. This is what the DA is delivering in the GNU ... [Applause.] ... We have started to

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conduct a skills audit to ensure that we have the expertise to execute on our mission.

Mr V G REDDY: Hon House Chairperson, I rise on a point of order in terms of Joint Rule 14(b). This is the third time the hon Minister makes references to what he calls the GNU.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, take your seat.

Mr V G REDDY: There is no such thing as GNU in this government. This a coalition ... [Interjections.] ... parties and the DA.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, take your seat. This a point for debate, take your seat, please. That is a point for debate. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: We have started to conduct a skills audit to ensure that we have the expertise to execute on our mission. We have declared war on the construction mafia, which has held infrastructure projects hostage for far too long. [Applause.]

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The Durban declaration, signed between the department, the SA Police Service, SAPS, and the National Treasury is a landmark agreement to dismantle these syndicates one by one. Reports of construction stoppages are already decreasing. This is what the DA is delivering in the GNU ... [Applause.] ... Hon members, we are securing public property to prevent land invasions, crime, and theft. Eviction orders have already been obtained, including for the Castle of Good Hope, ensuring public assets serve society instead of criminal elements, because no one person has the right to claim public land and buildings as their own.

Despite our progress, there are some members in this House who don't want the department to succeed. While some members in this House seek out paid-for journalists and attempt to spread fake news through artificial intelligence, AI, voice notes and falsified WhatsApps, including ActionSA and the EFF, but we will not be distracted. We will not be bullied. We will not back down ... [Applause.] ... We will not be pressured or persuaded by false reports, political collusion, or those being investigated for wrongdoing. The people of South Africa deserve a government that delivers and that is what we will focus on.

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Over the next year, we will attract R100 billion in private infrastructure investment, making Infrastructure South Africa the hub of all major projects. This past week, the National Treasury has issued new public-private partnership, PPP, regulations which we welcome. We will also launch a special projects unit to fast-track infrastructure projects and revive failed initiatives across the country. We will redevelop small harbours, such as Hout Bay into tourism and economic hubs, bringing the next V&A Waterfront, which is set, Mr President, to attract tens of billions of rands of investment and create tens of thousands of new jobs. Therefore, we will finalise reforms to the Expanded Public Works Programme to ensure that it leads to permanent employment and skills development after it has been hijacked and abused by politicians and political parties for too long. This is what the DA is delivering in the GNU. [Applause.]

In just seven months, we have achieved what others have failed to accomplish in decades. The department is no longer a department of empty slogans, it is a centre of delivery. We are no longer existed to advance personal interests, but the interests of South Africans that want our country to work and who want to get to work. Across the country, thousands of

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public servants in our department are working diligently to build a better South Africa.

This is why, Mr President and hon members, the DA will play its role and its part in the GNU to drive the tough economic reforms in Public Works and Infrastructure which will drive economic growth and job creation. This is what we have achieved in just a short seven months, imagine what we will achieve in a full five-year term. This is the DA has been delivering in the GNU ... [Applause.] ... The GNU depends on the DA to keep delivering to South Africans, and South Africans know that. [Applause.]

This is why we will continue to turn South Africa into a construction site, one that drives economic growth and opportunity for all South Africans. This is why we will continue to build South Africa. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr C M DUGMORE: House Chair, Mr President, Deputy president and hon members, on Thursday at the City Hall you made us proud, proud to be South African, proud to be African and proud to be part of a movement and a country that strives for

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a better world. Your words reminded us of our resilience as a nation and the strength we have, especially when we are united in our diversity. The immediate dangers of a changed global context, and our own challenges we faced, reminded me of what ANC President Oliver Tambo said in 1977. He said:

You might think it is very difficult to wage a liberation struggle. Wait until you are in power. At that stage you will realize that it is more difficult to keep the power than to wage a liberation war. People will be expecting a lot of services from you. Be prepared to learn from other people's revolutions, learn from the enemy also. Enemies not necessarily doing everything wrong, but at the same time avoid the enemies' mistakes.

Mr President, we drew strength from your reference to the Freedom Charter, "The wealth of this country shall be shared". That vision is now enshrined in our Constitution, a Constitution which commits our country to redress in favour of those historically disadvantaged who suffered unfair discrimination. The Government of National Unity, GNU's Statement of Intent, itself, embraces redress.

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House Chair, President Ramaphosa delivered the ANC's 08 January speech in Khayelitsha on 11 January and he said:

The false notion that the character of the ANC and its strategic objective of the national democratic revolution, NDR have now been redefined by a single tactic of forming a broadly inclusive GNU is a distortion of the realities our movement faced, and this should be dismissed out of hand.

IsiXhosa:

Asinamona, asinanzondo, siyayidumisa i-ANC. [Kwaqhwatywa.]

English:

President, you signed the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill into law enabling access and equity to basic education, compulsory grade R. The myth that the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill...

Afrikaans:

... is teen Afrikaans. Dit is 'n liegstorie. [... is against Afrikaans. It is a lie.]

English:

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You have been exposed to that Expropriation Act. Mr President, I have here a speech that Helen Zille made in 2018, where she argues that the case for no compensation regarding land in next to Mitchells Plain, and she says:

In terms of all these considerations, it is quite conceivable that a reasonable court could find that the just and equitable amount payable would be zero.

Now, with the help of hon McPherson, she goes around and creates a smokescreen and seeks common cause with the likes of AfriForum, Solidarity and Donald Trump to project this legislation as about land grabs. You passed the Public Procurement Act, the National Health Insurance Act, NHI and yes, Mr President, there will be differences. We do not need megaphone diplomacy, we need dialogue, finding practical solutions, trust and respect.

House Chair, but I detect something now...

Afrikaans:

Ek voel hier is in die Huis ... [I get the feeling here in the House ...]

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English:

I call it GNU envy.

Afrikaans:

Jaloesie. [Envy.]

IsiXhosa:

Umona.

English:

Mr President did the MKP really think that our leadership could govern with them when they demanded that we must first remove you, our President. This party on the left predicts the imminent death of the GNU. The implosion of the MKP has begun. The Twitter war amongst unelected leaders is going on. [Interjections.]

Afrikaans:

Die regering ... [The Government ...]

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Dugmore, will you please take your seat?

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Mr C M DUGMORE: Will you please watch my time here?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, it is fine. Your time is okay. Order, hon members.

Mr D M SKOSANA: Hon House Chairperson, on a point of order: Is the member prepared to take a question?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Dugmore, are you prepared to take a question? No, he is not prepared to take the question. Order hon members, please proceed.

Afrikaans:

Mr C M DUGMORE: Die regering van nasionale eenheid is wat ons land nou nodig het. [The Government of National Unity is what our country needs at this time.]

English:

Chair, did the EFF really think that they are seen to be a trusted party? Its leader is central to internal conflicts within the EFF. Hon Malema, you have actually forgotten what Congress of the South African Students, Cosas has taught you.

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Congress of the South African Students taught you "Each One Teach One", you have forgotten that.

Mr President, you have called on us to focus on fixing local government, building a capable and ethical state is critical to growing our economy at 3%, creating jobs and lowering the cost of living. We have seen the intervention eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. Our people want implementation. The vehicle is a District Development Model. Thank you for appointing the district champions. Each of the 52 districts across our country have natural endowments, comparative and competitive advantages. An example is the initiative to build on the Knysna Investment Summit attended by our Deputy President and convened a Garden Route District Summit. The founder of this initiative wants the district champion there, he wants the premier there, the Deputy President, and he also wants you there.

There are black farmers in the Southern Cape already trying to secure the Chinese market for honeybush tea. But in this province, we have the Human Settlements Grant underspent by R250 million. An amount of R222 million was returned because

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this DA provincial government refuses to upgrade informal settlements.

Afrikaans:

Dis 'n skande! [It's a disgrace!]

English:

The mayor of Hessequa Local Municipality was recorded on the tape telling residents of Melkhoutfontein to lie about their income to qualify. Alan Wendie does nothing. John Steenhuisen, I am going to give the recording to you to expose this liar in your ranks. But we also know, and I am not sure if you are aware, that some within the ranks of the GNU are spreading, giving oxygen to those that want to secede, and these fuel separate and racist logic. When I think of those lies, I remember the words of Bob Marley when he says:

You can fool some people sometimes, but you cannot fool all the people, all the time.

IsiXhosa:

Asinamona, asinanzondo, siyayidumisa i-ANC. [Kwaqhwatywa.]

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Ms O M C MAOTWE: Greetings to the president and commander-in-Chief, Julius Malema, officials, EFF Members of Parliament, the people of South Africa, ground forces of this protest movement that is taking the fight to the picket lines this year. Year in, year out, Mr Ramaphosa comes year and make promises without accounting for the promises he made the previous year. It is as if he is permanently on the reset button and the sad thing is, every time he opens his mouth, more and more people become statistics of unemployment, poverty, rape and murder.

Mr Ramaphosa, why don't you rather keep quiet and go look after your Ankoles in Pala Phala farm because you are the elephant in the room. There is no hope for our youth. Men and women are lingering in the streets of South Africa in absolute poverty and despair. We have listened to the submissions by the members of the former liberation movement and their allies. The right-wing neoliberal forces who are waging a war against Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill, the NHI, the Expropriation of Land Without Compensation and all progressive and transformative legislation. We will meet on the picket lines in the streets and in every way our people need us to fight for service delivery, against injustices, against

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corruption and maladministration, and to restore the dignity of a black child. We will never retreat.

Commander-in-chief, when President Cyril Ramaphosa said in his first and second state of national addresses in 2018 and 2019, that they had a plan for critical areas of investment that would support structural transformation, growth and job creation. What exactly was he talking about? Because since then we have seen nothing but suffering, deepening unemployment and rising cost of living.

Mr Ramaphosa, when you started in 2018 and said "Thuma mina", the price of bread was R12 but today is R22. The price of a litre of petrol was R15 but today is R25. The price of 2,5KG of mealie meal was R21,84c but today is R39,19c. Our people cannot afford to eat. In 2018, 8,9 million people were unemployed but today, 11,4 million people are without jobs. Their futures are stolen by this government's incompetence.

When you said your government plans to create 275 000 jobs a year in 2019, we knew then that young people, the unemployed, the dejected masses of our people were doomed forever. How can you aim to create 275 000 jobs a year when more than

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12 million people are unemployed today? It will take 25 years to reduce unemployment to 5 million and a further 43 years to eradicate unemployment completely. You will not be here President in the next 25 years, let alone 43 years, because nature would have resolved our problems. [Laughter.] As we speak, there are no jobs. There is no plan to create jobs. There is no link between the government budget and job creation. There is no link between SA Reserve Bank, monetary policy and job creation. Your government does not want to create jobs for our people. It just refuses to create jobs for our people.

In 2018, 83 municipalities received a qualified audit. Today, 85 municipalities have failed to meet financial accountability standards. This is a complete failure to stabilize municipalities. Mr Ramaphosa in 2018, more than 172 000 learners, passed matric and many could have been accommodated in institutions of higher learning. Today, more than 135 000 students who achieved a bachelor's pass will not have space at the university due to limited availability. The dreams of young people have been shattered. Their futures are in limbo because your government has no vision, no direction, and has got no will to change their lives.

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The reality is that South Africa is in the middle of a deep economic crisis, a concoction of disastrous economic policies, a lack of co-ordination and relentless budget cuts in education, health, policing, food security and all essential and critical areas of service delivery. This is made worse by the collapse of municipalities, which is the complete opposite of your growth and renewal programme that you promised us in 2018. The reality is that ever since you took office, seven years ago, our economy has not grown by more than 2%. We are talking about an average growth rate of 0,6% since 2018. Only people who approach policy and politics like a game of Morabaraba or MoChina will produce such a disastrous economic outcome and that is you, Mr Ramaphosa.

You told us that the revitalization of 10 out of 16 industrial parks in places such as Botshabelo, Phutaditjhaba, Ga-Rankuwa, Isithebe Industrial Park, Komani and Seshego was complete in 2020. But go to Botshabelo today, or Phutaditjhaba and tell us if anything was ever revitalized.

House Chair, allow me to turn to the state-owned enterprises, SOEs. The EFF was the only political party that correctly characterized the deliberate sabotage and collapse of SOEs as

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a privatization project. We are not surprised that today, one of the most strategic entities, Transnet, which used to move over 200 million tons of cargo an annum employing more than 55 000 people and reported over R6 000 billion in profit is now being called inefficient. Today we are told that the private sector must come and rescue Transnet. Eskom's coal fleet was allowed to collapse and we were subjected to more than a decade of electricity blackouts because people wanted to profit from electricity generation. They wanted their friends and cronies, the independent power producers, to milk Eskom.

You even came here, Mr Ramaphosa and claimed that there has not been load shedding in 300 days when we experienced load shedding just two weeks ago. We are told that SAA was making billions in losses and was supposed to be sold for R51. Yet today, it is making a profit operating without any governmental support and really surviving. We are calling for expansion of SAA's mandate and operating routes that support our economic development with allies and trade partners in Asia and the global South.

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There is no plan to rebuild and stabilize Denel and there is no intention to rebuild South Africa's defence capabilities. Mr Ramaphosa, you were boasting about R375 000 billion that will be spent by SOEs on infrastructure, over the next three years. But where will they spend this money when you are privatizing everything? Even the delivery of water is privatized through the so-called R23 billion Infrastructure Fund.

Mr Ramaphosa, you told us that your neoliberal right-wing coalition government will spend R940 billion in the next three years. That is R313 billion a year for a country that has a housing backlog of more than 3 million houses, more than 400 000 kilometers of gravel roads that need to be tarred and more than 300 000 beds short at institutions of higher learning. What is R940 billion? We have not even touched on the collapse of water and sanitation infrastructure in municipalities. The collapse of telecommunication infrastructure due to crime and vandalism, and the general shortage of water.

Mr Ramaphosa let me help you give your government proper direction. We need to expropriate land without compensation.

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[Interjections.] We need a State Bank and we need it urgently. We had banks here in Parliament last week and it is clear that they are not interested in the reindustrialization of the South African economy. So, the state must take the lead. We need to finalize the nationalization of the SA Reserve Bank. We have no time to waste on this. We need to establish a grant for all unemployed graduates and all unemployed persons as a matter urgency. Mr President, these will do two things. It will stimulate the much-needed demand in the economy and it will give unemployed people some means of survival.

President, we must, as a matter of urgency, engage our allies and partners in Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa plus, Brics+ to source strategic knowledge to build massive railway, health, military and energy infrastructure projects. This should include build, operate, transfer models, but you must fund it with our own money and access their skills and technology. As a matter of urgency, we must allocate funds to the SA Post Office, Sapo and give it a clear directive to fix and reopen all its branches. We know that a criminal syndicate is selling off Sapo properties to their friends and cronies.

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Mr Ramaphosa, the time is now to take bold and decisive steps to reindustrialise South Africa. We need to turn our country into a manufacturing hub and create jobs for our people. South Africa's economy must not be designed to please imperialist forces and the so-called markets at the expense of the lives of our people. We need to put our people and job first. Thank you, Chair.

Mr B STOFIE (Salga): Chair, President of the Republic, Deputy President, Speaker of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the NCOP and the general leadership that is present, the state of the nation address helps us as local government to reflect on what it was tabled by the President on Thursday last week. To us it means different things. It means a moment in which we celebrate that at long last the President of the Republic in his reflection on the state of the nation address reflected on the key fundamental questions that confront a nation such as South Africa. One of those key issues that he raised was the funding model of the local government system in South Africa. The second part was the manner in which the 1998 White Paper on Local Government was constructed. The manner in which developments have taken place in our country it has to be relooked and redesigned. For these basis local government as

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we see it is a centre of economic activities and is a centre in which we move forward the needle of development in making sure that there is a success in our communities.

One thing that we need to present in this debate of the state of the nation address is that, President, we request few things to be looked at by you and your team. One of them is to relook the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, and what the issue of EPWP means in the general economy in which we are operating. The second thing that we wish the President to look at is the state of rural roads. We recall and request the President to probably lift the issue of rural roads. I heard the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Cogta, speaking about the issue of traditional leaders. Part of supporting traditional leaders is to support the rural development, and for rural development roads is a key fundamental question that must be looked at. In developing roads, we then open opportunities for economy. Through roads we create centres in which economic activities can partake and play a role. It is our believe that it is important to relook at this issue of roads differently and approach it differently.

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Part of the suggestion that the local government wish to present in this debate is for the President to probably lead the debate on the programme about paving the roads. The gravel roads today, with the global warming and the challenges, cannot resist the current environment in which we are operating. Therefore, it requires a different thinking in so far in investing on that.

The South Africa local government, the entire municipal system in South Africa and the 44 district throughout the country we are committed to partner and work with you with regard to this.

We indeed hope and believe that all of us accept and appreciate Minister Professor Ramokgopa. I don't know where he is. The moment when we faced a dark cloud as local government when the House approved taking away of electricity reticulation and distribution, our engagement showed him to be a person that is willing to listen. And he listened to us about the importance of reviewing this section in so far as the definition is concerned. Thank you very much to have leaders that listen when they are told about challenges that we are facing.

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So as Minister Stella Ndabeni, we are in agreement that economic development cannot prosper if the economy in townships is not focussed at. Therefore, small business enterprises in our communities need to be lifted. It is important for us to look at that. And I believe as we drive forward in making changes in communities we need to consider this because that's where the people are, and that's where people live. They expect all of us sitting in Parliament and councils to look into their challenges and deal with these challenges decisively.

The other issue that we as local government want to present here, President, is the issue you raised in your closing of the Sixth Parliament. Few issues that resonate very well with us. We hosted the Deputy President in the last two weeks. He resuscitated the issues that we have raised. One of the issues that you raised with us as local government practitioners is about your unhappiness to see our towns and townships look dirty. You asked and challenged us what is it that we can do in making sure that these towns and townships are changed so that investment could be attracted into these townships. The Deputy President in his conversation with us highlighted these issues and we agreed. We want to call and request that the

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Cabinet through your leadership accept to launch a massive cleaning campaign in the country as a whole. In that cleaning campaign we must then invent the issues pertaining to competitions and give awards to best performing municipalities in the categories of metros, districts, local and smaller municipalities. It is our believe that through economic participation and collaborations of forces including those that are responsible to government we can combine our resources and our energies and change the tide.

The other issue that we wish to implore on you to lead us on is that there is a skill challenge in local government. There is also an invisible hand in local government. There is a moment in which local government is hamstrung to develop and prosper. How do we cut that invisible hand? But it is visible. We can deal with it. We know what is happening in local government. It requires working together in dealing with that challenge. It is important for us to make sure that we deal with that issue.

President, we also wish to implore on the leadership here today to relook at the definition of the law that you have signed that says you reduce 132 to 139 volts of electricity

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managed and reticulated by the municipalities. You reduced it to 11 whereas the White Paper and all related policies that you have adopted say the key fundamental instrument for local government to make revenue is through electricity and water. Now, when you reduce it that means municipalities must solely depended on the grants of the national government which has an economy that is not growing. It is important for us to relook at this. It is important for us to deal with that. Thank you very much Professor Ramokgopa in dealing with this. We are committed in dealing with this and find solution to it.

The other issue that we wish to highlight before this is that as we move towards the reviewal of the 1998 White Paper, we request that it should not be a middle class discussions. It should encompass all those that are involved in benefiting from local government. Remember, the laws that you have signed in South Africa, more in particular the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act which, says that a municipality is a three-legged pot - it is an administration, it is a council and it is a community. In the debate about the type of municipal system that we want in South Africa it is important to ignite that third leg to play an active role including the way in which we are not using the institutions of higher

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learning. In your 44 districts in South Africa each of these districts have one or two centres of higher education. How do you use them? How do you partner with them and work with them and change the economic outlook of our country? It is indeed our believe as the SA Local Government Association informed by President Mandela when he launched us in 1996 that the function and the role of local government is to represent the interests of the communities, is to represent the interests of the local government practitioners and to drive and push back the difficulties that our people are facing. It is our believe that these issues have to taken the centre stage of our debate in taking them forward, including the issues of speedily and welcome the offer that has been given by the Minister of Finance in convening an indaba for the first time in our history to debate about the manner in which the local government is funded. It is something that we can appreciate in this government and the government under your leadership.

The other issue is this issue of 12,7%. I don't hear any member talking about it. Here is the problem. The National Energy Regulator of South Africa, Nersa, approved 12,7% on electricity. The water boards have approved or intend to approve 15% to 16% increase. This is 30%. Who is going to pay

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this 30%? It is the households, and not the municipality. If you apply business model, the 12% and the 15% costs according to your packaging of the municipal administration are transferred to the households. Households' income today is shrinking every day. It is an issue that we need to be dealt with. [Time expired.]

Afrikaans:

Mnr B J FARMER: Agb Voorsiter, agb President, agb lede, mede Suid-Afrikaners, en spesifiek, konings en stamhoofde van ons eerste nasie, die Khoi en die San, wees gegroet in die onfeilbare naam van Jesus Christus. Die PA verwelkom die toespraak oor die stand van die nasie en neem kennis van die sentiment waarmee die President dit aan ons oorgedra het. Dit kom voor asof die President eerlik was met ons en die nasie en dat die uitdagings, wat deur die President gelys is, eerlik en opreg is. Ek dank u daarvoor.

Met hierdie paar minute tot my beskikking wil ek graag poog om 'n saak te argumenteer, wat u nie direk aangespreek het nie - die visbedryf. U stelling: Herlewing van klein hawens, in samewerking met buitelandse vennote, om ekonomiese voortuitsigte vir kusgemeenskappe te bevorder, word heelhartig

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deur ons vissergemeenskappe verwelkom. Ons spreek ons hoop uit dat die implementering hiervan vinniger sal plaasvind, as wat die norm tans is.

Die waarhede is egter dat die visbedryf 'n biljoendollar-bedryf is, maar ons kinders moet in die fish guts [vis se ingewande] krap vir iets om te eet.

Kleinskaalse vissers was effektiewelik sonder meningvolle kwotas sedert 1998. Die tydsgleuwe dui daarop dat die departement geen ondersoek ingestel het, om hierdie gevalle aan te spreek nie.

In terme van visbronne wat besig is om in duie te stort, is die stilte van die departement oorverdwend. Die toestand van bedreigde visbronne, soos Weskuskreef, onder andere, het tot so 'n mate verswak dat NGOs asook kommersiële entiteite die verkoop van die spesies gestop het.

Die perlemoenbedryf, wat hoofsaaklik aan die Suidkus voorkom, is in totale chaos en al wat die vissermanne vra is vir 'n geleentheid om na geluister te word.

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Dis tragies dat hierdie departement nie met 'n oopdeurbeleid bedryf word nie. Die jarelange ondervinding wat die visserman opgebou het vanuit herhaaldelike trotsering van die elemente op die seewater word nie van waarde geag en toeglaat om insette te gee nie. E-posse of kommunikasie met die Parlement word nie eens op reageer nie.

In gesprekke met vissers, wys Emmanuel Arendse van Mamre my dat die wegskuif van kreef om deur die groot maatskappye gevang te word, was net werkskepping wat weggeneem was van kleinskaalse vissers. Mnr Aaron Conradie van Vredenburg noem die volgende: Die huidige visvangregte wat deur die departement aan kleinskaalse vissers gegee is, bring R9 000 per jaar in vir 'n visserman met 'n gemiddelde familie grootte van vyf persone.

Aldus mnr Conradie was groot maatskappye deur die departement gevra om vissers by te staan, maar dit het nooit gerealiseer nie. Elmondo Paulse noem dat die visbedryf na 30 jaar van demokrasie nog nie getransformeer is nie.

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Visserers kan nie lewe met dit wat aan die kleinskaalse visserers gegeword nie. Ons stem elkekeer, maar daar word nie vir omgegewe nie, aldus Mnr Paulse.

Groot maatskappye word uitgesorteer, maar die visserman word misgekyk. Die Suid-Afrikaanse visbedryf is besig om op 'n ramp af te stuur. Groot besighede probeer om soveel as moontlik in te oes, voor die bedryf ineerstort. Die visserman word forseer om te stroop vir 'n lewe.

Die lewende visbronne sal dit nie oorleef nie. Dit wil voorkom dat Ministers net die bedryf aan die gang probeer hou tot hul termyn verby is.

Hierdie bedryf is die derde grootste bedrae tot die bruto binnelandse produk in die Wes-Kaap se ekonomie, tog is van ons gruwelikste gevalle van armoede in hierdie bedryf.

English:

The Marine Living Resources Act is outdated and is heavily skewed towards big business, while it does nothing to protect the resource, nor does it offer any assistance in the fight

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against poverty, inequality and job creation. This Act needs to be reviewed as a matter of urgency.

Afrikaans:

Ten opsigte van behuising sit ons vandag met 'n kriteria van R3 500, wat nog bepaal was deur Minister Joe Slovo in sy tyd en dit het tot op hede nie verander nie. [Tyd verstreke.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Hon Chairperson, His Excellency the President, His Excellency the Deputy President, hon members, in your state of the nation address last week, you confronted critics and doomsayers by saying something which they believed shall never be said. I quote you, Mr President: "This year, we will proceed with the preparatory work for the establishment of NHI."

Regardless of this, some doom sayers still persist in their denial. Yesterday, during this debate, hon M J Cuthbert said that he is happy that the NHI is no longer on the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, and that it is off the table. Sorry, Sir, it is there. It ought to be there and it will continue to be there.

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I have listened to people talking against NHI, without even having read the Act, and they start by distorting the definition of the NHI.

The NHI or universal health coverage is not a new system of healthcare, as some are prone to saying. It is not a system that people implement because they are rich, but the NHI is a healthcare financing system that covers everybody, regardless of their socioeconomic status. That is what it means. It has two dimensions.

Firstly, all people receive quality health services. All means all, regardless of how poor you are. It means all. And the second dimension is that, when you receive that quality healthcare, you must not suffer financial hardship, or what the World Health Organisation calls, catastrophic healthcare expenditure.

This second dimension was brought about, because the World Health Organisation realized that there are many people around the world, who are not classified as poor, but they became poor because somebody got sick in the house and they had to seek healthcare. That is the concept of catastrophic

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healthcare expenditure. This type of people is counted in billions, not millions, around the world. And in South Africa, we have many such people.

The NHI is about money. It's about how money is distributed to the whole population. It's about how much each citizen has for the provision of their healthcare system. Therefore, the former Director-General of the World Health Organisation, Dr Margaret Chang from Hong Kong, summarised it. He said the NHI is an equaliser between the rich and the poor. Now, that is exactly why we have the problem in South Africa. The moment you mention that the rich will be in the same place as the poor, people immediately start getting stomach angst.

Therefore, when you say Bela Act, people get stomach angst. When you say expropriation, people start getting stomach angst. When you say NHI, they get stomach angst, because these are all transformative programmes about the poor. [Applause.]

Yesterday, I listened carefully to my colleague in the GNU, hon Minister Hlabisa. Minister Hlabisa, you said you propose a more incremental approach to implement NHI. You are spot on. We agree with you 100%, because what you put as a new proposal

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is actually section 57(1)(b) of the NHI Act itself. And I want to quote it verbatim. "National Health Insurance must be gradually phased in, using a programmatic approach based on financial resource availability." If there are no financial resources in the country, you can't implement. The Act says so. So, it's not something that is new.

This is not a coincidence, Minister, that the Act is drafted like that. It's because there is no other way of implementing NHI, except gradually. There is no country anywhere in the world that did it in any other way, because it is impossible. It's just impossible. It is not a once-off event. It is a gradual event that gets implemented over many years.

In South Africa, you have medical aids, which many of you believe is perfect. I will tell you, medical aids have been there for half a century, and during that half a century, it has been gradually introduced. That's exactly what NHI is going to do, not that it will take half a century too.

The second thing Minister Hlabisa said was that you propose prioritising strengthening the existing health care system. We agree with you again 100%. Actually, the President said it.

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He said: "Our most immediate priority is to strengthen the health care system, improve quality of care." He said: "A vital part of this modernisation improvement is maintaining existing health facilities and constructing new hospitals."

Now, I just want to say something. Strengthening the health care system and implementing NHI are not mutually exclusive. One does not have to follow the other for the simple reason that all of them are lifelong processes. They are unending, so you cannot say we must start with one. It will never come to an end, because they are not once-off processes.

Due to unavailability of time, I'm not going to give you a list of the hospitals that the President is talking about. You will hear that during the Budget Speech and you will realise that they are placed very strategically for NHI.

Now, the belief that countries implement NHI because they are rich and that they have a big tax base. It is not true. There is not a single country in the world that has NHI that can be described in those words.

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The UK started in 1945 and implemented in 1948, specifically because of the crisis of the Second World War. The British were poor. They were unemployed and they were sick, because of what Hitler did to them. And they wanted to rebuild their economy. They were told that no one can build an economy with sick people and that is why they launched it. It is the same as Canada. Thailand launched it in 2002, because of the Asian financial crisis of 1977. So, Indonesia did it exactly because of the same reason.

And I can go on and on and on to show all the countries that has NHI. Now, yesterday, the Chief Whip of the DA, hon Michalakis, was very angry and said he is tired of hearing from me. You know, his level of anger was so much that I felt pity for him.

Afrikaans:

Ek gaan mal raak, maar soos 'n broer wil ek jou raad gee. Jy moet 'n sielkundige gaan sien of raadpleeg, want NHI is nou hier. Dit gaan nêrens nie.

English:

It is here to stay, Mr Michalakis. Thank you very much.

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Mr T K S LETLAPE: House Chair, Mr President, Mr Deputy President, as long as we remain South Africans, we will remain divided. Covered with copious amounts of makeup, remove the makeup, and nothing has changed. We are the only country that calls itself free, where we choose to go by our slave name. Rhodesia became Zimbabwe. South West Africa became Namibia. We remain South Africa. And I can tell you all, South Africa has not changed. If you're black like me, you're a second rate citizen in South Africa. Until that changes, Mr President, we're going nowhere, and I hope for leadership from you to give us a name.

Three quick things, Mr President. Gender-Based Violence, GBV, is a sport in this country driven by culture and traditions. Unless we change them, more of us will lose our children. We plead with you, Mr President, let's have the discussion in our communities to change our values around that issue.

As the Minister will tell you in some of his presentations, our problem is not finance in health. We're spending enough of the Gross Domestic Product, GDP. What you should insist on, Mr President, is until you realign what we spend on the GDP, not a cent more, National Health Insurance, NHI, is another

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medical aid. The medical aid is under the authority of the Minister. Let him change that. Our problem is not money.

Lastly, on municipalities. Our problem is not money, our problem is cadre deployment. Our problem is leadership. See what Tshwane has done without an extra cent because of a mayor that says I'm not a mayor of a party, I am a mayor of the people of Tshwane. Let's put South Africans first and not money first, Mr President.

Setswana:

Moh T I LEGWASE: Modulasetilo wa Ntlo, Moporesidente wa rona wa naga, Motlatsamoporesidente, ditilo ka go latelana ga tsone, bagaetsho ke a le dumedisa.

English:

House Chairperson, in the state of the nation debate, a point of departure must be the preamble of our Constitution. Wherein Parliament, through its elected representatives, adopted a supreme law of the republic which is to build a united democratic South Africa which is able to take its rightful space as a sovereign state in the family of nations. And I want to underline the sovereign state in the family of

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nations. Our self-determination is a right politically and economically, and we shall protect it and conduct our relations and trade with other countries only based on peace and friendship.

South Africa's development intrinsically depends on inclusive economic development and job creation. This means implementing an industrial strategy and policies that ensure the reindustrialization of the country through beneficiation, local industrialization and through economic development.

We are encouraged by your commitment, hon President, to finalise a modernised and comprehensive industrial policy that drives economic growth. However, implementation depends on removing economic constraints caused by unreliable electricity and water supply, as well as logistical constraints. This means our point of departure for inclusive economic development and job creation is infrastructure development.

We also have to ensure that regulated prices for utilities and logistics are reviewed to ensure that our economy becomes cost competitive for investment and that vestiges of structural inflation are removed from the economy to attract investment

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in competitive global markets. [Interjections.] Chairperson, there is noise that is ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, we are aware of the challenges with the sound. There are technicians trying to deal with it. If I can ask you to just be patient and if we can ask hon Legwase to please continue with her delivery.

Ms T I LEGWASE: President, we need to chip in the cost of doing business in the country to ...

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: On a point of order, House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Legwase, please take your seat. Yes, ma'am. What's your point of order?

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: I think she might want to answer that phone call. It might be Helen Zille telling her which direction her speech must go.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): That's not a point of order. Please take your seat, hon member. Hon Legwase, please continue.

Ms T I LEGWASE: Thank you very much, House Chair. We will not waste our time. The South African people are listening to this state of the nation address debate for a purpose and what we are here for. Mr President, you have accurately articulated our developmental priorities as expressed in the Medium-Term Development Plan. In the main, our priority is job creation and inclusive economic growth through beneficiation and a manufacturing driven industrial process. The backbone of economic growth pathways lies in intensifying the manufacturing output and boosting exporting growth.

Beneficiation by local industries will increase value addition of our natural resources, which remains our valuable competitive advantage. This requires proper planning and efficient input in the economy. Further, we must reposition our state-owned enterprises as engines of rapid inclusive economic development as SOEs operate in 30% of the economy, which is no small part of the economy. There is a need to recognise the progress made in stabilising the SOEs in the

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sixth administration. As many of them in the minerals and transport sector have recovered and are going concerns.

We need to drive those on an investment path in infrastructural development while we ensure that other critical SOEs recover fully from state capture. Others such as Prasa and Eskom are recovering well with much more work to be done. Transnet requires shareholder support to ensure that logistic constraints are removed from the economy. Inland provinces rely on logistics to get exports to ports and receive imports. As Howard Zinn famously said:

The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.

We must aim high and transform our financial system to support not just the wealthy few, but all South African promoting development that leaves everyone. The issue of steel industry requires our attention and is an industry which we must safeguard and protect for local jobs and grow the economy. It is necessary for both local construction and manufacturing, especially in the automotive sector. There is a necessity to harness a vicious cycle of investment, jobs and economic

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growth through a modest target of at least 3% growth in the short term. However, given the correct conditions and sufficient investment in infrastructure and industrial development, our government is poised to surpass this modest target. We have already laid the base in the sixth administration.

We have a robust financial sector and as former President Thabo Mbeki rightfully observed, we must work together to create a South Africa where everyone has access to opportunities and resources that enable them to thrive. By strategically allocating financial surpluses towards infrastructure projects, we can stimulate economic growth and address the disparities that exist in our communities. This is not consumption investment, but investment in productive sectors increasing our gross capital formation and strengthening the balance sheet of our country.

There is a need for unblocking the unutilized financial capital outside the state productivity for economic development in terms of infrastructure led industrialization and increased Development Financial Institution, DFI, capital by mobilising, guiding, pulling, public and private across

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institutions. The financial centre must be transformed to invest in productive sectors of the economy and not merely ensure increase in household debt.

There is a need to increase productive development through industrialization, as well as diversifying the ownership and control patterns of our economy to eradicate the economic exclusion which we had in the past. What type of capitalism or free market economics leaves the bulk of the population outside the market due to limited purchasing power based on colour? The dominance of financialization does not translate to growth of the productive sector, such as manufacturing, construction and Agro-processing, for example.

Hon President, too often financial institutions have perpetuated a circle of exclusion rather than fostering inclusivity. In terms of the FinScope 2020 survey, 80% of Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises, SMMEs, are banned. However, of those that are banned, 30% of SMMEs have business bank without remainder using owners personal accounts as a dual account for both business and personal use. Even with the use of personal account for business purposes, 18% of micro

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enterprises which are informal of course, are exceeded from the formal banking sector.

We have successfully implemented six industrial master plans. These being sugar, poultry, automotive, shoe manufacturing, as well as clothing and textiles. These master plans have worked and needs to be deepened, and new ones need to be implemented in other manufacturing sectors. Logistics bottlenecks need to be resolved so that manufacturing sector can efficiently access the domestic and export markets. We must also become food self-sufficient and reduce imports. Food security is part of the fight against poverty inequality, unemployment and historic economic exclusion.

The massive job creation and economic growth path we want to advance requires fundamental structural changes in the architecture of our economic state systems. We must diversify our international trade and open up new markets. The Africa Free Continental Trade Agreement brings G20 and the European Union, EU, has presented to us opportunities and those opportunities are waiting to be harnessed.

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As the ANC, we remain resolute in our march to ensure a better life for all and inclusive economic transformation. We will not be distracted by naysayers and by certain opportunists who bark at the glory and our historical achievement simply to claim easy victories. We will certainly engage in enhanced and systemic oversight of progress as there need to be qualitative and impactful spending in all our programmes and projects. As hon Supra has said, hon President, ...

Setswana:

... nko ya kgomo mogala tshwara ka thata, e sere o utlwa sebedu wa kgaoga. Ke a leboga.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, before we continue, I'd just like to remind all members please to ensure that your cell phones are not kept too close to the microphone and speaker system, even if your microphone is off. The ringing cell phones can cause some interference. So please just ensure that you place your cell phones a little away from the speaker, especially when it is ringing. Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Reverend Kenneth Meshoe.

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Rev K R J MESHOE: House Chairperson, hon President, and hon members, at the top of a list of priorities mentioned by President Ramaphosa during his SONA speech, last week, was economic growth. Unemployment in this country is way too high. For almost 30 years, we have seen the unemployed protesting, marching, and toyi-toying in the streets, yet jobs remain elusive.

The most painful thing for me to watch, Mr President, is when our health workers, particularly medical doctors toyi-toying with their stethoscopes hanging around their necks, protesting because they are demanding jobs that they studied and are qualified for. South Africa has an abundance of talented, capable, unemployed doctors and nurses who are desperate for work.

The ACDP would like to see our economy grow and absorb unemployed professionals who many of them are working as car guards because they do not have jobs.

Since US President, Donald Trump, signed an Executive Order, cancelling foreign aid to South Africa, there has been much speculation and questions as to whether African Growth and

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Opportunity Act, AGOA, is included. May I remind members that AGOA is aimed at expanding American African trade and investment by stimulating economic growth and assisting sub-Saharan Africa's integration into the global economy. The AGOA has and continues to have a positive impact on South Africa's economy, with our country being the leading African exporter of the AGOA goods into the US market.

If South Africa loses AGOA, we will lose our duty-free access to the US markets, which would result in the introduction of tariffs. The consequence of this would be a reduction in the competitiveness of the South African automotive, agricultural, and footwear sectors in the US economy.

Another negative consequence would be the loss of investment and market confidence. South Africa has lost its preferential investment destination status on the continent, and the loss of the AGOA would contribute to a reduction of market confidence at a time when our economy is struggling to grow at acceptable levels that can result into it creating much-needed jobs.

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The ACDP supports government's plan to send a delegation to the US to meet with the new US Administration to iron out their differences and improve relations. We need the AGOA and duty-free access into that market and for the AGOA goods to help stimulate our economic growth.

Lastly, House Chairperson, I want to appeal to members of this House to show maturity in bilateral with the US and others, and to overcome the temptation of playing tit-for-tat with them because that would not bring us any economic benefit. I also want to appeal to the ANC and EFF to discard their plans to rename Sandton Drive to Leila Khaled Drive. Leila Khaled is not a South African; she is not known by most of our people, and she has done nothing to benefit our country.

The ACDP does not want to see the US Consulate closed permanently due to an unprofitable name change that will not contribute a dime to our economy. Neither does the ACDP want to see employees of the US Consulate in Johannesburg lose their jobs because of an unwise, unpopular, and foolish decision. We believe we need more jobs and not less. We do not want anybody to lose their job. I thank you.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, I am noting the volume in the House rising. If I can ask you, please to just observe the Rule, not to converse, you are not allowed to drown out the speaker.

Mr S N SWART: On a point of order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Swart, what is your point of order? What are you rising on?

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, I rise on Rule 34 of the Joint Rules, and as the leader of the ACDP was speaking, the hon Reddy stood up and took a photograph. I would remind the House that there is infringement of Rule 34(i). I would request you to call the hon member to order. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon members, please, there is a Rule that says that we are not to be taking photographs and not to be rising in the House when it is not your turn to rise. Please delete the photograph that you have taken. Let us respect the Joint Rules of Parliament. A reminder that it is the Joint Rules that have precedence

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today. With that, hon members, we now welcome to the podium the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: The hon Speaker of the National Assembly, hon Chairperson of the NCOP, the hon President of our country, the Deputy President, the hon leader of the IFP, the hon VF Hlabisa, and all hon members of this House. On behalf of the IFP and all peace-loving South Africans, we would like to express our sincere condolences to the families and colleagues of our fallen soldiers since they were fulfilling our international relations mandate. As the IFP, we support the view that abrupt withdrawal of the SANDF would not be in the best interest of the continent. We call upon all parties in this conflict to embrace the current diplomatic efforts that are aimed at finding a peaceful resolution.

Hon House Chair, we welcome the undertaking made by the President of our country to address youth unemployment. As the IFP, we welcome that the regulations of the Public Procurement Act, which would be fast-tracked to ensure that businesses owned by young people will receive equitable opportunities in government contracts. We hope that this procurement will be

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followed by a clear draft policy document and clear legislative provisions and guidelines in the existing procurement legislative framework. We hope that those in charge of managing state procurement processes will seek to show commitment to the youth of this country. As the IFP, we believe that to rebuild South Africa, we need to invest in our youth.

Hon House Chair, we welcome all the declarations in relation to gender-based violence, which the hon President has considered a pandemic. However, the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, MTBPS, which the hon President overseas, remains silent on funding of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. As IFP, we believe that this must be addressed as it is a national concern. We further call upon for the financing of the women's rights agenda.

Hon President, in your state of the nation address, you rightfully acknowledged the severe dysfunction in many municipalities, citing poor service delivery, decaying infrastructure, and financial mismanagement. Your promise to ring-fence utilities for water and electricity services could not come at a more critical time. We appreciate your follow-up

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on the commitment you made during the opening of Parliament address, last year, of visiting eThekweni. However, there is still no improvement in service delivery. Residents across the city are still faced with constant water outages, with no resolution in sight. The metro continues to be unresponsive to calls made by residents for water services, especially when water leaks are reported, resulting in millions of litres of water flowing down our streets, and yet we say we are a water scarce country.

We welcome the R940 billion investment in infrastructure over three years. It is encouraging to see the importance placed on public-private partnerships to fund these projects. We therefore call for stringent performance matrix, monitoring, accountability, and transparency over this investment.

We support the review of the funding model for municipalities that the hon Hlabisa is leading in the reforms of the 1998 White Paper, for having established the White Paper Political Oversight Committee, which seeks to make local government work better. As the IFP, we caution that state capacity should not merely be viewed as an abstract concept that we refer to when appropriate. It should be recognised as the underlying and

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fundamental factor in the confluence of challenges that relate to policy implementation.

We call upon Parliament to be more proactive in joint consultation, joint planning, and programming by the three spheres of government to achieve improved integration and synergy for improved policy implementation outcomes.

As the IFP, we support multilateralism and promote global co-operation and stability.

Hon House Chair, allow me to reiterate the closing remarks made by the president of the IFP when he said, and I quote:

The IFP will be counted amongst the nation-builders, not the breakers. The doers, and not just the dreamers. The workers, not the armchair critics.

Hon House Chairperson, I thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF POLICE (Ms P Boshielo): Hon House Chair, hon President of our country, Cyril Ramaphosa, and hon members. Hon President, every year you give us a theme ...

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Sepedi:

... ebile o tloga o bapetše le rena. O tšwa ka Thuma Mina ...

English:

... concept, we follow; you come up with Tintswalo analogy, and we follow. Now, all of us don't want to be bullied. Keep it up; you are doing a good job. It is really ... The people of South Africa deserve to feel safe and be safe. This fundamental right is enshrined in our National Development Plan Vision 2030, which emphasises the critical need to strengthen our fight against crime and corruption while building safer communities. We cannot afford to delay, the time to act is now. We stand at a pivotal moment in our nation's journey, a moment that calls for decisive action and unwavering commitment to the safety and security of all South Africans.

The marching orders set forth by President Ramaphosa during Sona are not just directives, they are a call for us to unite and act swiftly to confront the challenges of crime and corruption that threaten our communities. Through Operation Shanela, the SA Police Service continue to take a bold and decisive approach in dealing with crime. This crime-fighting

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activities include tracking operations, roadblocks, high visibility patrols, stop and search, as well as tracing of wanted suspects.

Just last week, Mr President, from Monday, 3 February to 9 February 2025, 2 777 wanted suspects for serious crimes such as murder, attempted murder, rape, business and house robbery were arrested. Two hundred and nine suspects were arrested for murder. One hundred and eleven suspects were arrested for attempted murder, 247 for rape, 99 illegal possession of firearms, 1 285 illegal foreign nationals, 625 for drinking and driving, 1 321 rounds of ammunition and 65 hijacked and stolen vehicles were recovered.

We are continuing to vala umgodi [close the hole] of our comrade, Minister Mantashe. To date, we have confiscated nearly R6 million in cash, along with substantial quantities of illegal minerals and uncut diamonds valued at R32 million. Between April and November 2024, 79 firearms, 59 vehicles and 20 large mining machines were confiscated in the process producing criminal operations at mining sites. We are also strengthening border security. Over 611 910 security actions were conducted to curb illegal activities at borders, leading

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to the arrest of 6 713 individuals for crimes such as illegal immigration, drug trafficking and possession of illegal firearms.

Furthermore, we have recorded substantial success against extortion where 745 cases reported between 15 October 2024 and 31 January 2025. In KwaZulu-Natal, two suspected hitmen were arrested after they allegedly shot and killed a 40-year-old ward councillor and injured his 42-year-old wife in Sundumbili. Another joint intelligence-driven operation led to the arrest of a 55-year-old suspected drug trafficker with mandrax tablets of R9 million in Komani.

The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation - the Hawks, have adopted a multi-agency task team approach to tackle the scourge of corruption. A total number of 1 452 suspects, of which 1 409 were natural persons and 43 were jurisdictional persons, were secured before the various courts in the country. Of these arrests, 451 represented 32% of South Africans, whereas 958 represent foreign nationals. So, President, we have a problem of illegal immigrants coming to our country to commit crime. It is because they don't have any fingerprints on our system, and they are never even arrested.

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In Stilfontein, 1 924 illegal immigrants, who are zama zamas were arrested, and out of them, only 21 were South Africans. So, it is a real problem that we need to do fix. We also have safer city co-operations with six of our major cities, and we are already working with them. We have what we call a force multiplier, bringing our resources together and making sure that everything is going fine.

Mr President, after all, we are enjoined by the Freedom Charter which declared in Kliptown in 1955 that there shall be houses, security, and comfort in an environment of peace. We are also working with our community policing forums, private securities, business against crime, and we are ensuring that we are fighting the crime. Comrade President, we are not going to co-govern with criminals. We are going to deal with them, and they must run, because ...

Sepedi:

... tsotsi e tlo kwa bohloko.

English:

We are going to deal with them decisively. Thank you very much. [Interjections.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Minister Boshielo. Hon members, I would like to just remind you of the lessons that we learned yesterday when we took our break about how long it takes to leave and return to the precinct. We are again about to suspend proceedings for the day for a period of 30 minutes.

I therefore ask you to go and take a comfort break now that the opportunity presents itself. Bells will be rung to alert members when the business resumes, but I do ask you to be back in the Chamber by 4:20. Thank you, hon members.

Business of the House suspended at 15:49

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 15:48 AND RESUMED AT 16:23.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon members, please be seated. Order, hon members. I now recognize to proceed with this debate. The hon the Premier of the province of Limpopo?
[Applause.]

The PREMIER OF LIMPOPO (Dr P C Ramathuba): Is it on?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Can we please assist with the microphone there at the podium?

The PREMIER OF LIMPOPO (Dr P C Ramathuba): Is it fine?

[Interjection.] Okay. House Chair, Mr. President, hon Deputy President, esteemed members of this joint sitting and fellow South Africans, today, I rise with both gratitude and determination as we reflect on the state of our nation.

First, we honour the brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Amongst them, eight were from Limpopo. We extend our deepest condolences to their families and pledge to uphold the values they fought for - stability, security and a better Africa for all.

As I stand before you, Mr. President, I'm reminded of a Marula tree, whose fruit is now in season across our province. Its branches bend downwards, inviting us to reach up and partake in its nourishment, which has health benefits. This is the essence of leadership - we must extend opportunities to those below while ensuring that everyone benefit from our shared resources, and I mean everyone.

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Limpopo is poised to be at the heart of South Africa's global engagement. Hosting key G20 meetings - on agriculture, financial architect, the digital economy, and health - this positions our province as a driver of sustainable development. Our Marula belt in Mopani, alongside the 70% of Kruger National Park within Limpopo, will showcase our natural beauty and rich heritage to the world.

Mr. President, we welcome your decisive focus on water security. For years, our communities have struggled with water shortages. We appreciate your recognition that many rural municipalities lack the financial and technical capacity to ensure sustainable water supply.

We have already, as a province, engaged the Department of Water and Sanitation to find practical solutions, particularly in Polokwane Municipality, where water and infrastructure challenges persist. We have established what we call our premiers water war room, which brings all role players together. "HiNwaMati" Friday Campaign has already started to yield results wherein Mr. President, 16 villages already in Giyani, have started to drink water. [Applause.]

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Our executive council is finalizing a water provision strategy to ensure that every municipality can meet both economic and social needs in alignment with your intervention.

Reducing the cost of living in rural areas is key to unlocking economic growth. Your R940 billion infrastructure investment plan is a game changer. For too long, apartheid spatial planning left rural communities disconnected from economic opportunities. This investment will reshape our province - connecting people to jobs, to markets and essential services.

The public private partnerships that you have spoken about are proving to be effective. The near completion of the Steelpoort Bridge in Sekhukhune, which built in collaboration with the mining sector around Sekhukhune, is a testament to what we can achieve when government and business work together.

We will invite you to officially hand over to the people of Sekhukhune. When we met with you and your Cabinet in November 2024, you committed your Ministers to support and work with us and therefore Minister of Electricity has been hard at work with us. We are pleased that in April 2025, just hardly four months since your commitment, we will be inviting you to

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switch on electricity for 400 households in Madimbo and Mavete. [Applause.] These are the last villages in our country just before you enter Zimbabwe in the Mussina municipality of the greed powered by solar and battery storage. Not only that, with 5G connectivity and streetlights in the dusty streets of Madimbo. [Applause.] On average, Mr. President, one household has between seven and 15 individuals. Therefore, you will be connecting not less than 4 000 individuals.

The R120 billion pledge at our 2024 investment conference is materializing. Mining companies in the Fetakgomo Tubatse are pioneering the solar energy projects, while the first six solar-powered electric vehicle charging stations along the N1, and seven more on the N11 are coming online soon. So, Mushavhi, you can buy that electric car. You will have charge stations on your way to Seshego.

The Fetakgomo Industrial Park is gaining momentum attracting investors. Companies are now operational, creating jobs and driving industrialization. So, the full optimalization of the Special Economic Zone, SEZ, will be transformative. Hence, we cannot wait for that license. We are not waiting for the

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opportunities, Mr. President. We are creating them in that rural province of Limpopo. [Applause.]

Healthcare, Mr. President, is a pillar to our development agenda. The long-overdue revitalization of Siloam Hospital is finally happening under your leadership. We must remind hon Hlophe that shortening was done in 2011 and guess who was the President's? Guess who is building it now? So, is the Limpopo Central Hospital. We welcome it because it's currently under construction, which only started during your Sixth Administration.

A capable state starts with skilled people. We welcome the initiative to capacitate our TVET colleges. This is in line with the directive you gave during the visit in Sekhukhune to the Minister of Higher Education to work with the provincial government to establish the Sekhukhune Mining Academy because you understood better, contrary to what hon Chirwa rhetoric, whenever given an opportunity to address this august House, but not every learner is a candidate for university. We must confirm to you that both local communities and royal families have endorsed this project, which will equip our youth with skills to thrive in the sector.

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We have already begun engagement with Minister and other potential partners on this project and at the right time we will give you feedback, Mr. President. So, education is the foundation of economic empowerment, and we must ensure that Limpopo's youth are prepared for the job.

Limpopo is no longer at the tail end of metric results. We have moved from last place to 6th national, achieving a whopping 85,01% pass rate. [Applause.] Our goal is clear - we are aiming even higher in 2025. We have seen that Western Cape is number five. They must watch the space; they are our target.

We are also in the final stages of eradicating pit latrines in our school, ensuring that no child suffers the fate of the young Michael Komape again.

Hon Mokoena, you were misled about the early childhood development, ECD, of our target, which was 130. To date, we have already registered 115 with the outstanding being 15 and since this function was shifted from social development, we have already registered 385.

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Our housing provision is also on the positive trajectory. Of the 4 555 units' target, we have already completed 4 469 including 54 of Military Veterans and this performance led into us receiving an additional R500 million allocations for 2023-24 and 2024-25 and I'm sure it's coming from the DA-led Western Cape, which has failed to spend this money.

Our commitment to a capable, ethical and development state is unwavering. Mr. President, fellow leaders, let us extend our branches like a Marula tree to uplift those in need. Let me remind hon Ndhlela, as I conclude, that this government is committed towards fighting gender-based violence. That is why you see us. Anyone who impregnant a child, any man who unzipped on a child is currently being prosecuted, but we have a message from the women from Mpumalanga to you to pass to your Deputy President that women in Mpumalanga says invite us during the day, not at night, because that will be harassment. And we will report it as sexual harassment. Charity begins at home. Thank you.

Mr F J BADENHORST: Hon Chair, Mr. President, fellow South Africans, to create jobs and grow the economy, our people need to get to work because when you move people and goods, you

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move money. Sadly, the lucky few with jobs are spending nearly 60% of their earnings on transport and electricity alone. Mr President, on 12 September last year, you stood in the National Council of Provinces and spoke about raising your gaze for interprovincial rail travel. You envisioned Johannesburg to eThekwin, you called it a major commuter artery. You also mentioned the Johannesburg to Musina route. Remember Tintswalo, Mr President, she was so excited when you announced those plans, she was overjoyed because she was happy to take the Shosholoz Meyl with her family on a holiday n affordable trip with her family on a holiday in December to Durban on newly cleaned beaches there.

Then on 3 October, Mr President, *Passenger Rail Agency SA*, PRASA dashed her hopes. Three of its four long-distance routes suspended indefinitely, including the ones you promised. No train, no trip and no holiday, and with skyrocketing transport costs, Tintswalo had to stay home, in Johannesburg, with no water, not even water for her swimming pool. Poor Tintswalo has become yet another victim of the effects of state capture, those nine, long, lost and wasted years, presided over by the Zuma government, rendering rail transport in South Africa all but dysfunctional. The numbers don't lie. In 1998-99 there

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were 42,28 million passenger trips per month. For the 2023-24 financial year, there was a total of 39,4 million passenger trips. Why the decline?

We all saw the evidence at the Zondo Commission, Transnet was by far the biggest site of state capture, some R41 billion in irregular contracts were awarded to Gupta-linked companies. Yet, instead of sitting in jail, some of the Transnet theft enablers are sitting right here in Parliament. Some of them are trying to hide behind camouflage some other time, but we see them, and we know who they are. Meanwhile, our debt to Gross Domestic Product, GDP, ratio, climbs at an alarming rate. In fact, South African taxpayers, currently, spend a staggering R300 billion per year in debt service costs. The main reason over the last decade, is that taxpayers had to fork out R500 billion in bailouts for failing state-owned entities.

Mr President, the DA, your biggest Government of National Unity, GNU, partner, shares your vision of growing the economy and jobs through an effective rail system, but we will not support Transnet's request for another R50 billion bailout. As a governing partner, we take our role seriously. We joined the

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Government of National Unity, GNU, to address the multitude of challenges left by years of incompetence, we joined the GNU to promote stability and collaboration, we joined the GNU to prevent a coalition of breakers, their behaviour on display for the whole of South Africa to witness over the past few days in this House. However, Mr President, we did not join the GNU to rubber stamp ANC mistakes.

Here's a reality check, Transnet is a train smash in slow motion. It owes R140 billion in loans and can barely cover interest and maintenance with current earnings, let alone upgrading infrastructure, and pretending, Mr President, that private operators can somehow thrive on a collapsing network, is pure wishful thinking. Throwing more money at Transnet is like throwing water on a person busy drowning. What we need is rehabilitation, what we need is real reform, what we need, Mr President, is for you to be a statesman, putting South Africa first, just like South Africa needs Ministers that lead the change we want to see, like the DA Ministers in the Government of National Unity, GNU, bringing the type of change you can boast about in your Sona address.

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For example, modernising the agricultural sector, large scale agricultural exports to markets that have been closed for many years, hemp and cannabis exports to follow, digital transformation at Home Affairs, eliminating backlogs at lightning speed. Turning South Africa into a construction site with Public Works, R940 billion in Infrastructure Investments to come, the list goes on. With regards to Transnet, this is what we must do together. Break up Transnet's monopoly and allow private sector investment to restore rail efficiency, empower and fund competent cities and provinces to run locally focussed services that suit their specific economic and social needs. The recently signed Service Level Plan, SLP, between PRASA and the DA-run City of Cape Town, is a step in the right direction.

Provide policy certainty so investors know where they stand, ensure that the next injection of funds into Transnet comes from the private sector, not the taxpayers. What we need, Mr President, is to get our country moving as economically and as fast as possible, so we can move more money to grow our economy and create jobs. Mr President, it seems that we are on the same page with regards to what needs to happen. What we

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really hope you also agree, is that this needs to happen now.
Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Hon President, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Freedom Charter. Only through its full implementation can we claim to have lived up to the ideals of a free nonracial, nonsexist and prosperous society. The 1994 democratic breakthrough was the realisation of the call that the people shall govern, 30 years later, our generational mission is to realise the clause that says, the people shall share in the country's wealth. We are still struggling to correct the historic injustice of apartheid with the persistent challenges of poverty, inequality, unemployment and historic economic exclusion. The South African economy was built on the back of mining, energy and agriculture.

It relies on the super exploitation of black migrants, workers and black women whose job was to reproduce children as future labourers and take care of dying men who could no longer work. It is treasonous that some beneficiaries of this crime against humanity have been calling on foreign states to intervene, to block even the moderate reforms our government seeks to implement. We must enable our mining industry, which the ANC

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see as the sunrise industry to flourish and not leave anyone behind. To ensure that mining flourishes, the Council for Geoscience survey, the country and found significant mineral resources yet to be exploited. It is a pity that some hon members, even those in the in the GNU, have no experience in building an inclusive economy that works for all.

One political party is stuck in state capture, another one in a vault in VBS in Venda, and other in 1948, daydreaming about being called bass again. We must ensure that the next gold belt which could be bigger than the original one on the reef, is mined to benefit all sections of South African population. Our natural endowments must fund the National Health Insurance, NHI, and the reforms in the education sector called for by the Basic Education Laws Amendment, BELA, Act. We must use the rare minerals steel, copper, hydrocarbons reserves and platinum group metals, among others, to ensure that no section of our society gets to live like the biblical Lazarus and survive on cramps, which is what the likes of the racist. AfriForum and solidarity yearn for.

Mr President, hon Mantashe demonstrated the practicality of how we must respond to bullies when he said, we're not

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beggars, we must stop acting like beggars. We need to ensure that Mining Charter is implemented. The state must have a carry stake in new mining projects as is the case in petroleum to fund the sovereign wealth fund and other empowerment funds for the economic development of our country. We must consider significantly increasing exploration funding which enables the development of new mining and hydrocarbon opportunities, the creation of a state mining company and state National Petroleum Company must occur through using state assets in the mining and petroleum sectors.

An industrial strategy is required to drive the growth of mining and hydrocarbon development. Our monopolistic finance sector must fund the industrialisation of our economy, so we can create well-paying jobs and transform our society. Now, before the DA experienced blue lights, they were as treasonous as the racist AfriForum and solidarity in lobbying and misinforming Washington on what is happening in South Africa. They even wrote a letter to Washington claiming that our well-respected Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, was going to rig elections and Americans themselves must come and observe our democratic elections. Well, the less said about those who are calling for drums when IEC is counting votes, the better.

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They must stop scoring cheap political points by misinforming the world. They are now lined up like headless chicken to move around the world to correct the lies because they themselves understand very well that the withdrawal of for foreign aid can be detrimental and harm their NGOs, especially solidarity and AfriForum. The consequences are actually dire than what Donald Trump can comprehend. DA, don't try and run your own chicken cabinet, Cabinet is one, and can only be constituted by the President of the Republic irrespective of the party you belong to.

Now, Mr. President, foreign aid is important, but money won't create successes. The freedom to make that money will make us successful. We have a nation to build, and those who do not want to be part of the nation-building must heed the call of their Messiah and go to America and become Amerikaners and speak Afrikaner. President, you must also volunteer your jet, inkwazi, to fast-track this important call by Donald Trump for the departure of those who want to leave the country. Thank you very much.

Mr V GERICKE: Chairperson, greetings to president Julius Malema, all the commissars, fighters, and colleagues.

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Afrikaans:

Voorsitter, die EFF neem kennis van President Ramaphosa se verwysing in sy staatsrede na die uitdagings en probleme met betrekking tot dienslewering in Suid-Afrika. Die blote verwysing daarna is geen waarborg dat daar nie 'n herhaling van korrupsie, vervalde infrastruktuur, en swak dienslewering sal wees nie. Inteendeel, die land het al dieselfde beloftes jaar in en jaar uit gehoor.

Dit is 'n gemene saak dat plaaslike regering die eerste punt van kontak is vir die publiek. Artikel 152 van die Grondwet stippel baie duidelik uit die doel en funksie van plaaslike regering. Dienslewering word gedefinieer as die lewering van basiese en noodsaaklike dienste aan die burgers van ons land.

Dit spyt my egter om u mee te deel dat u regering vir die laaste 30 jaar onbevoeg was om effektiewe basiese dienste te lewer. Daar was 'n landwye verval van kwaliteit dienste en baie gemeenskappe word nadelig beïnvloed hierdeur. Dit is hoofsaaklik toe te skryf aan ...

English:

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members! Hon Gericke, my apologies. Hon members, please keep the noise levels down. The hon Gericke also has the right to be heard.

Afrikaans:

Mr V GERICKE: Dit is hoofsaaklik toe te skryf aan korrupsie, nepotisme, en die aanstelling van onbevoegde politieke bondgenote. Daarom ontwyk die idee van 'n bekwame ontwikkelingstaat wat armoede, werkloosheid, en ongelykheid moet uitwis ons land.

Baie gemeenskappe het nie toegang tot basiese dienste nie. Dit is die uiterste vorm van vernedering as 'n gemeenskap soos Hammanskraal sukkel vir jare al om skoon water in hul huise te kry. Die gemeenskap van Thabazimbi, Mbombela, en eThekweni gaan gebuk onder dieselfde probleem. Bejaardes staan vir ure in die hittige son om net 'n paar liter water te kry. Die mense van die Karoo in die Wes-Kaap is al moeg gesukkel, en in baie gevalle steek verkose raadslede hulself weg om nie verantwoording te doen aan die gemeenskap nie. So kan baie ander plekke genoem word.

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Water is 'n basiese reg. Die EFF doen 'n beroep op die nasionale regering om onbevoegde en korrupte amptenare en politici wat nie dienste kan voorsien nie onmiddellik in die pad te steek.

Die herstel van infrastruktuur om water te voorsien, moet bespoedig word. Dit sluit die herstel van pype en infrastruktuur waar miljoene liters water vermors word, ook in.

English:

There is also the issue of water apartheid in the Western Cape. A study group from Sweden, the Netherlands, and the UK found that wealthy urban households use drinking water for swimming pools and gardens. Many disadvantaged communities are still struggling to have access to water. It is also reported that the elite makes up only 12,3% of the population but uses 50% of the city's water. Lower income households and informal settlements make up just over 40% and 21% of the population but only use 27,3% of the city's water.

Afrikaans:

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Alhoewel artikel 26 van die Grondwet die reg van toegang tot behuising waarborg, word hierdie reg op grootskaal ondermyn deur munisipale rade wat geen grond en infrastruktuur beskikbaar stel aan behoeftiges nie. Strukture in agterplase en plakkerskampe neem daaglik toe, en kinders word groot in onmenslike omstandighede. Dit gebeur in Suid-Afrika soos ons nou praat.

Daar is 'n absolute onbevoegdheid in die meeste munisipaliteite en provinsiale wetgewers om menslike nedersettings te voorsien. Op hierdie stadium het Kaapstad alleen 'n behuisingswaglys van 650 000 gesinne.

English:

A whopping 650 000 families!

Afrikaans:

Tog is Kaapstad onlangs tot die beste stad in die wêreld verkies. Hoe belaglik is dit nie.

English:

Is it the fools fooling the fools.

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Afrikaans:

Die EFF sê dat elke burger die reg het tot 'n waardige bestaan en dat elke burger die reg van toegang tot behuising het. Die staat moet alles in sy vermoë doen om daardie objektief te verwesenlik.

In George waar die DA al vir jare regeer, word huishoudings se krag in groot getalle geblok. Mense wat veronderstel is om vir deernis te kwalifiseer, kry 50% minder krag omdat hul ouers se boedels glo nie afgehandel is nie en word verplig om groot bedrae kontant te betaal om hul krag weer aan te sit, mnr die President.

Dit geld ook vir werklose mense ...

English:

... shamefully so.

Afrikaans:

Hoewel die EFF self daarop aandring dat burgers moet betaal vir dienste moet voorsiening gemaak word vir die armes en behoeftiges om toegang te hê tot die gebruik van elektrisiteit. Historiese skuld moet afgeskryf word en deernis

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registers moet opgegradeer word. Paaie moet begaanbaar gemaak word. [Applous.]

Dr M J BURKE: Chairperson and Mr President, bullying, bullying, there has been a lot of talk about bullying. Having grown up liberal in a small, conservative town, I know a thing or two about bullies. So, it hurts me to say we are indeed being strong-armed. However, the bully is not across the sea. It is a ghost of budgets past, the consequences of our terrible decision to constantly borrow more for decades. Now, we have a huge interest payment bill.

Mr President, I welcome much of your state of the nation speech. However, I do find it baffling that our national debt was not mentioned once. This year, for every R100 in tax revenue that we are collecting, we are spending more than R20 on interest payments, a number that is hard to understand intuitively, especially at scale. However, if we divide it up into days, hours, minutes, and then seconds, our debt is costing us over R13 000 every time your heart beats, Mr Chair. Time is money, and it is being wasted.

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The minute that I have now been speaking for is equivalent to roughly R800 000 in interest payments – money that could have provided nearly 160 000 meals to our national school feeding scheme. Our children aren't eating because our debt is eating us. It is consuming money from our stomachs, from our schools, and our hospitals, from our futures. Like with any other bully, the only way we are going to escape this one is by growing bigger and stronger.

Yes, we can cut money by cutting waste inefficiency and by not funding ridiculous programmes like the R3,5 billion we have pencilled in for peacekeeping in Central Africa over the next two years. We have already financed one deadly and embarrassing military disaster in the Central African Republic under President Jacob Zuma, and we cannot repeat this mistake.

However, we cannot win this fight simply by cutting. Let's put it this way: If you work overtime, but you find yourself thousands of rand short after buying groceries, paying rent, taxes, and interest on your massive credit card bill, cancelling your Netflix is not going to help, nor is pulling your child out of school the solution. There is way we can ask hardworking South Africans to pay more taxes. To escape our

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debt trap, we need better jobs. We need them now, and this is exactly why the DA is in government. [Interjections.]

We are the business-friendly party of economic growth, and I do not mean temporary jobs for votes. We all know the type – those created by the next speaker, populist Premier Panyaza. [Interjections.] We don't play games with the unemployed. Whilst Twitter storms rage around us and parts of the ANC continue to push policy that worsens racial divides, economic inequality, and foreign relations, our Ministers are not blown off course. We know that jobs remain our Southern Cross.

There is another interrelated reason why we are in this Government of National Unity, GNU. As the emperor and philosopher Marcus Aurelius said, "The object of life is not to be on the side of the majority, but to escape finding oneself in the ranks of the insane." [Applause.]

[Interjections.] We have to ask how much money farmers would have felt comfortable spending on tractors last year if the hon Molefe was the Minister of Agriculture. How do you think the Expropriation Act would be implemented if the hon Malema was the Public Works Minister? [Interjections.] The DA puts in place competent people to run the government. [Interjections.]

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Our DA Minister has turned around Home Affairs quicker than most people could get a passport under Jacob Zuma. [Applause.]

However, we will not solve our jobs or debt crisis alone. Our partners need to do more. We cannot speak with forked tongues: Saying with one side of our tongue that we want to grow the economy and employ more people but also with the other part of our tongue that we are putting in place conditions on who can be employed and dictating how much of our products must be manufactured locally and then imposing knee-capping tariffs on those products for export.

Starting a business is already an extremely risky and difficult process. Why is this government making it so much harder. We need jobs, not regulations. We also don't need bailouts dressed up as infrastructure investment. We know what you are up to. As Ernest Hemingway wrote, one becomes bankrupt "gradually and then suddenly." This country has been going bankrupt gradually with its ever-growing regulations and business-killing measures, as well as its ever-fattening debt burden. If Transnet gets the R50 billion that its chairperson is demanding, if Eskom continues to lose money and it wants another bailout, we will become bankrupt quite suddenly.

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We cannot be bullied into more bailouts, more debt, or more taxes. We must stand firm. We need to stop the debt. We need to start the jobs. We need our GNU partners to pull their weight. The DA cannot do this alone. [Applause.]

The PREMIER OF GAUTENG (Mr P Lesufi): Thank you so much, presiding officers, our hon President, Deputy President, Chief Whip, Chairpersons, Cabinet Ministers, leadership of other political parties, Traditional Leaders, and hon members, mine today is to say, thank you. Thank you, to you, President. [Applause.] It was exactly during this moment last year President that I humbly and politely requested you, to sign the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill, the BELA. [Applause.] Like a true listening President, here we are, you signed the Bill, and the Bill is in force.

President, like a true listening President, you gave those that have limitations, a period to give you alternative ideas, because they do not have ideas, they chose to march instead of giving you ideas, and you went ahead to implement. [Applause.] President by signing the BELA Bill, you do not know what you have done. You have finally opened the doors of learning and culture to our children, and for that we want to say thank you

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President. President, they threatened you with legal action, but to date *dololo!* Because you can't take nonracialism to court, and you can't take nonracialism to jail.

President, it was during the last state of the nation address, when you boldly declared that, whether one is young or old, whether one lives in a rural area or township, whether employed or unemployed, whether one is a security guard, petrol attendant or a domestic worker or an executive of a company, when fall sick in our country you are entitled to quality health care. Within that context, President, you went to sign the National Health Insurance Bill, and we want to say...

IsiXhosa:

... siyabulela ...

English:

... President. Thank you so much. We really appreciate it.

Again, you were threatened with legal action, but to date ...

IsiZulu:

... dololo ...

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English:

... because no one can challenge equity, and no one can challenge access to quality health care for everyone.

President, we also want to thank you. As the Gauteng government, we have introduced a programme called Ikageleng, built for yourself. Through this programme, we offer land to those that are poor and homeless. We as government, just install roads, sewer, water, and electricity. People depending on their pockets, build their own houses so that you don't have one dimensional way of providing houses to our people. This programme to date has benefited close to 15 000 people who are security guards, who are nurses, who are policemen, who can't afford to be excluded in the housing programme and for this President, we want to say thank you [Siyabonga.]

[Applause.]

Mr President, you convened Gauteng investment conference. In that conference, we, as Gauteng, scored R180 billion commitments in invest. We want to thank you once more for ensuring that companies like BMW, which committed R4,2 billion, continue to expand their automotive production. M-Pack, which committed 2,5 billion. They continued to build sustainable packaging solutions. We've also acquired another

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investment that we will announce during the state of our province address, and this was possible through your actions, and we want to say President ...

IsiXhosa:

... siyabulela.

English:

Thank you so much, President. We are now ready to expand Gautrain network to go to new areas in our province. Gautrain will now go to Soweto, Fourways, Mamelodi, Atteridgeville, Lanseria and Springs during this expansion in the next five years. The government that we have the honour to lead will produce 125 000 construction jobs in the next five years so that our people can get jobs, and for that President, we say thank you so much. President, myself and the Premier of Limpopo, we have concluded our consultation to ensure that there is a speed train between Gauteng and Limpopo.

[Applause.] We are now ready to consult. We are now ready to consult with the Ministry of Transport and your government, so that in 67 minutes we can have a train from Pretoria to Limpopo so that we can be in a position to provide the support to our people.

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Mr President, our capital city of our country Tshwane is back from neglect and misrule. I was embarrassed when you hosted your BRICS peers, and the capital city was stressed, and it was dirty and those that refused to listen to workers didn't listen to our plea to clean our city. You can come back now, President. Our city of Tshwane is sparkling clean now because those that you didn't want, [Applause.] they have been removed. President, the city is moving away from qualified audits to better audits, and I want to assure you, the city is not only back better and bolder. The city is ready to roll out the red carpet when you host your G20 peers, in a province that will be clean and ready for you.

President a new Johannesburg is rising, eGoli, Mjibha, Johannesburg. Thank you, President, we have just unveiled the most beautiful planetarium in the southern hemisphere. It is in the middle of Johannesburg, and I want to thank the investment from Anglo American and Wits University. This is the newest tourist attraction in Johannesburg, and I invite you, President, when you want to see stars one day with your family come to Johannesburg CBD and see the best planetarium in Southern Hemisphere.

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A new, better and bolder concert venue, President, was unveiled two days ago. This is a venue that is in the middle of Johannesburg that will be capable of hosting international artists and ensuring that we entertain the people of Gauteng. President, when we reclaim Johannesburg, we mean that we are reclaiming it. We have now taken back 11 hijacked buildings in the middle of Johannesburg. We will convert them into proper housing for our people. For an example, the old Carlton Hotel will be converted into a beautiful apartment to house our people and next week we are hosting a new Johannesburg Summit as we then unveil a better and new Johannesburg.

President, thank you once more, the e-Tolls are gone, gone, gone and gone. [Applause.] Thanks to you, the Transport Ministry, the National Treasury and organs of civil society. Our road infrastructure expansion and maintenance are now in full swing. We are ready to roll out modern infrastructure in our province.

President, I want to leave here by introducing you to this student. His name is Musawenkosi Buthelezi. A student from township of KwaThema, he is the best matric student in our province and when I say the best, President, I mean the best.

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He beats all students in Gauteng, whether in public or private education and out of 1800 marks he got 1700 Marks and in pure mathematics out of 300 he got 299 marks and he's coming from the township to demonstrate that we have turned around. We have turned around township education. Of all the bachelor passes in Gauteng 2/3 of them are coming from the township. President tomorrow. When you come here, I want to give you this advice. Standing alone here doesn't mean you are alone. It means you are strong enough to handle things yourself.

IsiZulu:

Siyabonga Mongameli.

English:

Thank you so much.

Ms B S MASANGO: Hon Chairperson, this year's hon President's state of the nation address was different. It was encouraging, and inspired hope. That is not because he said anything new, or because lives of poor and vulnerable South Africans have changed much. But because of the key players in what the hon President called "the nation we want". Because the nation we

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want is underpinned by a vibrant growth and jobs agenda that will lift people of this country out of poverty.

The players I refer to are the Government of National Unity, GNU, Ministers and Deputy Ministers. Several of the programmes the hon President articulated were taken right out of the DA's election campaigns over the years - the Growth and Jobs Agenda. [Applause.]

The high cost of living is an especially brutal reality for South Africa's poorest and most vulnerable citizens, many of whom receive their social grants from government and might struggle to access these grants at the end of this month every month due to the needlessly difficult switch from gold card to black card.

The average South African worker must spend more than 57% of their monthly income on transport and electricity while underspending on food. Last year alone, 1 457 children younger than five years died in South Africa's public hospitals due to acute malnutrition.

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However, the DA has the solution. We have always focused on job security and the prosperity it brings. We want to grow the economy to lift the 28 million SA Social Security Agency, Sassa, grant recipients out of their reliance on social assistance. Our economic policy will give them the dignity and the freedom that comes with a stable income and private property ownership.

By enhancing the ease of doing business, between 350 000 and 400 000 new jobs could be created in the first full year after implementation.

Fiscal policy reforms, such as a fiscal rule within the current expenditure framework, could create a further 350 000 to 450 000 jobs. Transforming the Social Relief of Distress, SRD, Grant into a job seekers grant is another essential brick in building an economy that attracts essential investment and fosters a labour-friendly environment that promotes job creation. In fact, between the DA's Ease of Doing Business Programme, fiscal, labour, industrial, and trade policies, there is the potential of between 1,9 and 2,5 million jobs over five years. That hon President is a DA difference.

[Applause.]

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This is why the DA joined this Government of National Unity, because the alternative is terrifying. Imagine a South Africa where the DA does not show up to hold the executive to account, where we are left to the mercy of the anti constitutionalist agenda, where the government cares more about ideology than the money in your pocket, the roof over your head, and the job you go to every morning? [Applause.]

In order to grow the economy, we must involve as many of our citizens as possible, including those that are often marginalised. That is why the hon President's inclusion of persons with disabilities in the mainstream economy is very welcomed and as it recognises the value being added by them in the broader job creation and economic growth space.

The DA's role as key coalition partner in the GNU is already moving the needle towards economic growth and its value for all South African citizens.

The ingenuity and foresight to form the Government of National Unity is what South Africa desperately needed. The "Unity" in the GNU is what will ensure progress and prosperity and as South Africans we are excited to witness this most welcome

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change. We encourage the Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and their dedicated teams to focus on their work as we stand ready to support them in whatever way possible. South Africans, especially the poor and vulnerable South Africans deserve no less. Thank you, hon Chairperson. [Applause.]

Afrikaans:

Ms T BREEDT: Agb Huisvoorsitter, agb mnr die President, die VF Plus leier, dr Pieter Groenewald, het gister tydens hierdie debat gesê dat Afrikaners, soos baie ander gemeenskappe in Suid-Afrika, geen ander tuiste as hier op die Suid-Afrikaanse bodem het nie en dat ons hier is om te bly, maar dat ons ook sal help om hierdie land van ons te herstel en te bou. Dit is juis in hierdie lig dat ek graag met u wil praat. Amper sewe maande gelede tydens die opening van die Parlement vir die aanvang van die sewende termyn het ek gevra dat munisipaliteite prioritiseer moet word.

English:

In many previous state of the nation addresses, Sonas, you briefly mentioned infrastructure but it is for the first time in my recollection that you have actually acknowledged the struggles facing municipalities and consequently the

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challenges of those communities. I want to thank you for listening to the Government of National Unity, GNU, partners.

You also said and I quote, "Many of the challenges in municipalities arise from the design of our local government system."

I can agree with you more. However, we do not need another panel to undertake extensive consultation to find out what is wrong and what needs to be the alternative to our local government system.

The late Mr Pravin Gordhan if you will recall released in - way back in 2014 - the Back to Basics Report - with findings of what the FFPlus has always said and that is big multitown municipalities do not work and services cannot reach the outer limits of those municipalities. Municipalities need to be smaller with less towns in them. Ideally it needs to be one town per municipality.

Although it is welcomed that the role of the Public Services Commission will be strengthened, and technical skills will be improved and professionally managed risk ringfenced

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utilities and water and electricity services will be established.

Forgive me if I am not jumping for joy but waiting to see if this will be realised into real action.

Afrikaans:

Ek het sewe maande gelede ook voor u gestaan en versoek dat daar ingegryp word in onder andere Mophaka Plaaslike Munisipaliteit waar die rioolwerke die belastingbelater al R105 miljoen kos, maar steeds disfunksioneel is. Ek was opgewonde dat u en die Adjunkminister van Water en Sanitasie wie ek ongelukkig nie vandag hier raaksien nie onderneem het om die aangeleentheid te ondersoek en te kom besoek. Tot en met vandag kon ek nog nie daarin slaag om die Adjunkminister vir 'n besoek te ontvang nie.

In die Setsoto Plaaslike Munisipaliteit het die Marquard damwal reeds voor die pandemie gekraak en uiteindelik gebreek, maar omdat die ratte van die regering gans te stadig draai en daar werklik nie proaktief opgetree kan word nie, maar ons geforseer word om reaktief op te tree, is dit nou meer as vyf

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jaar later steeds nie voltooi nie. Nou wag ons blykbaar vir 'n lisensie van die departement voordat die projek kan begin.

Die Vrystaat is 'n waterskaars provinsie en kan nie bekostig om broodnodige water te vermors of nie op te gaar nie.

English:

And then I am not even referring to the R475 million lost during the 2022-23 financial year in municipalities in the Free State due to water losses and leaks.

I refer to these examples in the Free State not only because a hail from the Free State but because it is the worst performing municipality and alongside in the Eastern Cape is one of the provinces with most municipalities in distress as announced by Minister Hlabisa.

The situation is so dire that after complains, the SA Human Rights Commission announced and launched an official inquiry into the state of service delivery at local government level in the Free State and not one municipality was in the clear. I would like to quote:

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It is clear to the commission that there are severe failures as well as difficulties. These failures equate to violations of constitutional rights.

Afrikaans:

Huisvoorsitter, ons gaan moet skouer aan die wiel sit as ons Suid-Afrika wil herstel en bou. Ek dank u.

Mr L W MAHLATSI: Chairperson, greetings to the President and the Deputy President, greetings to the progressive caucus.

Sesotho:

Kgotso, Maafrica. [Mahofi.]

English:

Hon Zikalala, you are absolutely right that Africans must report African issues to Africans. But let us ask ourselves, are those who ran to Americans to cry about the Expropriation Act, really Africans? Do they generally believe in African unity? The Americans gave them a platform, gave them what they wanted, and yet they remain here, remain at the very land where they are privileged, and they claim to be under threat.

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Where is the hon McKenzie's slogan now?

IsiZulu:

Abahambe! [Ubuwelewele.]

English:

Or does it only apply selectively? Mr President, now that the Expropriation Act is in law, I expected you to outline a clear programme of action for its implementation. We cannot afford to celebrate symbolic victories while our people continue to suffer. While we articulate policies, our people are starving. They have no land to produce food, no resources to sustain themselves and no means to break free from generational poverty.

The land question is not just history, it's about survival. Look at Palestine. The war wage by the so-called Israel, is over the land. Look at the Democratic Republic of Congo, the conflict between the Tutsi and the Hutus is about the land. And if South Africa reaches the boiling point, it will not be about political debate. It will be about the land.

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So, Mr President, it's time to act decisively. Implement the land expropriation without compensation now. We cannot wait indefinitely for the amendment of section 25. We must abandon 1913 as a benchmark for the land reform, because it legitimised the colonial theft. [Applause.] When the settlers arrived here, they didn't compensate the land from our forefathers. Instead, they killed them and took the land forcefully. So, give us a good reason why the government must compensate them.

Our history of disposition did not just begin in 1913, it began the moment the foreign settlers laid claim to what was never theirs. As UAT, we do not even recognise 1652 because by that time our forefathers were already slaved. While we delay, our people remain landless, hungry, and hopeless.

Now it's time for action. No apologies. Yes, we don't apologise. Now is the time for justice. No endless negotiations. The land belonged to Africans. Implement now, Mr President.

Xitsonga:

Khanimamba.

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Mr M V DANIELS: Greetings, hon President Cyril Ramaphosa, Deputy President, Speaker of the House and all hon members. On behalf of the PA, we are excited by the prospects of a 3% gross domestic product, GDP growth as mentioned by His Excellency Ramaphosa during Sona. We are excited that our beloved country will now be turned into a construction site and that is what we need to address the higher unemployment rate in our country.

Mr President, my grandmother always said, you must look at me when I talk to you. [Laughter.] Mr President, thank you for committing R940 billion to the infrastructure projects. Let job opportunities reign from our African sky. Let us also guard against Evergreen contracts being afforded to the same companies for decades, including those of contractual engineers.

Mr President, adding R20 billion over five years to the Transformation Fund to support small and black-owned businesses is heaven sent. You said small and black. You didn't say small, you didn't say black. You said both small and black, Mr President.

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Remember, the triple Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment, BBBEE speaks to African in particular. We also have white small-owned businesses. We equally have coloured and Indian and black small, owned businesses and because you say it's small and black-owned, I trust that it will receive the attention it deserves so that the additional R20 billion can be implemented as a rainbow nation project benefiting black, white, Indian and coloured people.

Mr President, I must admit from what I've noticed, you are indeed a complete show off. You cited sterling work done by various Ministers within your Cabinet. And you are correct, Mr President, the GNU is working. As the head of state, you have all the reasons to show off. Who will not show off when things are working?

In the PA ...

IsiZulu:

... ubukwazi ukuthi siyakuhleba

Afrikaans:

Ons skinder van jou, Mnr die President.

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English:

And I quote my party president, the hon minister of happiness, saying ...

Afrikaans:

Die HUISVOORSITTER: Die skindery stop net daar.

English:

Mr M V DANIELS: He said, you are a hard worker. You are a hard worker. He respects you and you work so hard that you must have been tired when you didn't mention the work done by our president in your Sona debate. But these people ... on my way out. You can make a noise.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Mr Daniels!

Sesotho:

Mong S LONZI: Hei, mathata.

English:

Commander in chief of the EFF, South Africa is behind you, despite calls from the United States and Elon Musk, who are calling for your sanctions and calling you an international

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criminal. We want to remind you, president, that even Nelson Mandela was referred to as an international criminal and only up until 2008 was he released from the terrorist list of the United States.

Leaders like Gaddafi, Patrice Lumumba, Kwame Nkrumah, Thomas Sankara from Burkina Faso were all labelled criminals by the West. Stand firm president. Being a criminal of imperialist forces is a badge of honour for our struggle for the liberation of our people.

President Ramaphosa, in the 20th century, Chairman Mao developed and popularises a concept called the paper tiger. A paper tiger is something that appears powerful and intimidating from a distance, but as you get closer to it, it's harmless, it's fragile, it's powerless. It's just a paper made of a tiger.

President, your state of the nation address like the seven that you gave before that, reminds us of a paper tiger. You always make bold statements. You appear dangerous from afar but when we pay closer attention, we see a paper tiger. Your Ministers and premiers are all praise singers, Mr President.

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All of them did not engage in the substance of your Sona. They did not defend your Sona. They were just looking for your applause and affirmation.

Your Chief Whip comes and speaks about the National Development Plan, yet former President Thabo Mbeki, who all of you like to quote, keeps telling you, Mr President, the National Development Plan, NDP is not a plan. Why? A plan requires clear steps, time frames, measurable objectives and defined responsibilities at each and every level of government.

President, let me take you to Singapore. When Singapore reached and gained its independence in 1965, they implemented the economic development plan focusing on industrialisation, education and infrastructure. This was not just talk, Mr President. They created a strong manufacturing sector, which we don't have, upskilled their workforce, which we are not doing and invested in technological innovation, transforming Singapore into one of the world's leading economies in a short space of time. This can't be said about the National Development Plan.

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Hon premier of Limpopo, please don't be narrow. When we say post-secondary education, we're not just talking about universities. We're talking about TVET colleges. We're talking about training centres. Come on, Minister.

The premier of North West comes and talks about Thutsha Lerole Accelerated Service Delivery Programme, but what he won't tell you, Mr President, is that when he launched his campaign in Mamusa, if you go to Mamusa today ...

Sesotho:

... batho ba rona ba tlola mantle beke le beke ...

English:

... because his failed public relations, PR couldn't resolve the issue of sewage in the North West province.

I don't even want to talk about the Minister of Human Settlements. She stands here and claimed to have resolved the issue of student accommodation in South Africa. Perhaps she doesn't know, Minister, there's a shortage of over 500 000 beds in South Africa. You don't just resolve it by taking

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money from Venda Building Society, VBS and buy yourself a coffee shop.

President, I want to invite you just across the road, President, when you were busy delivering your Sona, students at Cape Peninsula University of Technology, CPUT were sleeping outside, President. On Monday night, I went to visit one of the students who got arrested. Please President, on your way to your 20-bedroom house in Clifton, pass District 6 so that you can see this crisis with your own eyes.

President, we felt the pain of Minister Sihle Zikalala. He's a masters candidate, rather, he's got a masters. He's got experience in governance, but you have reduced him into a boy and Deputy Minister of an illiterate matriculate white man. You are reminding us of the racist corporate sector where our brothers and sisters must account to white juniors, even though they've got better qualifications and better experience than them.

But, Mr President, we are not shaken because we know that the faction of Helens Zille wants to dump this GNU. It is just

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John Steenhuisen who is still enjoying the blue lights, even at the cost of his own constituency.

Commander in chief of the EFF, we want to show you that we're not just an opposition that talks. We have already presented before this Parliament a student debt cancellation Bill. We want this Parliament to vote for that Bill so that we can resolve the debt confronting more than half a million students in South Africa.

Mr President, I don't know why you need a Bill to give all students their degrees, because these people have completed all their academic requirements. Why don't you give them their degrees?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Lonzi, your time has expired.

Mr S LONZI: We came here to ask you, and you said you've got an extra minute for six minutes. You gave me five minutes here. It's not going to happen. It's not going to happen.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Lonzi, your time has expired.

Mr S LONZI: We asked you and you said we've got an extra minute here.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Will you please take your seat.

Mr S LONZI: President, the simple point we're making, how will these students get employment if you don't want to give them their degrees? Give the students their degrees, give them their qualifications. Give them their certificates so that they can be able to access employment opportunities. You don't need a Bill for this. Release all degrees, Mr President.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you hon members. Will you please take your seats. What I want to do now is to bring to the attention of the House Rule 34. Rule 34 is very clear. What is important is that we must maintain the decorum of the House. So, I appeal to the House that as we move forward, we must respect the Rules of the joint sitting. What is critical here is that we cannot call each other by first

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name terms. We must respect each other according to Rule 34. The next member who is going to be on the podium is the hon Nodada. Over to you, sir.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu B B NODADA: NODADA: Somlomo, malungu ahloniphekileyo ...

English:

... fellow South Africans ...

IsiXhosa:

... molweni.

English:

Mr President, the last time I was at this podium, I told you that the ANC will not come back as a majority in government. And many in the ANC laughed it off. But the voters backed that statement to ensure that you are no longer a majority. The only thing left is for you to accept that fact.

When the DA joined the Government of National Unity, it was because voters wanted us to leave behind the failed policies of the past 30 years that have plunged more and more people

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into poverty and unemployment and begin the project to rescue the 30 million South Africans living below the poverty line, the 12 million unemployed South Africans and to fight crime for the 87 people murdered daily.

To stop cadres being appointed to eat while South Africans with merit are overlooked. To stop the tragic stories like Bongeka Buso, who poisoned their last bit of food rather than watch her children starve because of the high cost of living. To stop the grand scale theft and corruption that reached unprecedented levels during Zuma's nine wasted year.

IsiXhosa:

Mongameli, ukuba uyakhumbula kakuhle, phambi konyulo ndathi kuni anibuyi. Nangoku ke anibuyanga, qha into esithe sayenza kukunenzela inceba, saninceda ukuze nibuyele kurhulumente ukuze sinijonge ningayibi imali yabantu baseMzantsi Afrika ukuze sisebenzisane kunye ukusa eli lizwe phambili.

English:

We joined the Government of National Unity, GNU because we could not risk giving power to the MK Party and the EFF. Their policies would tank the economy. They are the biggest threat

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to the poor. They have proven this with the dodgy characters on their benches, who gave us load shedding, broke the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa, Prasa and stole at grand scale, while the little red minions next door stole poor people's pensions and savings through the VBS Mutual Bank. There is a path we must never take and the path of breakers we must always avoid.

They are now licking their lips. You could see them standing in ovation for the Premier of Gauteng, lurking at the door of the GNU, wanting to eat. But sadly, for them the DA is going nowhere, and they won't taste the levers of power. Because the project to build South Africa is far too important to hand over the power to these breakers.

IsiXhosa:

Singene kulo rhulumente ukuze sigade la masela namantshontsho awo ukuze bangayibi imali yabantu baseMzantsi Afrika.

English:

They DA will help the GNU grow the economy to create jobs so as to lift people out of poverty. Over our expertise we have already proven that we've made tangible impact in people's

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lives. We have prioritised digitisation and people are getting their identity documents. The agricultural reforms will sustain the agriculture sector and create jobs and food security. Turning South Africa into a construction site is delivering the much-needed jobs as you heard this morning.

Mr President, Minister Motsoaledi came here and I want to say to you Sir, my mother died untimely at the hands of a failing public health system. And us fighting to protect medical aids and quality health care, regardless of the economic status is to ensure that no one else must suffer the same fate. To the many South Africans failed by the public health system, this is not a political game, it is our lives on the line. That is why I strongly believe that the DA can bring helpful changes to the National Health Insurance, NHI to ensure universal access to quality health care. [Applause.]

The thing that gives us stomach aches, is the completely failed public health system that you oversee, where people go to public hospitals to get help, and they come back in coffins and your intention to confiscate the medical aids to which millions of South Africans have contributed all their lives. What the ANC doesn't seem to understand is that millions of

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black South Africans have spent the last 30 years working to free their families from the broken public health system. It's important for us to protect that right while making sure that more and more people get quality health care, regardless of the economic status in South Africa.

To be open to new ideas, build the economy and create jobs, you need to shift your attitude. You see, Mr President, attitude is like a flat tyre. If you don't change it, you won't go anywhere. Premier Lesufi, no amount of arrogance to implement failed ANC policies will change this country for the better. Just today it was revealed that your government has stolen over R600 million meant for Gauteng NGOs who fight hunger, and this is over and above the fact that you spent over R400 million to fumigate schools, because what's most important for you is that cadres must eat while the people of Gauteng suffer at your own hands.

What in fact, we must be fumigating is the hollow words that you spoke here today, having delusions of grand year. Yet you've closed down 25 schools in Soweto. Yet to talk about the doors of learning that must be open. As if we could not be subjected to worse, the hon Dugmore chose to come here and

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insulted the most successful premier in creating jobs. Hon Dugmore, the unemployment rate and the ANC votes in the Western Cape went down directly proportional to each other.

While the Premier Alan Winde was driving down unemployment rate and creating jobs in the Western Cape, you as the leader of the opposition was driving down the ANC votes. Clearly, hon Adams was correct to say, you're the most skilled politician and you are indisputably the most skilled at losing votes. The less said about the hon Ndhlela who came here dressed like a toy soldier and fake military gear forgetting that the MK family business he chants for created a failed state for nine years ... [Inaudible.]. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon members. We cannot drown the speaker, please. We cannot drown the speaker. Hon Nodada, your time has expired.

Mr B B NODADA: President, as the DA we are committed to the Government of National Unity. Take new ideas on board and you will see success ... [Inaudible.] Thank you.

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AN HON MEMBER: Hey mini ... sit down. Mini John Steenhuisen, sit down. [Applause.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr M Manyi): House Chair, to say that the fake Sona delivered on the 6th of February was an anticlimax is a serious understatement. The party leader of the MK party and I went there with notebooks and pens hoping to take copious notes, but it was not to be. We thought Mr Ramaphosa was going to start by giving an executive update on the progress made from his 2024 promises. Instead, he began pontificating about some R20 billion per year for a transformation fund and he carefully omitted to say where those funds would come from.

As we speak here and now, South Africa is living from hand to mouth, and this leadership or people in a leadership position seem oblivious to this fact.

Fellow South Africans, here are three very important realities. We have a widening fiscal deficit, now projected to exceed over 5% of the gross domestic product, GDP. Where is the R20 billion going to come from?

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We are sitting with a growing national debt expected to exceed well over 80% of GDP by 2026. Where is the R20 billion going to come from?

Rising inflation and an increased cost of living is forcing millions into deeper poverty, with poor households facing a disproportionate 11,3% increase in their food basket.

We, as uMkhonto weSizwe, MK, the new government in waiting, stand on behalf of the people of South Africa. We stand on behalf of traditional leaders, the unemployed millions of our people, the underpaid and exploited workers, black professionals who suffer racist treatment in workplaces, farm workers, all those who need a better life in this country, including white people. We declare that uMkhonto weSizwe is a government in waiting, ready to take over yesterday.

[Applause.]

I'm standing here today, amongst other things to expose the lies. The MK party will not govern through lies and deceit, unlike the ANC-DA coalition and their fellow travellers in this coalition thing of theirs. We will not represent anything. We will not do what has been done here to

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misrepresent the Freedom Charter. We will state the Freedom Charter as it is.

It is quite despicable that Mr Ramaphosa comes here and talks about the Freedom Charter, but there's not one thing from the Freedom Charter that he has ever done. The Freedom Charter says the mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and monopoly industries shall be restored to the people. When we say this, they call us destroyers, they call us unconstitutional and all these funny words. The Freedom Charter says: "The land shall be shared amongst those who work it." Our people work the land every day and do not have any share in the ownership.

For us in the MK party, platitudes don't work. We see you. We will not falsely claim that there were 300 days without load shedding when in reality it was disguised as load reduction, Comrade Sputla. Maybe there was no load shedding in the suburbs where the neoliberals in the Government of National Unity, GNU, live. But, in the township people are struggling with so-called load reduction.

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We will not manipulate statistics, Minister Ntshavheni, as we did in the 2022 Census, where the nation was given a false claim that 82% of households have piped water. However, Statistics SA does not say that in those pipes that are there, some of those pipes are dry, some of those pipes are spewing water you cannot drink. So, that statistic is meaningless.

We are not going to lie about land reform. The Expropriation Act that everybody is talking about is not a progressive document, but just a tool to delay land reform. The term nil compensation is deceitfully used to confuse many in the ANC because they get easily confused. It's not the same thing as no compensation. ... fundamental difference.

The people of South Africa are fortunate that the MK party is here to expose these monkey tricks. We will not pretend that apartheid is a thing of the past. When you look at household income, the race element is very strong. Africans in the top quintile are only 13,7%; coloureds are only 20,3%; Indians 40%; and whites in the top quintile occupy 73%. Is this what united in our diversity should mean? You would have thought that with a statistic like that we'd have a situation where

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the Employment Equity Act is going to be prioritised. This Act was passed ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Sorry, hon Manyi, just a minute. Hon members, you are conversing aloud in this House. Can we allow the speaker at the podium to be able to address the House please? Thank you.

An HON MEMBER: It's MK.

Mr V G REDDY: Chairperson?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): On what are you rising, hon member? Can you take your seat? On what are you rising?

Mr V G REDDY: Chairperson, the speaker is totally inaudible. We cannot hear him. There's something wrong with the sound system. So, could you address that and allow him to begin his speech again, please. We can't hear him. That's why members are trying to raise this point. We can't hear the speakers. There's something wrong with the sound system.

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An HON MEMBER: The problem is not the sound system. It's the content.

Mr V G REDDY: ... [Inaudible.] ... sabotage. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: There's nothing wrong with the system.

An HON MEMBER: We're starting afresh. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon Duduzile did not approve that speech.

An HON MEMBER: Hon Chairperson, give him more time.

An HON MEMBER: The speech was not approved by Duduzile.
[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Please let us have ...

Mr V G REDDY: He needs to start again, Chairperson. We can't hear a thing.

An HON MEMBER: Let him start from the beginning, Chair. We didn't hear.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): The technical team will up the ... issue of the microphone there.

An HON MEMBER: There's nothing wrong. He's talking hogwash.

An HON MEMBER: There's nothing wrong with the microphone, Chairperson. It's the content. [Interjections.]

Mr V G REDDY: We cannot even hear you, hon Chairperson. We can't even hear you.

An HON MEMBER: He's just talking hogwash.

An HON MEMBER: There's nothing wrong with the sound. We can hear you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Dlakude?

An HON MEMBER: There's nothing wrong with the sound. We can hear him.

An HON MEMBER: We didn't ask you though.

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The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Hon House Chairperson ... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hogwash!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Over to you, hon Dlakude.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Hon House Chairperson, all speakers were audible. I want to advise hon Manyi to move closer to the microphone because his voice is too soft. We can't hear what he is saying but we've been hearing all the other speakers. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Only now when we rise and raise an objection ... [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: You are drowning out the speaker. You are drowning out the speaker.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Take your seat! Take your seat! You can only speak when I recognise you. Please take your seat ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

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An HON MEMBER: Don't touch that microphone! Why are you touching it? Don't touch it!

An HON MEMBER: The issue is the content, not the sound.

Mr V G REDDY: Chair, we can't even hear you. We can't even hear you.

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: You are drowning out the speaker yourself.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): So, the sound is clearly audible. Hon Manyi, can you resume your speech please? You have two minutes left.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Two minutes? ...

[Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): I've just made a ruling, hon Manyi. You have two minutes left. All other members were audible ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

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The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: Don't play to the gallery. Get on! [Inaudible.]

Mr D M SKOSANA: We can't even hear you, Chair.

An HON MEMBER: Chair, we can hear you from here.

[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Chairperson, how much time are you adding? How much time are you adding?

[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: Don't play to the gallery ... [Inaudible.]

Mr V G REDDY: Now we can hear. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Time is up. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Yes, four minutes is fine. [Interjections.] Hon Manyi, there's another point of order.

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Mr R A P TROLLIP: Hon Chairperson, it is most certainly a point of order. If the hon member at the podium is given an additional time allocation, we all want an additional time allocation. [Interjections.] You have no authority to add onto his time. I listened the whole time to hon Manyi and I could hear what he was saying. Then they asked him to repeat his speech. You have no authority to add onto his time. If you give him more time, we want more time.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Okay, hon Manyi ...

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr M Manyi): Okay, Chair, you are in charge here.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Manyi, I still have to make a ruling. Take your seat please. What is very important here is that a ruling has been made and the ruling cannot be overruled in the House. I think the member from Action SA who is raising ... can write to the relevant office to raise the issue.

The issue of drowning out ... was part of the House as a whole. So, the ruling has been made. He is going to get those

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minutes which I give him. If you have anything, please go back to the ... [Inaudible.] Over to you, hon Manyi.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr M Manyi): Long live the Chair!

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: How many minutes? [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: We're starting now. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Mantashe, you cannot speak without being recognised, please.

An HON MEMBER: Even with the new microphone we cannot hear him. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hey, Gwede, shut up!

An HON MEMBER: We cannot hear him, Chair.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr M Manyi): I was saying

...

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An HON MEMBER: Please say something this time.

[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Manyi, there's another point of order. [Inaudible.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr M Manyi): One more extra ... I can make it five.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE SECOND LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Mr G Michalakis): Chair, my hand has been up for quite a while. Thank you for finally recognising me.

The first point that I want to make is in terms of Rule 57 on a point of order. The point of order needs to be raised at the time when the transgression occurs. So, the members who did not hear the hon Manyi should've stood up at the point when they couldn't hear him and not wait for 10 minutes ... to continue with his speech. But, I will respect the fact that you've made a ruling and we will challenge it.

The actual reason why I'm standing is in terms of Rule 40, and I want you to read it with Rule 41. It is with regard to gross

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disorderly conduct, and specifically Rule 40(f) which states that when members act in any other way that's to the serious detriment of the dignity, decorum and orderly procedure of the House, read with Rule 41, which is where members are ordered to leave the Chamber. What we've seen over the last few minutes at least, was gross disorderly conduct in this House, and I would like to ask you to consider Rule 41 and to ask those members who are responsible for that to leave the House if they continue with this. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): All right, thank you, hon Chief Whip of the DA. However, you know very well that the very same rules dealing with points of order state that when a ruling has been made, no other point of order can be raised on the same issue which is raised. So, I'll allow hon Manyi to continue with his speech.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr M Manyi): You should've raised the point when the issue was happening, not now.

An HON MEMBER: Continue wena!

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The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: Procedure,
Manyi ...

IsiXhosa:

... uyibeke ngokwakho. Qhuba maan. Qhuba mfondini.

English:

An HON MEMBER: Gwede, this is not an ANC meeting. Keep quiet.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Mantashe, you
cannot speak without being recognised.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr M Manyi): The point I was
making is that if Mr Ramaphosa had been serious about
transformation, there was an opportunity presented in the
sixth administration where the Employment Equity Act was
passed somewhere around May 2022 by the ... [Inaudible.] ...
Parliament. It got promulgated in May 2023. From there it was
never implemented and it was just passed and passed with all
those amendments, just to get votes. After the votes, it also
stalled. It's only now in January that this Act is going to be
unleashed. This just shows that Mr Ramaphosa is not serious
about transformation.

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We have a National Development Plan, NDP, here – a carefully crafted plan – that's poorly implemented. It has missed all targets. It doesn't matter which target you look at, it has missed. So, we are sitting here with a government that has radar which is off course.

If you look for instance at the issue of employment targets, the NDP said that by 2030 we would've reached unemployment of 6%. Where are we now? On the expanded definition, we are sitting at 41%.

With regard to poverty eradication, it said that by 2030 we will have zero poverty. We would've eradicated it to zero. Where are we now? We are at 40%. How are we going to get to zero in the next five years?

The ... said that by 2030 we are going to reduce inequality. We have the most embarrassing situation in this country, where inequality under Mr Ramaphosa is even worse than during the days of apartheid. ... serious problem.

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If this so-called GNU was a GNU, it would've included traditional leaders. It would've included all those people, but it excluded them.

This is what the MK party is going to do. On land expropriation, we will table a Private Member's Bill to do two things. Firstly, expropriation without compensation, and, secondly, we are going to push back that date of 19 June 1913 to 6 April 1652 when Jan van Riebeeck ... [Inaudible.] ... foot here. That is what we are going to do.

An HON MEMBER: Go consult the Guptas.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr M Manyi): South Africa will shift in terms of its global relations. We will move away from the West and associate more with Brics.

On higher education, we will make sure that we have decolonised higher education for all. We will support the debt cancellation programme that is being proposed here. We will cut out the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, as a middleman and make sure that government pays directly to the institutions concerned.

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We will ensure that there is Parliament sovereignty so that when Parliament makes a decision, you don't have courts second-guessing what Parliament has said.

An HON MEMBER: Are you charging Dudu?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr M Manyi): We reiterate our call by our commander general, His Excellency, President Zuma, the founding president of the MK party, that all progressive forces must unite so that we can defeat the monster. Amandla! [Interjections.] [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: A waste of two minutes.

The MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY: Hon House Chairperson, President Ramaphosa, Deputy President Mashatile, ladies and gentlemen fellow South Africans, I think the most consequential moment of our debate is when the leader of an organisation that occupies the far right of the ideological spectrum of the political parties represented here in Parliament makes the following acknowledgment: That the Freedom Charter is indeed the seminal document that should guide the South Africa we want. And he goes further to make

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the point that it could be a foundational basis of our discussion in the mooted national dialog.

I would also like to acknowledge the cogent and convincing account of the ANC's achievements as set out by the hon Dr Hlophe, particularly in relation to the key matrices in relation to the social indicators. But he goes further and attempts to decouple the ANC's victories and achievements between 2009 and 2019 and attribute the victories to an individual and the setback to an organisation. In my opinion, this is at best a misrepresentation and at worst, a duplicitous.

I would like to say to hon Malema that in his predictable effort to discredit the State of the Nation Address, Sona, he uses the National Development Plan, NDP, and the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, interchangeably. Although they are related, they are different. They differ in the following sense: The NDP's Vision 2030 has a long-time horizon. It is also results-oriented. And it is also ambitious. The MTDP, on the other hand, has a three-year cycle that is results-oriented and for which considerable financial resources are also provided. It also has clear timelines and targets that

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are embedded in an overarching framework for monitoring and evaluation. Essentially, what the hon Malema has done is to commit the cardinal sin from a conceptual outlook point of view.

I would like to say this to hon Trollip, who has called Sona delusional, hon Ndlela has pointed out that this is indeed a failed state, hon Maotwe has pointed out that these are hollow promises. I would like to counsel the House that knowledge of the facts is a minimum requirement for a sensible and mature conversation. I would like to refute this assertion by saying the following: firstly, the Sona itself admits that there are significant shortcomings. It points out that we have a growth problem, and it also points out that the fact that 28 million people are on welfare, out of a total population of R62 million, and that extended unemployment stands at 43%, is an extraordinary indictment of a government in office.

It does posit that we are putting forward a growth of 3% as our level of ambition. And that is driven by the facts as the Bureau of Economic Research in Stellenbosch has formulated a model. An economic model is a simplification of the economy designed to explain economic behaviour, and it consists of a

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set of variables and quantitative terms that are essentially interrelated and interdependent. And it says that if we continue on the path of the organisation validation, OV, we are likely to achieve gross domestic product, GDP, growth of between 3,5% and 5%.

However, it would be the height of folly for President Ramaphosa to stand before the country and promise 5% economic growth by the end of his term. Why is this the case? Because the reality is this: between 2005 and 2011, GDP averaged 3,4%. In the years 2012 to 2019 it was 1,9%, in the years 2019 to 2023 0,3%. As I stand before you, the projection will probably be 0,8% and 1,9 in the medium term. So, you cannot set a target that we know is highly unlikely to be achieved. But we also need to determine the flow. What is this flow? We assume that economic growth must exceed the population growth rate and that anything below the population growth rate essentially meets the requirements.

We then propose the following interventions: The first one is that the NDP suggests the levels of gross fixed capital formation, which is a proxy for investment, should be at 30% of GDP. As I stand before you, that number is sitting at

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14,9%, and 70% of that is private sector, 18% of that is public sector, and then the remainder is the state-owned enterprise, SOE. So, we need to accelerate that investment. For us to achieve those targets, we must invest R2,1 trillion per annum to achieve that target. That is why the R940 billion that the President refers to is just a fiscal injection. You need to design bespoke financing instrument that will tap into the liquidity of the private sector and ensure that you provide the sufficient guard-rails to protect the investments of the private sector. Hence, we talk about innovative financing instrument to drive this agenda. And we are going to classify infrastructure as an asset class so that we are able to crowd in private sector investment.

I want to say to hon McPherson that it appears that your relationship with the truth is that of hostility and antagonism. The agenda of the Infrastructure South Africa, the investment book, was generated during the sixth administration. I think the decent thing that you can say is that you want to accelerate the pace of implementation. And then the third area of intervention is around water. We accept that there are commercial elements in water investments and then there are social elements. We just need to look at the

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interventions we made working with the private sector, the Libalelo Water User Association, the Vaal Gamagara, a combination of private sector and public sector investment, and we were able to roll-out this investment.

On the electricity front, we make the point that the state sovereign balance sheet is weak. The Eskom balance sheet has been eroded. We need to design instruments that helps us to ensure that there is accelerated private sector investment. We need to modernise and grow the transmission by over 14 000 kilometres in the next 10 years. We need about R450 billion. We have designed an instrument, Mr President, and we will be introducing that instrument to the country in the next five weeks, and we are going to use that instrument as a template.

We will take it to Transnet will take it to all SOEs so that you are able to drive this infrastructure going forward. On the freight logistics side, we have got a baseline of 149 million tonnes per annum and our target for the year is 170 million tonnes and by 2030, we want to reach 250 million tonnes. We have decided that we must prioritise specific corridors, the Northern Cape Saldana corridor, which carries iron ore and manganese, the northern corridor which carries

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coal and chrome, the Gauteng Durban corridor for automotive and general freight.

We then say, we need to make an investment in relation to the capacity of local government ring-fence both the electricity and water functions of municipalities. President, I am happy to announce to you that we have already started in Limpopo as indicated by the Premier of Limpopo Province Phophi Ramathuba.

We are starting with Maruleng, Thabazimbi and Mulemule. We are also doing a number of municipalities in the Free State. We also in Maluti-A-Phofung, and moving into Ditsobotla in the North West. We are in Gauteng in Emfuleni. So, we have started this work of ensuring that we are able to design instruments that are able to drive this agenda going forward.

I want to make this point in relation to what I refer to as the ultra-right lunatic fringe in this country that seeks to undermine the transformation project. They use expropriation as a scarecrow, it is a smokescreen. Their fundamental grievance is the scale and pace of the transformation project. They have been forum shopping and now they found an ally. They are detonating the nuclear options to ensure that they

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undermine the economy of this country so that there is a groundswell of social discontent that will unseat this government.

I want to say that were determined to protect the gains of the democratic project. We will go explain ourselves to the allies and articulate the vision of a South Africa that we want, that the transformation project is indeed irreversible. We are on the correct path, comrade President, we will not be bullied. Thank you very much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon members, would you please take your seats? I really want to appreciate the robust debate you have had over the last two days. All political parties have had the opportunity to debate the State of the Union address. I think the President has listened carefully. He will be able to respond tomorrow. However, towards the end, there have been serious breaches of the Rules of the House in this session. The first was the participation of our guests in the gallery. Our Rules of Procedure state quite clearly that people in the gallery may not take part in the deliberations of the House. So, I think that when we invite people into

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Parliament, we need to make them aware of the rules that they should observe, because they tend to be disruptive.

But the worst thing was the violation of Rule 38 and 40, whereby it is quite clear that when a presiding officer speaks, the person who is on the podium must take a seat. So that valuation was done. I am going to refer that matter to the relevant House so that the relevant House can deal with that issue because it cannot be allowed that we have the Rules of the House and they get violated, the way it has been done here.

The speaker's list has been concluded, and the President will reply to the debate tomorrow. That concludes the business of the day, and the Joint Sitting is adjourned. Thank you.