

WEDNESDAY, 10 JULY 2019

PROCEEDINGS OF MINI-PLENARY – NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

Members of the mini-plenary session met in the National Assembly Chamber at 19:06.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate on Vote No 11 - Public Works:

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Good evening, hon Chairperson, Members of Cabinet, MECs, the chairperson and members of the portfolio committee. Let me also recognise the people in the gallery, the chairpersons and CEOs of all public entities and professional councils, representatives of the Auditor-General's office, members of the audit committee, the director-general and all senior members of the department as

well as heads of departments of provincial departments, participants from the Department of Public Works' Young Professionals Programme and also representatives from the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, colleagues and friends.

Please accept an apology from Deputy Minister Kiviet who cannot be here tonight because her family has suffered a bereavement.

The sixth administration of the democratic government of South Africa has begun its work in an era of fiscal constraint following years of economic decline. President Ramaphosa has been leading the drive to stimulate the economy, but it is incumbent on all patriotic South Africans to contribute to our recovery and to the restoration of national pride and hope.

"Now is the time to focus on implementation," the President said in his state of the nation address last month. "It is time to make choices." As part of the reconfiguration of government, over and above the historic role of the Department of Public Works, the function of infrastructure co-ordination was assigned to my department, which is now called the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

In addition to this function, the department has been assigned the responsibility to co-ordinate the Infrastructure Delivery Management System, IDMS, a function previously performed by National Treasury, as well as the transfer of the Presidential Infrastructure Co-ordinating Commission, PICC, a function previously performed by the former Department of Economic Development.

South Africa must invest more in infrastructure to create conditions conducive for the economy to grow. We must also invest wisely. Infrastructure is a critical area of investment that supports structural transformation, growth and job creation. It is essential to our economic rejuvenation. In addition, an infrastructure investment fund of R100 billion has been established as a commitment from government.

The President has set the focus of the sixth administration on seven priorities: economic transformation and job creation; education, skills and health; consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services; spatial integration, human settlements and local government; social cohesion and safe communities; a capable, ethical and developmental state; and a better Africa and world.

I have, since that time, recalibrated the department's annual performance plan for this financial year to specifically address the seven priorities. All our programmes and policies across the department and its entities are now in direct pursuit of these overarching tasks.

The processes of reconfiguration of the department to accommodate the additional functions of IDMS and PICC co-ordination are being managed through the process of the National Macro-Organisation of Government, NMOG, set by the Presidency. In line with their timeframes, these processes are set to be concluded by December of 2019. The budget that I present to you, therefore, primarily concerns the functions of the old department.

Let me start with the main Vote - the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure Vote. The budget allocation for the main Vote for the current financial year 2019-20 is R7,8 billion. Eighty-six per cent of this allocation is apportioned for transfers, the bulk of which is R4,2 billion towards the support of the Property Management Trading Entity and other departmental entities - the Construction Industry Development Board, the Council for the Built Environment, and Agrément SA. We have also put aside R2,3 billion for the Expanded Public Works Programme,

EPWP. The balance of R1,1 billion is spread out to fund policy and skills development, strengthen governance, risk and compliance, and the fight against corruption.

Allow me to briefly focus on the EPWP. Hon members, our country continues to confront the scourge of unemployment and poverty. Given the significance of the EPWP programme in this regard, I will be directly involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme. During phase three of the EPWP, covering the previous five financial years, more than 4,5 million beneficiaries have been positively impacted. This number comprises 66% women, 44% youth and 1% people living with disabilities. It is our target in this current financial year to create another 8 200 new work opportunities and we will increase the participation of disabled people to more than 2% within the next two years.

Phase four will involve replicating and expanding existing initiatives such as safety programmes, early childhood development, tourism programmes, and road and building maintenance programmes. In addition, we will improve youth participation through expanding youth programmes such as the National Youth Service, the Youth Environmental Service and youth ambassadors.

We project that over the five years of implementation, a total of R41 billion will be transferred to EPWP programmes. I have emphasised that the involvement of intermediaries must be minimised to maximise the benefit of money to the beneficiaries. Of the R2,3 billion assigned to the programme in this financial year, approximately R700 million goes to intermediaries.

Measures are in place to deal with the following pitfalls which have been experienced in the past: underreporting by public bodies such as national departments, provincial departments and municipalities in terms of the work opportunities created; concerns around patronage in the recruitment of participants; the lack of transparency in recruitment; and inconsistency in the recruitment process.

We also find noncompliance of public bodies to the ministerial determination on EPWP, which results in audit findings. Examples include projects not being reported, not all participants that working on a project being recorded, poor record keeping of documents such as attendance, and ghosts EPWP workers being paid.

Some of these problems continue to occur even today. It is also a matter of great concern that some municipalities use their

EPWP allocations to fund the core business of the municipality instead of employing people at decent rates and placing them on the municipal wage bill. This practice of using EPWP allocations to perform core functions must stop.

Let me turn to fraud and corruption. South Africans are sick and tired of fraud and corruption in the public service.

Transparency is the most important deterrent to corruption. As such, I have already requested officials in the department to put measures in place for public scrutiny of our supply chain management processes.

There will be no secrecy in the awarding of tenders. From now on, members of the public will be allowed to observe the evaluation and adjudication of our bidding process. [Applause.]

In his 2018 state of the nation address, President Ramaphosa spoke of lifestyle audits for elected officials. I have therefore instructed my department that such audits have to be completed between August 2019 and June 2020, and that I want my lifestyle audit to be first.

We are doing all we can to recover looted money and stem the tide of wasteful and corrupt losses. There are presently 37 dockets registered with the police geared towards recovering

about R29 million. The Special Investigation Unit, SIU, has conducted 2 325 investigations, finalising approximately half of them and has referred to the department R403 million that must be recovered.

We are also supporting the SIU in court processes to recover R155 million in excessive expenditure in the Nkandla project, and finalising outstanding disciplinary and criminal matters in this regard.

The department will also be implementing a consequence management unit to monitor the implementation of consequence management initiatives in the department. There must be consequences.

Allow me to expand on two areas of particular concern: the irregular appointment of staff to the department, and the Telkom Towers debacle. I have recently been briefed on the outcome of the Public Service Commission, PSC, investigation initiated by my predecessor, Mr Thulas Nxesi, into irregular staff appointments between April 2017 and March 2018. Phase One of the investigation has revealed that 11 of the 37 senior service managers were irregularly appointed, and the PSC recommended that corrective action be taken in terms of the disciplinary

code against members of staff who participated in the appointments. The PSC has further recommended that all the appointments be set aside.

Phase Two of the investigation concerns itself with the appointment of 677 staff at levels below senior management services. The preliminary findings point to 94 staff having been irregularly appointed. I am still awaiting the final report from the PSC. Where wrongdoing is identified, perpetrators must be held accountable for their actions.

With regard to the Telkom Towers issue, I had a meeting with my colleague Minister Cele yesterday. The cost of the Telkom towers has ballooned over the past four years from a R600 million to R1,6 billion, whilst the police continue to wait to take occupation of the premises. I have, as an immediate action, instructed my department to withdraw all Department of Public Works and Infrastructure officials from the project. I have asked the Minister of Police to do the same and withdraw all police officials. We will appoint a project manager from outside to continue to monitor the process.

We are hoping and also await information from the CEO of the Development Bank because the Development Bank acted as an

implementing agency in this instance. We await information from the CEO so that we can conclude our own internal investigation that is currently underway. [Applause.] In the meantime, I really feel sorry for our policemen and women.

My department will also assess the current police accommodation at Veritas and Waghuis where police are operating under terrible conditions. Some of these buildings have been condemned.

[Applause.] I want to use this opportunity to apologise to policemen and women for the conditions that they have to endure. As from tomorrow we are going out there to make an assessment.

The looting must stop. As public servants we must account to the people for the money we spend. Regarding our audit, positive audit outcomes are this department's litmus test as we seek to improve our performance for the citizens. The citizens give public confidence to the work of the department. In this regard, I am aware that the audit outcomes of the main Vote and Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE, have realised some improvements over the period of the turnaround strategy that was started way back in 2012 by my predecessor.

My goal, however, is that both the main Vote and PMTE Vote should achieve unqualified to clean audit outcomes in the next

financial year. To this end, all senior managers in the department will have a clean audit as a key performance indicator in their performance agreements.

Regarding professional and technical skills – of which there is quite a lack in the department – the department has, over the years, strengthened its skills pipeline in relation to the built environment's professional and technical skills. The interventions put in place include school-based programmes through which the department identifies a category of maths and science learners from schools in disadvantaged communities. These schools are then provided with support via enrichment programmes especially to ensure that their maths and science results improve to meet university entrance requirements. The learners who embrace a career in the built environment are then placed on a bursary programmes.

The 80 students who joined our youth bursary scheme in 2014 have graduated and are currently enrolled in the internship and Young Professionals Programme within the department. Some of them are here tonight. Currently, together with the Council for the Built Environment, the department is also supporting 333 more learners from disadvantaged communities as they start out on their journey to attaining professional status in the built

environment disciplines. In addition, 112 young professionals are participating in the department's technical candidacy programme, 124 young professionals attained professional registration, and 306 artisan trainees obtained trade test certificates.

We are working to finalise the work for this financial year as we roll out a Public Works and Infrastructure Academy. This academy finds its place in the context of the state's technical capacity building programme as mandated by the Cabinet lekgotla of July 2015.

With regard to policy development, the recent reconfiguration of the state will refocus the work currently underway in relation to the departmental policy reforms. We are busy with a review of the ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon Minister, thank you very much. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Oh! I will use the 10 minutes to finish the speech.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon Minister, unfortunately your time is up.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: I understand, Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Thank you so much.

An HON MEMBER: That is not good.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Yes, not good!
[Applause.]

Ms N NTOBONGWANA: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, hon Deputy Minister in absentia, hon members, chairpersons of the boards of Public Works entities, distinguished guests and fellow South Africans, I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the Eastern Cape MEC of Public Works, MEC Madikizela.

One of the greatest philosophers of history, Karl Marx, once said:

If we have chosen the position in life in which we can most of all work for mankind, no burdens can bow us down, because they

are sacrifices for the benefit of all; then we shall experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our happiness will belong to millions, our deeds will live on quietly but perpetually at work, and over our ashes will be shed the hot tears of noble people.

This quote is particular befitting of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure, as it has the responsibility to conduct oversight over a department that is a catalyst for socioeconomic development and a significant driver in the creation of an inclusive economy and job creation. If we work together as a collective, we shall experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our happiness will belong to millions of South Africans. [Applause.]

Hon members, in his June 2019 state of the nation address, His Excellency President Ramaphosa indicated that this administration will focus on seven key priority areas.

The reconfigured Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, in all its forms, is therefore a catalyst for socioeconomic development, which will contribute towards these overarching tasks. Well-planned and managed infrastructure enables established businesses to expand their production levels, while

encouraging small businesses to enter the market. It also promotes trade, supports economic concentration and contributes to job creation. The department can only achieve its mandate if those elected to conduct oversight over it work together as a collective.

The ANC-led government is committed to expedite infrastructure development and as such, His Excellency President Ramaphosa in his February 2019 state of the nation address indicated that R100 billion has been set aside to seed the Infrastructure Fund.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa, DBSA, and the newly configured Department of Public Works and Infrastructure playing a co-ordinating role will manage this fund. This shows our government's commitment towards investing in infrastructure. Although this is not enough to address the underserviced areas and address the imbalances of the past in our country, it will definitely eliminate some of the infrastructure backlogs.

Fraud and corruption continue to erode our social fabric and undermine our collective efforts to build a prosperous South Africa. The ANC-led government is committed to restoring its integrity and credibility and confront fraud and corruption as well as state capture in all forms. It is against this

background that the department's aim of good governance improvement and risk mitigation will be achieved through its turnaround strategy. This strategy is built on two pillars – zero tolerance for corruption and improving the way the department does its business.

Working closely with the Special Investigations Unit, SIU, the Governance, Risk and Compliance, GRC, unit in the department was able to announce significant successes in 2018 in the fight against corruption and collusion between corrupt officials and property owners, such as recovering monies incorrectly paid to landlords.

In our portfolio committee, we were informed that the Anti-Corruption Unit, ACU, within the department conducted 252 investigations in 2018 on a series of allegations of fraud and corruption. Of these, 223 cases have since been completed, 17 are at various stages of investigation and 12 were referred to other law enforcement agencies. We were very pleased about this as a committee.

It is worth noting that the fight against fraud and corruption must be a responsibility for all of us. We must fight fraud and corruption in the public and the private sector across all

racial, political and gender lines because it hinders development. We need to fight fraud and corruption here in Western Cape in the DA-led province. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Order, hon members! Order! Order, please! Order! Hon members, order! [Interjections.] Order, hon members.

Ms N NTOBONGWANA: The Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE, as an implementing arm of the department, manages the immovable asset register that records all immovable assets in line with the principles, best practice, and uniform immovable asset framework for government as set out in the Government Immoveable Asset Management Act, Act 19 of 2007. It is a rather huge concern that some of the state-owned properties lie fallow and remain unoccupied for long periods of time, becoming white elephants and giving opportunities for illegal occupation and sometimes the harbouring of those who engage in criminal activities.

In the light of this, the portfolio committee has decided that it will closely monitor the process of ensuring that an effective, efficient and fully functional immovable asset register is in place. [Applause.]

The department must ensure that, in all its programmes, women, youth and people with disabilities become the main beneficiaries. It must accelerate programmes to advance transformation, particularly of the registered candidates and professionals on the six councils for the built environment professions. We were informed in the portfolio committee that, out of about 32 698 registered candidates and professionals, only about 8 170 are women. That cannot be accepted. This happens in a country in which women are in the majority. That must be corrected. There is still more room for improvement of the transformation agenda of the Public Works entities because currently there is less emphasis on opportunities afforded to women in construction and the youth in particular, while the built environment remains white male-dominated.

The high unemployment rate remains a serious challenge for young people in our country. The Budget Vote must be an enabler that unlocks job opportunities created by the Department of Public Works and its entities. Job creation remains an apex priority of the ANC-led government and that is why the department continues to create more employment opportunities through its Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, and the small harbour development programme.

The State Coastal Property Development Unit within the department needs to broaden its horizon in terms of the development of small harbours. We were informed that only three provinces so far have this programme – Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Cape. [Interjections.] The Eastern Cape is one of the provinces that has prospective unproclaimed small harbours. For example, the Port St Johns Municipality already has a small harbour development plan that was presented to the portfolio committee during its oversight visit in September 2018. If this can be developed, it can create more job opportunities, boost the economy and accelerate rural development in Port St Johns in the Eastern Cape.

There is a need for the department to strengthen its relations with other spheres of government to ensure intergovernmental co-ordination for the acceleration of poverty reduction through creation of employment opportunities. This will also contribute towards ensuring that challenges of monies being owed to municipalities by the department is a thing of the past.

The revised Expropriation Bill, as part of restoring the dignity of our people and ensuring equitable ownership of rural and urban land, will be a catalyst to ensure security of tenure. The ANC-led government remains resolute in its determination to

address the land question. Let me repeat, the ANC-led government remains resolute in its determination to address the land question and imbalances of the past. [Applause.] We need our land!

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, as a custodian of government assets, remains central to this historic mission. If we work together as a collective, we shall experience no petty, limited, selfish joy, but our happiness will belong to millions of South Africans. The ANC supports the Budget Vote. [Applause.]

Ms S P KOPANE: Hon Chairperson, I would like to begin my speech by welcoming Minister Patricia de Lille to the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. Your task will not be easy, but you have a responsibility to bring hope, dignity and to build South Africa into a better country for all of us. For the benefit of our country, the DA will ensure that you succeed because your failures will be our collective failures, as will your successes will be our collective success. [Interjections.]

Having listened to your speech, I can say that you started by going in the right direction. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of Minister of Public Works and Transport, Mr

Madikizela-Mandela from the Western Cape. [Applause.] I personally undertake today that we are going to carry out effective oversight on you as the Minister and as the department, so that we cannot fail those who elected us. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Order, order hon members. Hon members, order. Hon Kopane, can you hold on for a minute? Now you can continue; they are quiet.

Mr X NQOLA: I am standing on a point of order, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Who's calling for a point of order?

Mr X NQOLA: I'm here, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): What is your point of order, hon member?

Mr X NQOLA: There is no Minister in the Western Cape called Madikizela-Mandela.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon member, that is not a point of order. Could you please take a seat?

Ms S P KOPANE: It is clear that we have to educate so many people. In the Western Cape we have Ministers.

I personally undertake today that we are going to carry out effective oversight on you as the Minister and your department ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon members, we are here representing the aspirations of the people out there, who would like to hear what we are saying. Could we therefore give them an opportunity to listen to the speaker?

Ms S P KOPANE: Last week, the portfolio committee spent hours interrogating the departmental budget. The more we probed, the more I realised that we hear the same thing over and over again. At the end of the day, nothing happens or there are no changes except the billions on the balance sheets. It is evident that the department has major challenges. Minister, you require greater oversight combined with sound legislation if you wish to stem the tide of the current financial losses, troubles and wasteful expenditure within this department.

My first concerns regarding the department's mandate is that it is supposed to be the custodian and portfolio manager of government's immovable assets. I am concerned that the department's legal authority in terms of its mandate as a landlord of the state is somewhat weakened due to the absence of empowering legislation that provides it the necessary authority to act decisively.

While your department is responsible for collecting management fees and ensuring that the maintenance management budget is ring-fenced, the absence of legislations allows the department and the Property Management Trading Entity and the Independent Development Trust to spend funds without being able to recover anything from other departments. As a result, it becomes difficult to complete infrastructure projects, which also threatens the sustainability of the department. This scenario also results in a failure to unlock the financial value of immovable assets held by government which is intended for the maximum benefit of our country.

Your department is also responsible for spearheading the verification of debts owed to municipalities by national and provincial governments. But, according to the Financial and Fiscal Commission's report, both national and provincial

governments have failed to pay the municipalities. Shockingly, the top three defaulting departments are Public Works at R2,7 billion, followed by Basic Education and Rural Development. The leading provincial department defaulter is also Public Works at R2,5 billion. These defaults amount to 69% of provincial department debt to councils.

My second concern is in regard to the ministerial houses. In a response to a DA parliamentary question, the former Minister revealed that your department spent more than R45 million on the maintenance of ministerial houses in Cape Town and in Pretoria. This opulence clearly indicates the skewed priorities of your department and is an insult to our poor and unemployed citizens. Why have these renovations been taken at such great cost while the country's economy is ailing? Someone must be held accountable, Minister. Taxpayers spent millions on those mansions, whereas it costs Ministers and Deputy Ministers between R900 and R1 200 per month to occupy them.

But what is more even disgusting today than the misuse of those funds is the fact that, currently, about R1,2 million is owed to the department because Ministers didn't pay. How did this happen? Your department failed to create debit orders from their salaries due to the incompetence of your own department. Now, I

ask you, Mr Minister: How is your department planning to recover funds from those Ministers and MPs who have resigned?

Lastly, I would like to talk about the Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE, which was established in the 2015-16 financial year. Its main responsibility is to manage immovable properties as well as the accommodation of client departments by implementing the Government Immovable Asset Management Act and managing the immovable asset register. The register needs to be updated and monitored regularly to ensure that it provides a true record of government immovable assets across all spheres of government in order to provide an accurate balance sheet for government.

To do this, the PMTE was allocated about R16,7 billion. I accept that there have been improvements, especially in the leasing portfolio. However, the entity still faces challenges because client departments have failed to make sure that they pay on time. Secondly, the PMTE structure itself doesn't allow it to do its work efficiently due to the mentioned lack of required specialists, such as chartered accountants, property lawyers, etc.

Currently, the PMTE has an acting head, which can also cause instability.

The Auditor-General is also concerned that the PMTE had a bank overdraft of R2,3 billion as of 31 March 2018. So, the liabilities of the PMTE exceed its assets. Currently, it is bankrupt. So we need your direction, hon Minister. [Applause.] [Time expired.]

Ms A M SIWISA: Hon Chairperson, the Department of Public Works could arguably be the most strategic department in terms of driving a developmental agenda in this country. The EFF is of the firm view that the state should build internal capacity to construct and maintain infrastructure such as roads, railways and dams, and basic infrastructure such as schools, houses, hospitals and recreational facilities. This will ensure sustained development and offer our people secure jobs.

The Department of Public Works should be at the centre of such state-led infrastructural development. At the moment, the Department of Public Works is currently the largest property owner in the country, holding over 5 million hectares of land. Of this land, over 1,5 million hectares are vacant and not used productively for anything.

Rights to this land must immediately be redistributed to the black people across the country who remain landless and vulnerable to evictions every day by the ANC government. Remember what happened in Alexandra.

The Department of Public Works must also audit all government houses, and report on where the rentals from these houses go. The entire suburb of West Bank in King Williams Town is made up of government houses, built by the erstwhile homeland government of the Ciskei. Most of these houses, Minister, have been fraudulently transferred to the ownership of ANC politicians. These houses must be taken back ... [Interjections.] ...

Wait!

These houses must be taken back and given to people who need houses the most, not to these leeches who live by sucking up public funds.

We also call for the immediate permanent employment of the hundreds of thousands of Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, workers, whose terms of employment only perpetuate their suffering and vulnerability, because some of them don't even know their job description. These EPWP workers must be put to

use immediately to build roads and repair dilapidated schools and hospitals, on a permanent basis, with full benefits and be paid a living wage.

The other reason we say let's do away with the EPWP is because municipalities are using EPWP to replace trained and experienced workers who have been working in these municipalities for years with exploited and poorly paid workers.

If ours is to be a developmental, people-oriented state, we must build internal capacity to perform state functions without outsourcing these functions to a corrupt clique of white-owned companies or those owned by the comprador bourgeoisie that is found in the ANC at the moment. To this end, we have called and continue to call for the establishment of a state-owned construction company, a state cement company, and a state-owned housing company.

The government must build its own buildings and stop paying inflated prices on rentals. A strong Public Works department should necessarily have political power and technical capacity to give developmental mandates to state-owned companies such as the Construction Industry Development Board to fast-track

transformation and ensure broad-based skilling of young and black professionals in the sector.

We have a crisis at the Independent Development Trust, IDT. As is, the budget does not offer any significant change to the way Public Works has worked over the past 25 years. It fails to unleash this department's true developmental potential, and deprives the nation of massive benefits that can be accrued were this department to be conceptualised as the truly developmental department that it could be.

Minister, we can assure you here, free of charge, that one of the most important fights you are going to have with us this term will be over the ill-conceived Expropriation Bill that has been championed by the anti-land expropriation Deputy Minister, Jeremy Cronin. Right in the middle of the debate on the amendments to the Constitution to allow for land expropriation, the department under the leadership of Cronin decided to release their draft to circumvent the process of amending the Constitution.

Why would the department want to waste public resources to undertake public participation processes for a Bill whose content and form are dependent on section 25 of the

Constitution? The proposals contained in that Bill – which seemingly categorises the type of land which could be expropriated with minimal compensation – are only an attempt to ensure that the amendments proposed become superficial.

It is despicable that a professed Marxist would want to maintain the current, unsustainable manner of landholding in this country. The Bill must be shelved, Minister, and await the amendment of section 25. On that note, Minister, we reject the budget. [Applause.]

Mr M N NXUMALO: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, hon members, the IFP is concerned that the budget for this department will not adequately and fairly achieve, firstly, economic growth and job creation through the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP, and, secondly, adequate training for skills to be used to alleviate poverty in the long term, and, thirdly, the sustained maintenance of the existing and growing number of state-owned infrastructure.

The EPWP has rightly been criticised in the past for its unfair patronage to ANC supporters, whereby councillors reward only card-carrying members of the ANC with jobs and skills. This is unconstitutional, as all South Africans have the right to

equality and non-discrimination on the basis of political belief and association. The IFP calls for a more transparent, fair and non-partisan process to be developed for the recruitment of EPWP workers. We want the futures all the people of South Africa to be given a chance through this programme. They must not only be used as tools to promote and advance the political agenda of the governing party.

Still with the EPWP, we also believe that the current programme does not adequately provide the necessary skills that translate into poverty alleviation. To alleviate poverty, the programme must ensure that the skills transfer and training given to people must enable them to apply these skills practically without the reliance on massive corporations and the EPWP itself. In other words, people must be able to use these skills practically to create start-up businesses.

Furthermore, EPWP workers must be skilled in artisan trades as these will equip people to effectively access resources and, more importantly, human rights through infrastructure they can and have created. Top, skilled or talented workers must be actively identified by the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and EPWP itself and be given the relevant support by the Department of Small Business Development to fully

capacitate start-up businesses. We want to see small start-up businesses succeed in South Africa as that will eventually lead to credible long-term job creation and a growth in GDP.

Minister, the President has decided to add the responsibility of infrastructure to your department. Therefore, your department finds itself in a very strategic position to add to and stimulate the economy and reduce the tax burden on citizens by generating its own income through the rental or sale of buildings. When the department has developed new buildings intended to replace old ones, they must vacate the offices within two months after all permits and safety inspections have been approved.

Furthermore, older sites must be sold or, if the state wishes to keep the land, either be repurposed for land reform such as social housing under the 99-year lease agreements, or be put up for rental for a maximum period of 99 years. In this way, the department will start to generate additional income for itself and reduce the need for taxpayers to fork out for the maintenance of buildings that are obsolete. Furthermore, this has the potential to start the integration of people into major urban environments.

Minister, you often speak about South Africans working together to achieve a prosperous future. The IFP would like to hold you to this and state for the record that we request you to work with the IFP to further develop this model which will ensure success in your department during your term of office.

What is more, Minister, we must continually engage the private sector to help lead the transformation of infrastructure towards a green and more sustainable future. South Africa is currently burdened with the huge expense of having to build a more inclusive nation and little attention is paid to ensuring a sustainable future. A sustainable future will further unlock job opportunities and sectors that South Africa can become specialists in so that we do not trail the development of the world for the next 100 years.

The department has requested R7,8 billion for this year and expects to increase its budget by over R1 billion in two years. We will support this year's budget but the projected increases should be assisted by the methods we mentioned before.

The legacy created for the future starts today and we want to push the development and economy of South Africa to the next

level. The IFP supports this budget as a sign to show our willingness to work together. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mnr P A VAN STADEN: Agb Voorsitter, Ministers, Lede van die Parlement, gaste op die gallery, die VF Plus neem kennis van die departement se begrotingstoewysing vir die 2019-20 boekjaar, maar wat ons bekommerd maak is die agb Minister se aankondiging die afgelope tyd in die media waar nie-bestaande toerusting deur die Departement van Openbare Werke in stand gehou moet word en dat daar 'n samespanning is tussen amptenare en diensverskaffers met die uithuur van staatseiendom.

Die feit dat die Minister erken het dat die departement deurspek is van korrupsie en bedrog en dat die Spesiale Ondersoekkeenheid en die Valke betrek moet word om hierdie korrupsie te laat uitroei laat alle rooi ligte flikker.

Dit bewys dat, indien die korrupsie nie uitgeroei gaan word nie, die belastingbetaler se swaarverdiende geld maar net weer verder vermors gaan word en in die sakke van misdadigers gaan beland. Die VF Plus sal graag wil sien dat hierdie ondersoek spoedig geloods word om sodoende te sorg ... *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.)*

[Mr P A VAN STADEN: Hon Chairperson, Ministers, Members of Parliament, guests on the gallery, the FF Plus notes the department's budget allocation for the 2019-20 financial year, but what worries us is the hon Minister's announcement in the recent past in the media about non-existent equipment having to be maintained by the Department of Public Works, and that there is a collusion between officials and service providers regarding the lease of state property.

The fact that the Minister has acknowledged that the department is riddled with corruption and fraud, and that the Special Investigating Unit and the Hawks must be involved in order to eradicate this kind of corruption, raises all the red flags.

This proves that, if the corruption is not going to be eradicated, taxpayers' hard-earned money will only be wasted again and will end up in the pockets of criminals. The FF Plus would like to see that these investigations are launched as soon as possible to ensure ...]

Ms T J MOKWELE: Chair, on a point of order. You know, this is an undisturbing language. I want to listen to a proper language but I can't get my translation. So, can we be assisted, please? With due respect.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Point of order!

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): I will recognise you; I am still trying to address this one. Press number two and then you will get the language that you want. [Interjections.]

Ms T J MOKWELE: Chair, the only languages that are provided for are English and Afrikaans. It is very difficult for some of our members to get other languages. So, can you please assist us to get translation?

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Thank you. We will raise the matter with Language Services to come and assist.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam Chair!

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): I didn't recognise you. Sit down, hon member. You may proceed ... [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Chair, I rise in terms of Rule 85 and I agree completely with what the member said. There should be language services available and it is a disgrace that they are not available, if that is the case. So I concur there. But what you can't do is say that somebody's language is ...

whatever it was referred to ... disturbing or whatever it was referred to. There are 11 official languages in this country. They all have equal status and they must all be respected in this House. We must respect each other's languages if this House is to prevail. [Applause.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Hon Mokwele! [Interjections.]
Hon Mokwele! Did you say that?

Ms T J MOKWELE: Exactly! I said that. I was part of the young lions that fought for Afrikaans. So, I will never respect Afrikaans as they don't respect my language. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Hon Mokwele! Hon Mokwele! May you please retract that statement?

Ms T J MOKWELE: Which one must I retract?

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): That one about the language.

Ms T J MOKWELE: No, I don't respect Afrikaans. It is my democratic right not to respect Afrikaans. I don't respect it. It is my democratic right not to respect Afrikaans. No one will force me to respect Afrikaans. No one! As much as he cannot

speaking my language, I cannot speak or respect his language. I will never retract that, hon Chair, with due respect.

[Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Hon members! Hon members!

[Interjections.] Hon member, may you please listen when I call you. Please! This is a debate of the House. You need to assist. You have to assist the Minister in listening to what we are trying to say. But if everyone is speaking, even the Minister can't hear what we are trying to say. So, I was just saying, reduce the volume of your voices. I am not saying you must not speak but reduce your voice. You are speaking too loudly. Hon Mokwele!

Ms T J MOKWELE: Mama J!

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): I think you must do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Don't do what is unparliamentary and speak hate speech. Please try to be considerate in your language because all of us here have feelings. Try to be considerate because we need to be respectful when we are debating. We are not debating race or whatever. So, I would like you to respect other people as much as they should respect you.

Moh T J MOKWELE: Ke a go utlwa Mama Jane. Ke go utlwa sentle. Ebile ke nale maikarabelo a gore ke ikokobetse mo mongweng le mongweng yo e leng moagi wa Aforika Borwa. Mme se ke kitlang ke se dira Mama Jane, ke gore o mpateletse gore ke amogele ...

(Translation of Setswana paragraph follows.)

[Ms T J MOKWELE: I get you, Mama Jane, I really do. It is also my responsibility to humble myself to each and every citizen of South Africa. However, I will not accept being pushed into accepting ...]

... the Afrikaans language. It is my right. I am repeating it. It is my right not to respect a language that was used to oppress me, my mother and my forefathers. I cannot do that. It is my right.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms J MANGANYE): Hon Mokwele, you may take your seat. Proceed, hon member.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Madam House Chair, I rise on a point of privilege, if that is the case. Every member of this House stood on this floor before the Chief Justice and swore to uphold the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Sections 30 and 31 of the Constitution, which the hon member

swore to uphold, says that any member has the right to practice and use the language of their choice. No one is asking her to speak Afrikaans, but what we are asking in this House is that we respect each other's languages and don't refer in a derogatory manner to members who speak in their home language. The Constitution recognises and respects home languages. Members of the House that swore to uphold this Constitution must respect other people's languages. [Applause.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Hon members, it is what I have requested from hon Mokwele because there is no one who is forcing another person to speak his or someone else's language. So, I want us to treat each other fairly and not to undermine other people's languages. So, I think I will refer it to the Chairperson. We may proceed. I will refer it to the Chairperson. [Interjections.]

Mr J W W JULIUS: Point of order, Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Hon members! [Interjections.]

Mr J W W JULIUS: Do you like me? [Interjections.] ... On a point of order, Chairperson

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): No, I didn't recognise you. I am still speaking, hon member.

Mr J W W JULIUS: I am asking you to recognise me.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): I am saying I am still speaking. Hon members, you must check your language on number eight to see if it's working. May we proceed?

Mr J W W JULIUS: Point of order!

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Hon member ...

Mr J W W JULIUS: Thank you, Chairperson. As a presiding officer in this House, you gave an instruction that the member had to withdraw that statement ... [Interjections.] ... and you have to enforce the Rules in the House. You made the ruling that the member must withdraw and if the member cannot withdraw, then you have to take it further than that. We cannot just move on here. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): You didn't hear me, hon members. I said that I will come back to that issue.

[Interjections.] May we proceed?

Mnr P A VAN STADEN: Die VF Plus sal graag wil sien dat die ondersoek spoedig geloods word om sodoende te sorg dat korrupte amptenare totaal en al uitgeroei word en die straf kry wat hulle verdien.

Die VF Plus is bekommerd dat die departement in hierdie finansiële jaar 'n bedrag van sowat R193 miljoen aan die huur van nuwe vloerspasie vir 10 verskillende departemente wil bestee. Ons wil aanvoer dat dit dalk wyser vir die staat sal wees om eerder geboue aan te koop, want eiendom is 'n bate en 'n belegging vir die toekoms. Die Minister moet dalk ook gaan kyk ... [Tussenwerpsels.] (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.*)

[Mr P A VAN STADEN: The FF Plus would like to see that the investigations are launched as soon as possible to ensure that corrupt officials are totally eradicated and receive the punishment they deserve.

The FF Plus is concerned that in this financial year the department wants to spend about R193 million on renting new floor space for 10 different departments. We would argue that it might be wiser for the state to buy buildings instead, because

property is an asset and an investment for the future. The Minister must, perhaps also look at ... [Interjections.]]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Hon member, can you take your seat? On what point are you rising, hon member?

Nksk N P SONTI: Sihlalo, nathi ngapha asiva nokuba utata lo uthini na. Ezethu ilwimi azikho.

USIHLALO WENDLU OBAMBELEYO (Nks J Manganye): Ngohloniphekileyo, musa ukuthi utata lo, yithi ohloniphekileyo.

Nksk N P SONTI: Ooh uxolo kakhulu, ohloniphekileyo.

USIHLALO WENDLU OBAMBELEYO (Nks J Manganye): Ewe, kulungile ke hlala phantsi siza kuyilungisa. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[Mrs N P SONTI: Hon Chairperson, on our side as well we cannot hear what the gentleman is saying. We don't hear our languages.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): He is an honourable member. Don't say "this father", say honourable member.

Mrs N P SONTI: Okay, my apologies, honourable.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Yes, it's okay. Sit down, we will fix it.]

You may proceed, hon member.

Mr P A VAN STADEN: Die Minister moet dalk ook gaan kyk aan wie hierdie geboue wat die departement wil huur, behoort, want dalk skuil daar ook 'n paar korrupsierotte wat verder uitgeroei kan word. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.)*

[Mr P A VAN STADEN: The Minister must, perhaps, also look at who owns these buildings which the department wants to rent, because there might very well be a few corrupt rats hiding there that can yet be exterminated.]

The announcement by the Minister that she wants to inspect the asset register to locate all state-owned buildings is a bit worrying. This is an indication that the state's business is not exactly in order. The upgrading of clinics, hospitals, police stations, schools and other state-owned buildings is a matter that deserves urgent attention so that we do not see a repeat of the tragedies that happened in the past five years like the

Hoërskool Driehoek tragedy, the collapse of Johannesburg's Charlotte Maxeke Hospital's roof, the burning of government buildings and offices and the burning of police flats which happened this past weekend in Johannesburg.

The FF Plus would like to see the Minister deploying structural engineers to all schools, clinics, hospitals and all other state-owned buildings to determine the current state of all these building and then start with upgrades and repairs in cases where these buildings are found to be unfit for humans to visit and work in. People and children's lives needs to be protected, and the public is tired of tragedies.

Die regering se plan met die skep van megastede is 'n resep vir rampspoed, aangesien die huidige stede en dorpe nie eens in stand gehou kan word nie. Die Minister het ook hieroor aangekondig dat die privaatsektor betrokke moet raak by die bou en instandhouding van infrastruktuur vir 'n tydperk van 20 jaar, waarna dit weer aan die staat oorgedra moet word.

Met die huidige toestand van munisipaliteite, waar dienslewering totaal agteruit gegaan het weens die swak bestuur en ineenstorting van infrastruktuur, soos in die geval van Mfuleni, Mogale City, Bloemfontein en ander dorpe, kan die VF Plus nie

sien hoe die skep van megastede gaan help om hierdie probleem op te los nie. 'n Goeie voorbeeld daarvan is dat die Mfuleni-stadsraad in Gauteng nie sy munisipale infrastruktuurtoelae in 'n finansiële jaar spandeer nie. Dit is 'n groot kommer.

Die VF Plus is van mening dat so 'n stap bestaande stede in 'n groter gemors sal dompel as wat tans die geval is. Indien die privaatsektor nie in die Minister se voorstel gaan inkoop nie, sal hierdie plan van megastede die huidige ramspoedige situasie net vererger.

Die rooi ligte begin reeds hieroor flikker met die huidige ontwikkeling van Brickvale aan die Wesrand, waar die grond gevaarlik is vir menslike gebruik weens insinkings en dolomiet. Hierdie grond is aangekoop deur die Mogale City Munisipaliteit vir 'n bedrag van R63 miljoen, terwyl die waarde daarvan maar slegs R2,9 miljoen is.

Die megastad ontwikkeling van Daggafontein aan die Oos-Rand word ook gekenmerk deur bekommernisse vanaf die publiek wat al sedert 2017 nie aangehoor word en terugvoering gegee word nie. By beide hierdie ontwikkelings is die openbare deelnameprosesse nie reg volgens die wet uitgevoer nie en word projekte weereens deur

gestoomroller wat erge gevolge vir die toekoms kan inhou.

(Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.)

[The government's plan to create megacities is a recipe for disaster, as the current cities and towns cannot be maintained. The Minister also announced that the private sector should be involved in the construction and maintenance of infrastructure for a period of 20 years, after which it must be transferred back to the state.

With the current state of municipalities, where service delivery has totally deteriorated due to poor management and infrastructure collapse, as is the case in Mfuleni, Mogale City, Bloemfontein and other towns, the FF Plus cannot see how megacities will help to solve this problem. A good example of this is that the Mfuleni City Council in Gauteng does not spend its municipal infrastructure allowance in a financial year. That's a big concern.

The FF Plus is of the opinion that such a step would plunge existing cities into a bigger mess than is currently the case. If the private sector does not buy into the Minister's proposal, this megacity plan will only aggravate the current disastrous situation.

Red flags have started appearing with the current development of Brickvale on the West Rand, where the soil is dangerous for human use due to sinkholes and dolomite. This land was purchased by the Mogale City Municipality for an amount of R63 million, while its value is only R2,9 million.

The megacity development of Daggafontein on the East Rand is also characterised by concerns from the public who, since 2017, have been neither heard nor been given feedback. In both of these developments, the public participation processes were not carried out correctly by law and projects that have once again been steamrollered hold severe consequences for the future.]

It is good to have ideals for the future, but if one takes South Africa's current political circumstances, the mismanagement and corruption into account, it is clear that the idea of building megacities like in the United States, for example, is simply not attainable, especially not under ANC rule.

The FF Plus first wants to see existing infrastructure being upgraded and properly maintained and managed before government starts dreaming about megacities.

Ek sluit af. Dit is uiters noodsaaklik dat ons bestaande padnetwerke die nodige aandag kry om ons padverbruikers 'n veilige netwerk te gee om vanaf punt A na punt B te beweeg. Dit is ook uiters noodsaaklik dat ons skole, hospitale, klinieke en ander staatsgeboue instand gehou moet word om die verdere verval van ons infrastruktuur te bekamp.

Behuising kan nie geskep word sonder die nodige infrastruktuur van paaie, stormwater, riool, elektrisiteit, klinieke, skole, polisiestasies en hospitale, soos wat tans in Gauteng gebeur nie. Nuwe infrastrukture, wat wel geskep word, moet in gebruik geneem word, nie soos in die geval van Gauteng waar taxi-staanplekke al voor 2014 teen 'n bedrag van R79 miljoen opgerig is en nou nog nie eens in gebruik geneem is nie.

Suid-Afrika moet aantreklik gemaak word vir internasionale beleggers om hul kapitaal hier te kom belê.

Kom ons ruk Suid-Afrika reg. Kom ons maak ons land aantreklik. Kom ons sit skouer aan die wiel en gryp in om verdere verval van alle netwerke te verhoed. Kom ons red Suid-Afrika. Kom ons bou Suid-Afrika. Ek dank u. (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.*)

[I conclude. It is imperative that our existing road network receives the necessary attention to give our road users a secure network in order to move from point A to point B. It is also imperative that our schools, hospitals, clinics and other state buildings be maintained to combat the further deterioration of our infrastructure.

Housing cannot be created without the necessary infrastructure of roads, storm water drainage, sewerage, electricity, clinics, schools, police stations and hospitals, as is currently happening in Gauteng. New infrastructure, which is being created, must be put into operation, not as in the case of Gauteng where taxi ranks were erected before 2014 for an amount of R79 million but are not yet in use.

South Africa must be made attractive to international investors to invest their capital here.

Let's set our South African house in order. Let's make our country attractive. Let's put our shoulder to the wheel and intervene to prevent further decay of all networks. Let's save South Africa. Let's build South Africa. I thank you.]

Mr M W THRING: Chairperson, the ACDP, respecting all languages, cultures, and race groups acknowledges the budgetary allocation of some R7,8 billion of the Department of Public Works and R16,7 billion for the Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE.

By its own admission, the Department of Public Works has a weakened mandate: firstly, due to the absence of legislation which would enable it to properly act as the landlord of the state; and, secondly, due to it not completing the review of the Public Works White Papers of 1997 and 1999, which resulted in other departments setting up their own construction and maintenance programmes.

Clearly, all is not well in the department. Of great concern to the ACDP are the Auditor-General of South Africa's 2017-18 audit outcomes for the department and its entities. Of the six entities, only one, the Council for the Built Environment, CBE, received a clean audit. The worst performing entity is the Independent Development Trust, IDT, it having received a disclaimer audit opinion for 2017-18, due primarily to the fact that, firstly, its systems are inadequate to provide assurance, secondly, matters which resulted in qualifications in the previous year remained unresolved, and thirdly, additionally, the Auditor-General reported that investigations were done on

fraud and consequence management at the IDT, but that recommendations were not implemented.

The root causes identified by the Auditor-General for all of the entities except for the CBE include inadequate responses to improving key controls and addressing risk areas, inadequate consequences for poor performance and transgressions, and instability or vacancies in key positions.

Our country is facing serious financial challenges. Unemployment is sitting at over 27% on the narrow definition. We have the highest Gini coefficient, making South Africa the most unequal nation on the planet. We have a deficit on our national account and our debt-to-GDP has surpassed 50% and projected to reach 60% in the next two years. The economy contracted in the first quarter of 2019 – the biggest quarterly fall since the global financial crises of 2009.

The Department of Public Works has a huge role to play in improving the lives of ordinary South Africans by contributing to GDP growth, creating meaningful jobs for the millions of unemployed, improving our skills base through Expanded Public Works Programmes, EPWP, and by giving heed to the discrepancies raised by the Auditor-General. As we did in the pre-Budget Vote

processes, the ACDP will continue to hold this department to account. Thank you.

Ms T L MARAWU: Chairperson, what I will advise the hon Minister is to have the National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan that will give the authority to control all the infrastructure activities taking place, cutting across all the departments.

As the custodian of all government's immovable property, there is no way that the maintenance budget is not located within the Department of Public Works. All maintenance budgets must be located in your department, Minister, not lying around with Health or Education. This will enable you to make it a point that the buildings of government are maintained.

On the issue of the EPWP, there is a third phase of Public Works, which is clear about changing the temporary part of EPWP to sustainable jobs. If it can be implemented as such, that can at least have an impact on the jobs that are being created.

This department must take the lead by providing guidance to transform the property sector using government's portfolio guidance in transforming this sector.

Then, National Treasury must be lobbied to develop a framework for property acquisition as it relates to the leasing of accommodation so as to advance the transformation agenda.

The establishment of a single immovable asset register repository for uniform reporting and informed decision-making is critical. The confirmation of vesting in terms of the Constitution is compulsory to deal with an asset. However, the delay in issuing this certificate from the Department of Rural Development is a crisis. How I wish you can lobby the Minister of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform to delegate this function to the chief directors at provincial level, so that service delivery can be fast-tracked.

The whole Construction Industry Development Board, CIDB, system is unacceptable, especially the issue of downgrading emerging contractors, because ...

... ayisosizathu sabo ukuba bangafumani umsebenzi. (*Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.*)

[... it's not their fault for being unemployed.]

You know this poor six emerging contractors being downgraded through this system of CIDB. The sooner you review the CIDB rules the better, as that will assist a lot. It contradicts the contractor development programme. On one hand, the department has a contractor development programme while, on the other hand, the CIDB rules degrade the same contractors that are being developed. So, the sooner the better. The ATM supports the Budget Vote. Thank you very much. [Time expired.]

Ms S J GRAHAM: Minister Patricia de Lille, amongst your first statements as the new Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure was a stipulation that you would not be buying new furniture for Ministers and Members of Parliament. I am sure that the children sitting in Graaff-Reinet in temporary classrooms amidst the rubble of demolished buildings waiting for their new school to be built are absolutely thrilled that Deputy Minister Kiviet will not be getting a new couch this year!

Sadly, while a laudable sentiment and a very tiny step in the right direction, this department as a whole requires a major overhaul. In the 2017-18 financial year, the Department of Public Works spent 99% of its budget to achieve only 55% of its targets. Why?

Part of the reason is two chronically outdated White Papers as the only form of guiding legislation for a department with a R7,8 billion budget. And it will get worse this financial year if we do not provide legislative clarity for the department, especially with the newly incorporated infrastructure mandate from the President.

The Public Works Bill must be finalised as a matter of priority. In addition, legislation governing the Independent Development Trust must be drafted urgently. This entity is responsible for the implementation of social infrastructure of schools, clinics and courts. Financially mandated with over R4 billion worth of programmes, the IDT is supposed to be self-supporting but is operating at a shockingly huge deficit of R92 million for the 2018 financial year.

Once again, a lack of legislative clarity and mandate has rendered this entity toothless. It competes against other government departments for contracts and it is also unable to recover monies owed to it due to a lack of enforcement mechanisms, and no real mandate nor legislation to guide it.

In developing the strategic management plan for this department, the Department of Transport and Public Works in the DA-run

Western Cape provides valuable examples of where to begin. Their infrastructure framework, which allows for co-ordinated and strategic infrastructure planning, is one such starting point. By starting with a framework, it will be easier to develop legislation to clarify the roles and functions of the entities, to avoid duplication of programmes and promote integrated co-operation between organisations.

Then, like the DA-led Western Cape, you would develop and reform your department to maximise the strengths and capacities of each entity. Integration of strategic programmes as the next phase of DA-driven reform would then ensure that the entities are working in unison to develop sustainable, high-quality social infrastructure in a transformed built environment with an emphasis on skills transfer, women and youth empowerment, consistent job creation and work opportunities.

None of these outcomes can be achieved without legislative reform. Your aspirations, as espoused this evening, for an unqualified or clean audit in this financial year can never be realised without a legislative framework. [Applause.]

So, Minister de Lille, unless you and the department give an undertaking to embark on a programme of legislative reform, this

department and its entities are doomed to languish in perpetual chaos, failing to deliver services to all our people and most notably, the poorest of the poor. I thank you. [Applause.]

Ms L F SHABALALA: Chairperson, hon members, hon Minister, the Deputy Minister *in absentia*, the formidable departmental team lead by the director-general, I wish to dedicate my speech to the two elderly people who perished whilst attending voting stations. Theirs was an anticipation of a nonracial, nonsexist, democratic South Africa. They endorsed the transformation agenda which the President, His Excellency President Ramaphosa, outlined: strategic priorities of economic transformation, job creation, building social cohesion and safer communities.

We can only honour those who sacrifice for a capable, ethical, developmental, interventionist state that is efficiently responsive to subjective conditions. The dictates of that state are professionalism and stability to foster certainty while demonstrating high morale. I stand firm on behalf of the ANC to support Budget Vote 11.

Izinhlelo zomnyango azikhulume ngezimo zokubulalana kwemiphakathi yase-Philippi, e-New Hanover ... (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[The departmental plans must talk about the killings in the communities of Philippi, New Hanover ...]

... a paralysed community living under a curfew at E Section Ezakheni; a life of protest in Alexandra, Soweto, Ekuvukeni. Women and the youth in these areas represent the grim face of poverty, characterised by high unemployment. In 2016, journalist Don Pinnock made the assertion that violence and drugs are a desperate attempt to escape frightening emptiness.

To mitigate the above ...

... umongameli evula iPhalamende kulonyaka ubeke izingqalasizinda nesamba sika R100 billion wezingqalasizinda ngaphansi kwe-Development Bank of Southern Africa, DBSA, nokuhlanganiswa kwe ... (*Translation of isiZulu sentences follows.*)

[... during the opening of Parliament this year the President identified the infrastructure and set aside the amount of R100 billion for the infrastructure that is under the control of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, DBSA, as well as the integration of ...]

... Public Works and Infrastructure. When it comes to the enabling factors of the subjective conditions of our people, section 38 of the Public Finance Management Act and section 63(1) (a) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act make an all-embracing reference to assets.

Siyavuma umonakalo woHulumeni wobandlululo ... (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[We acknowledge the mess caused by the apartheid government ...]

... with the treasonous act of not handing over a proper asset register.

Kodwa inkombandlela ka-2003, i-Asset Management Framework igcizelela ... (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[But the 2003 index, the Asset Management Framework emphasises ...]

... that the decision be integrated into the strategic planning.

Noma-ke sicothoza kangaka kodwa manje sesilapha sithi, mnyango, Khawuleza.

Umhlaba kaHulumeni awulekelele kwimpi yezolimo nokuhlaliswa komphakathi ukuze kuzuze abesifazane abavele belima emakhaya iziqephu ezincane zomhlaba ukuze bakwazi ukuthi bandise isivuno sabo. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[Although we are this slow we are here now and we are saying, be quick, department.]

The state's land must be of assistance in the struggle for farming and with the settlement of the communities so that women who are used to planting on their small plots are able to receive more land to increase their harvest.]

To avoid material findings, we need to get the asset register right. The Independent Development Trust's regional offices must be given the necessary support with aligned annual performance plans nationally and regionally. A procurement skills audit must be done regionally to ensure that a proper procurement plan is set aside for woman empowerment.

Asikwazi ukutshela abantu bakithi ukuthi silethe ...

(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)

[We cannot tell our people that we have brought ...]

... a delivery of suspensions, arbitrations, internal instability characterised by duplications at the national and regional levels and a breach of ethical protocols and hierarchy. There needs to be compliance. According to the deeds of trust, 2001, in section 10, there shall at all times be at least eight trustees. I hope that, in due time, hon Minister ...

... uzokwazi ukubhekana nalena ngoba akukwazeki ukuthi kuthatheke izinqumo abantu bengasakwazi nokwakha inani elanele lezithameli. *(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)*

[... you will be able to deal with this one because decisions cannot be taken where quorums could not be made.]

With regard to the Council for the Built Environment, CBE, and Agrément SA ...

... Kuyancomeka ukuphathwa kwezimali ngaphandle kokuthi uma-ke sesibheka kufanele sikulinganise lokhu nesikubona ngamehlo, phecelezi "tangible impact." Izinambolo azibe namehlo zithinte laba bantu besifazane abazabalaza belwisana nemigulukudu ebulala abantwana babo, abavuka njalo ekseni bamashele ukubuyisa izitaladi esezithathwe yimigulukudu. Intsha ebhajwe kwa-E

Section eZakheni, e-New Hanover, e-Alexandra, e-Soweto
Ekuvukeni. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[... the management of funds is commendable unless there are issues with tangible impact that need to be corrected. Numbers should have eyes to see these women who are struggling fighting with criminals who are killing their children, who are waking up every morning to march the street to claim them back from the clutches of criminals. And this includes the youth that are stuck in E Section in eZakheni, New Hanover, Soweto in Ekuvukeni.]

... responsive, interventionist, rationalised and deracialised incremental targets inclusive of the young and women. The 2018 October economic summit must be integrated into your plans with the needed partnership of the participants at that summit, opening an invitation to innovative products by women and the youth to mitigate the effects of climate change that has adverse consequences for physical structures in the future. Innovation must be a stimulus to job creation.

Sihlalo wekomidi kuyacaca ukuthi umnyango lo esibhekelele ukusebenza kwawo ... *(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)*

[Chairperson of the committee, it is clear that we are monitoring the department's work ...]

... as an oversight arm ...

... uzobo nohlelo lokudidiyela kabusha, phecelezi

"configuration" lapho kuhlenganiswa khona u-Public Works n-infrastructure. Enye yemisebenzi yethu sidinga umbiko ngesimo ngezikhathi ezithile. Sidinga isikhathi ... (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.*)

[... will have a reconfiguration plan in which Public Works is integrated with infrastructure. One of the other tasks is to receive a report about the conditions during certain periods. We need time ...]

... because we hit the ground running.

Asikwazanga ukuthola ... (*Translation of isiZulu phrase follows.*)

[We could not receive ...]

... the finer details, and we need those finer details so that we are able to go back to the people who gave us the mandate.

... sibatshele ukuthi kwenzekani kulo mnyango ... *(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)*

[... to tell them of what is happening in this department ...]

... but also to assist in shaping the strategy of the department and contributing to its annual performance plans.

Sidinga ukuzwa ngezinhlelo zokuguqula isimo esikuwo umnyango ukuze sibone ukuthi umnyango uyakwazi yini ukwehlisa izinga lokusebenzisa abaluleki abazimele, esikhundleni salokho, uvule izikhala sokuqasha abantu besifazane nentsha. Sidinga ukukala izinhlelo ze-Property Management and Trading Entity, PMTE ngesibalo sabesifazane abahlomulayo ne ... *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[We need to hear about the turnaround strategy of the department so that we can see whether the department can reduce the use of private consultants and instead create vacancies in which to appoint women and the youth. We need to measure the plans of the

Property Management and Trading Entity, PMTE, with the number of women who are benefitting from it as well as ...]

... ownership 2019-20 target, and should speak to subjective conditions ...

... nezinombolo ezibalulwe nguMongameli kwinkulumo yenqubomgomo. Izidingo ze-Construction Industry Development Board, CIDB, ziyadinga ukuthi zibukisiswe futhi namahhovisi njengoba azosondezwa eduzane kwesifundazwe kuzosiza kakhulu. Kodwa ...
(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)

[... and the statistics that were mentioned by the President in his policy statement. The needs of the Construction Industry Development Board, CIDB, need to be considered. That the offices will be brought closer to the province would be of great assistance. But ...]

... this CIDB is ...

... ababambe iqhaza bakhona ... (Translation of isiZulu phrase follows.)

[... there are those who are taking part ...]

... or shall I say it is captured by a cartel because if ...

... u-CIDB 04 uyakwazi ukufaka isicelo sokwenzela eHulumeni umsebenzi ka-CIDB 01 kodwa u-CIDB 01 akakwazi ukuyofaka isicelo sokwenzela uHulumeni umsebenzi ka-CIDB 04. kusho ukuthi labo abanakho bohlala njalo benakho abangenakho bohlala njalo bengenakho. Abesifazane nentsha bazithola bebekwe ecaleni uma behliselwa amazinga abakuwo ngenxa yokungawutholi umsebenzi. Akukho emandleni abo ukuthi umsebenzi bayawuthola noma abawutholi yini. *(Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[... the CIDB 04 can apply to government to do the job of the CIDB 01 but the CIDB 01 cannot apply to government to do the job of the CIDB 04. This means that the haves will remain being the haves and the have nots will remain being the have nots. Women and youth find themselves being marginalised when their positions are lowered because they do not find jobs. It is not within their control whether they find jobs or not.]

They do not have control over this.

Sengikushilo konke lokhu ... *(Translation of isiZulu phrase follows.)*

[With all that being said ...]

... lest we forget that our people have not given us their vote to start searching for options but have given us an ultimatum. We dare not fail them. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Hon House Chair, the NFP welcomes the report of the Department of Public Works on Budget Vote 11 tabled here today. Hon Chair, this department ... maybe I should address the Minister.

Minister, I am sure that, at some time in your life, you visited an intensive care unit of a hospital. Now, if you have, you would know what it is to be in intensive care. Your department, in my view and the view of the NFP, is in the intensive care unit right now.

For the past couple of years, we have been getting all kinds of promises that they will get their house in order, but very little or nothing has happened. You speak about infrastructure, and a lot more money must be spent on infrastructure. I want to disagree there. Before you want more money to spend on infrastructure, spend the money that you are already getting on infrastructure because this is what doesn't happen. More often

than not, there is underspending on infrastructure in South Africa, and that is one of the problems.

Let me also tell you the other problem concerning infrastructure. If you did oversight visits, you would find contracts all over the country that are at a standstill. This is because contractors do not have the financial resources to import the goods that they need from America, India and China. As a result, these jobs just stand. So you need a new model if you want to give to contractors and they are not able to get the resources. Maybe you should allow them to provide the labour, and government should do something different in terms of providing the material. Otherwise, these major contracts just stand still. That is the other problem.

Now, the other concern I have relates to land, Minister. You have a very responsible department and I am of the understanding that you will make land available. I know that the Minister of Human Settlements is looking forward to that particularly for housing. What we don't want to see, Minister, is what happened when you were the mayor of the City of Cape Town and prime land was sold to international developers. We need to put the poorest of the poor first, before anything. That is very important.

Another major challenge we have has to do with two things concerning the asset register. It is my understanding that this department does not know what properties we own and where they are, not only locally but also internationally. This matter has been going on for a very long time. Added to that is the issue of the Telkom Towers. We have been dealing with this matter in the Appropriations committee ... called in Public Works and all kinds of promises. Very little or nothing is happening. My concern is that you have now inherited a department with the same officials, exactly the same people. Only the Minister is new.

I am not convinced, but I will be objective and try to be optimistic. We will support this on the basis that you will do well and turn this department around. The NFP will support this.
[Time expired.]

Ms M B HICKLIN: Hon Chairperson, in conducting proper oversight into whether the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is following its mandate in terms of how allocated budgets are employed to achieve stated policy objectives, we found that the department had fallen very short of its mandate.

In dealing with outcome 4 which offers decent employment through inclusive growth, the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, during quarter 3, struggled to make any real progress at all as it only looked at reaching an additional 1,1 million people.

Countrywide, the Expanded Public Works Programme is supposed to provide an important avenue for labour absorption and income transfers to poor households in the short to medium-term. It has, unfortunately, not done that and has underperformed dramatically, an underperformance which, at this rate, will sadly see South Africa drowning in youngsters looking to the Expanded Public Works Programme as a career path, not as a stepping stone to inclusion and upliftment in the formal work environment.

While President Ramaphosa in his state of the nation address of 20 June asserted that the ANC had done much to meet people's basic needs, to reduce poverty and to transform a devastated economy, I am asking you, Mr President, for evidence – tangible evidence.

Minister de Lille, what we need is a comprehensive job-seekers' database, opportunity centres that work to transfer skills,

sustainable economic growth, and equal opportunities for all our youth, as advocated by the DA. Instead, the evidence shows that our economy is not growing and not enough jobs are being created. Our devastated country currently has over 9 million unemployed people and most of them are youths.

In the DA-led City of Johannesburg, evidence shows that in excess of 189 000 net jobs were created in just one year.

[Applause.] Similar evidence can be found in the DA-led Western Cape and in the DA-led municipality in Tshwane. [Interjections.] These job increases have resulted from proactive job creation, not pipe dreams with no substance.

Minister De Lille, the department's five-year current target ... I just want to say that you have your work cut out for you. Thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Mr T V MASHELE: House Chair, hon Minister, members of the Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure, members of the National Assembly ...

... vaakatiko va Afrika-Dzonga, ... (*Translation of Xitsonga sentence follows.*)

[... South African citizens, ...]

... I value greatly the opportunity to participate in this debate this evening. Me standing at this podium for the first time is testament to the maturity of our evolving democracy. I stand here inspired by the wisdom of the great Thomas Sankara who called on us to have the courage to turn our backs on the old formulas and the courage to invent the future.

In constitutional democracies like ours, the future announces itself through the unending entry of new members into the corridors of power. It is thus a great privilege for me to stand before you this evening to be part of those who have the courage to invent the future of our country.

This Budget Vote debate comes 20 days since the President of the Republic, President Cyril Ramaphosa, invoked the revolutionary command of Che Guevara who also called upon us to be realistic and do the impossible. Being realistic demands that we must always be mindful of the difficult conditions our people face on a daily basis.

Daring to do the impossible means that we must not be afraid to imagine a better future for our country. We must not be

discouraged by those who accuse us of dreaming. There are some amongst us here who are buried deep in the rubble of blinding immediacy. These are the people who scream at the tops of their voices begging the President not to invent a better future for our country and asking him not to dream. Such people want us to accept that the difficulties that we face today are the obstacles of tomorrow. The blind eyes of their imagination cannot see a way out of the current challenges.

These nincompoops are happy to sing songs with choruses about the unchangeability of the current conditions, as if we are not capable of rising above our current circumstances and are incapable of building an ideal future for South Africa. A group of visionary South Africans met in Kliptown, Soweto, 64 years ago to invent a future for our country. Back then there were the very same idiots who dismissed these revolutionaries gathering in Kliptown, calling them daylight dreamers when they announced the Freedom Charter.

Hon members, the very same people who shout against the dreams of today are the biggest beneficiaries of the dreams of 1955. Even though they clearly deserve it, it would be unparliamentary for me to call them nincompoops or idiots. The vision outlined by the President is not pie in the sky. It is rooted firmly in

the concrete realities of Africa and her people. The National Development Plan, the NDP, with over 1 100 indicators, provides a practical blueprint of a national democratic society. As part of the practical work that the President has invited us to do, we are today afforded an opportunity to support the budget of R7,8 billion for the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

By approving this budget, we pledge our support to Sihle Mavimbela who expects good quality health care when she goes for a life-saving operation at the Rob Ferreira Hospital in Mpumalanga. We are responding to Che Guevara's call to be realistic by approving this budget so that Fezidinga Mavata of Cofimvaba in the Eastern Cape may have the required infrastructure to receive better education. This budget is an instrument at our disposal to ensure that our government can build more roads that connect remote villages with our towns as well as towns and our cities. With this budget the ideal of turning South Africa into a model for economic development on the African continent can be realised.

Our country needs this budget to build critical infrastructure for our economy to thrive, for us to create jobs and to improve the livelihoods of our people. In these harsh economic

conditions, Tiyani Makhubela of Bushbuckridge in Mpumalanga looks to the Expanded Public Works Programme to create job opportunities. In the past financial year, the department created over 900 000 EPWP work opportunities. The department must be encouraged to create more opportunities for our people.

Many young people in our country, just like Tiyani, are encouraged to hear that the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure will create 1 200 skills development opportunities. Other young people across South Africa, such as Vusi Mkhize of Mtubatuba, KwaZulu-Natal, must be excited that the department will give 150 bursaries towards qualifications in the built environment. This is not a dream, but a realistic step in advancing a national democratic society.

Many young South Africans out there cannot wait for us to approve this budget so that the department can swiftly roll out programmes aimed at developing young professionals such as providing artisan training, supporting internships and learnerships and providing support to management trainees. These and other similar development programmes will benefit over 1 500 young people in the country.

We expect improvement from this department. Last year they only achieved 43,8% of the envisaged 55% target for youth opportunities. As we call upon the department to learn a lesson from its failures, we are equally appealing to the young people of our country to remember that it is not possible for every young person to do office work. Real economic production and practical service do not happen in boardrooms.

As the custodian of our country's public works and infrastructure, the department has a critical role to play in entrepreneurship and industrial development. The department's construction project management subprogramme has an important role to play in supporting the development of black industrialists.

This budget addresses the discomfort expressed by Tessa Hochfeld, a senior researcher at the University of Johannesburg, who, some two years ago, warned us that, and I quote, the state needs to be held accountable to avoid a situation in which well-intended solutions create pockets of disadvantage and exploitation. We must respond to this call accordingly by ensuring that government's EPW Programme does not exploit the very same people it seeks to uplift, that skills and work experience gained through these various programmes increase

their chances of getting work, and that those assisted by the department to acquire experience do not join the ranks of the unemployed.

We must approve this budget so that we can use it to expand the size of the portfolio of immovable assets as an instrument to transform South Africa. It is unacceptable that, 25 years into democracy, the property sector of our country remains white and male dominated. This must change and it must change now. As a major player in the infrastructure sector, the department has a role to play in transforming the ownership patterns of the country. It is also for this reason that we reaffirm the call for the department to expedite the conclusion of the Public Works Bill.

Hon members, those of us who want to see better hospitals, better schools and better roads in our country will not waste time pontificating or waste time on words. The budget placed before us is not a dream; it is a realistic step towards inventing the future. It gives us the strength to gather more energy to do the impossible. Those who think that we should delay the approval of this budget should remember ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Thank you, hon Mashele. Thank you so much. Your time is up.

Mr T V MASHELE: House Chair ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Thank you, hon member ...

Mr T V MASHELE: As a progressive force, we have the responsibility to liberate these rented, self-centred ...
[Interjections.] ... self-serving nincompoops ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon member!

Mr T V MASHELE: ... these parliamentary tricksters, ideological plagiarists, charlatans, hoi polloi, lumpenproletariat. They are rented blacks. Thank you very much. [Interjections.]

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

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon members ...

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

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon members, please allow me to address myself on this.

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

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon members, order! Hon members, the Rules that apply to the House are the Rules that have been agreed to by all members regardless of their political affiliations. We therefore have to respect them and stick to those Rules. I want to take this opportunity to request hon member Mashele to please stand up. I humbly request you not to ever do that again.

Ke a leboha ntate. O se hlole o etsa ntho eo hape. (*Translation of Sesotho sentence follows.*)

[Thank you, sir. Don't ever do that again.]

I now call on the hon Minister to close the debate.

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

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you Chairperson. I will close the ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon Minister, just a second, please. Hon member, sorry about that.

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: On a point of order, Chair. Sorry, aunty Pat. I think my microphone is off. My microphone is not on.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Why are you rising?

Mrs E N NTLANGWINI: Chair, I wanted to say that I had hope in that guy but he disappointed us. Eish! He's not a dweep. I had hope. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Hon member, that is not a point of order. Hon Minister, can you continue? Order, hon members, please.

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Chairperson, I want to thank all hon members from the various political parties for their support and I pledge to work with all of them because I'm certainly going to need their help to really turn this department around. So thank you for all the support. The full speech is available on the department's website but, in summary, I just want to refer to some of the issues raised by members.

The concern around the Independent Development Trust, IDT, was raised by a number of members. I have scheduled a meeting for the Deputy Minister and I to meet with the board. The director-general has already sent a letter to the IDT to review their budget process because we have seen a number of increases in their budget which we cannot approve. So we are attending to that matter.

We have also identified 10 risks in the department. If you want to manage this department, you also need to prioritise. We identified risks within the Department of Public Works as well as risks in the Property Management Trading Entity. I will share all of those risks, together with a plan on how to address the 10 risks, with the portfolio committee.

A number of members spoke about the exorbitant expenditure on accommodation. Yes, it is correct that, because of austerity measures, we have instructed the executive not to buy new furniture and new office furniture.

We started by reducing the state of the nation budget from R2,3 million to just under R500 000. So, it can be done.

But, while I have the ear of Members of Parliament, as much as we have put measures in place to recover outstanding rentals, not only from the executive but also MPs, can I please ask you to pay your outstanding rentals. The amount outstanding is R430 000. Hon Kopane made reference to R1,2 million. I will certainly look into that.

Here's another appeal to MPs. Thank you to all of you who voluntarily moved out of your allocated state homes. On Sunday we had to take drastic measures to remove 19 MPs who refused to move. Please don't give us all of that because we had to clean the houses. Other members stayed in hotels while they waited for their houses.

Also, regarding the money spent on what is called the Prestige Portfolio, I have asked the Deputy Minister to lead a process to change that name. I don't think the word "prestige" fits into the vocabulary of a government. So we will be making sure that we shift more money towards public spaces because that is where people interact directly with us and that is where they get the first impression of government.

Another measure that we brought in is the 30-day compliance period wherein which our department must pay suppliers. It's a

compliance matter so they must comply. I have now made it part of the key performance indicators, KPIs, and performance management of all the senior managers, to ensure that we pay all suppliers within 30 days. [Applause.]

Many members spoke about the asset register. Well, for the past nine years the department has sought to complete an asset register, including valuations. I understand we are in a transition from a manual system to a system called Sage, and Sage then moves on to a system called Archibus. I have appointed an external person to evaluate and verify our register, and provide us ... so that I am able to give the members an update very soon.

We are the custodians of 29 000 parcels of land, including 89 000 buildings. So it's a huge asset portfolio that we are sitting on. Public land and public assets must be used for the public good, and that is where we are going to move the resources.

In terms of land reform, we are also making a contribution. We will be issuing 33 title deeds to farmers in Limpopo. We are going to release 100 pieces of land to land claimants and that

will further help us deal with spatial injustice in our country. I will be making further announcements on that.

In this financial year, everybody speaks about the role of infrastructure towards economic growth. I agree with that 100%. In this year we have budgeted R5 billion for 300 projects within the department and that is specifically so that we can stimulate the construction industry that is on a steep decline. That will be the catalyst that is our contribution to helping the declining construction industry.

Maintenance and repairs is a mess. There's no other way you can describe it. This week I'm starting a programme through which we are going to prioritise maintenance and repairs. I will be moving money from buying new buildings to maintenance and repairs in order to deal with the backlog.

This month I'm engaging directly ... I'm starting with the courts. I get a phone call almost every day, from Port Shepstone to Durban to all over the country, about the condition of our courts. So we are bringing together all the regional court managers, together with the Department of Justice and Correctional Services. We are going to assess the situation and we are going to start repairing our courts immediately.

Thereafter we are moving on to the police stations. I will be inviting MPs to join me in that exercise. [Applause.]

Some good news at least is that there's a feasibility study that will be concluded by the end of September 2019. We are going to save energy. We are going to put photovoltaic panels on all our government buildings to generate electricity ... [Applause.] ... and then put the reserve electricity back into the grid. We are starting with 300 buildings by the end of this month. This initiative will create a demand for more photovoltaic panels and more inverters, and therefore it's going to create an industry of its own and create jobs.

Lastly, with regard to the issue of small harbours, we have over 3 000 kilometers of coastline. We only have 12 proclaimed small harbours in the Western Cape and 55 unproclaimed harbours throughout the rest of the country in other provinces. I agree that small harbours are important to Operation Phakisa and also the oceans economy. We have already seen the investment in the Western Cape for the repair of fishing harbours. Here, we created 274 jobs and we empowered more than 35 local small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs. So there is definitely value in it and, in the coming days, I will also be engaging with the private sector and other stakeholders.

Tomorrow morning I'm starting in Sandton by engaging the property sector on the property charter because it's time that we all come together to make sure that we use this asset. The value of the asset that we have, being the custodian of land and buildings ... It's the biggest asset holding on the continent. So we will welcome ideas on how we can utilise this asset, of which we are the custodian, in order to grow our economy.

The plans are in place. What we need now is to see action. We need to see implementation, implementation, implementation. So, I want to say ...

Baie, baie dankie aan almal wat geluister het. (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.*)

[Thank you very, very much to all of you who listened.]

Thank you very much.

Enkosi kakhulu. (*Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.*)

[Thank you very much.]

Ke a leboha. (*Translation of Sesotho sentence follows.*)

[Thank you.]

God bless. [Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Thank you very much hon Minister. Hon members, could you please allow me a minute or two to deal with the issue that happened regarding language and the interpretation.

As I understood it, hon member Mokwele requested interpretation. At times our personal experiences and life stories impact on how we view certain matters and, in this regard, we have the freedom to express ourselves in this House in the language with which we are comfortable. That is according to the dictates of Rule 63.

Equally, members have the right to listen to a debate in a language with which they feel most comfortable. Of course we are aware of the technical problem. I am mindful not to inhibit the right of any member to freedom of speech. As members we should all be guided by the fact that nothing is gained by using excessive language. If an expression is perceived as rude or offensive, the member will be humbly requested to refrain.

However, in the light of this, I personally see nothing
unparliamentary about what hon Mokwele said.

The House is adjourned. Thank you very much. [Interjections.]

Debate concluded.

The mini-plenary session rose at 21:09.

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