

TUESDAY, 09 JULY 2019

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINI-PLenary - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Members of the mini-plenary session met in the National Assembly Chamber at 14:03.

The House Chairperson, Mr C T Frolick, took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate on Vote 38 - Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation:

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION: Hon House Chairperson, I would like to greet hon members who are present here, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, hon Semenya and members of the portfolio committee, members of the executive councils who are here, leaders of our financial sector up there in the gallery, land owners and developers, representatives of civil

groups and nongovernmental organisations, members of the academia and research bodies, members of boards and council of Human Settlements entities, public service managers and Members of Parliament, good afternoon.

It is at this point that, no doubt, I am expected to say it is good to be back.

Kukhona amageza phaya andibiza ngokuba ndinguBuyelekhaya. [There are some lunatics there who say I must come back home.]

Well, it is fine. It is good to be back and be able to complete what one started, and that is certain. It is good to be able to complete the work we started as far back as 2009, and be able to take stock of where we are and what still needs to be done. I must confess that, with a few interruptions over the years, some of them unfortunately negative, we have done extremely well in this sector. This is most probably one of the most difficult Budget Vote speeches I will have to deliver because I actually do not know where to begin. Where to begin to tell the story of this long journey we have travelled together with the department and the portfolio committees and our entities. It is a wonder story not often told because of the impediment we still face in our backlog, but it is a story that we should tell more often so

that we can assure our people that we spend every working hour, working to provide them with accommodation.

Let me begin in 2004 when we consolidated our Human Settlements policy. It won us the world acclaim and was recognised by the United Nations entity for human settlements called Human Habitat as the best practice. We have been through a golden era of innovation in our housing policy. We call it Breaking New Ground and I urge hon members to acquaint themselves with it. This is our policy and this is what we are busy with. This is our programme of integrating communities that were divided along class and racial lines. This is our programme of providing free housing to all who qualify as indigent and affordable housing for low-income earners. It is a comprehensive policy that we have now encoded. What we are dealing with now is ironing out the glitches while rolling out this massive programme.

We did indeed break new ground in our policy of integration and providing greater variety and better quality. We have been fine-tuning our policies as the need arose and upscaling our delivery because we realised that we are facing a whole sea of people coming into the urban areas. As we tested our new policy, we created several new pilot projects. These were called catalytic projects. Catalytic because, not only did they serve the purpose

of providing us with the objects of our policies, but they were also aimed at generating private sector support and interest in the partnerships that we required from them. We used this as a model to build on scale and ensure that all the elements of our policy were catered for.

We chose a number of sites, and amongst them is Cosmo City, Fleurhof, Olievenhoutbosch and Savanna City in Johannesburg, Zanemvula in Port Elizabeth and Cornubia in Durban and many more. We endorsed them to test our policies; and to test the market whether the private sector had the appetite for joint projects with government. The results were simply amazing. Hon members would have seen in the exhibition and if you have not, I urge you to have a look at the exhibition. But as we walk together on this, I would like us to visit some of these projects because they have matured incredibly. Some of these are, for instance, Cornubia and Cosmo City which we will showcase on a regular basis, and I want to showcase them to you. It shows what is possible to do when we are catering primarily for our major client, the indigent and make sure that we are catering also for the entirety of the social ladder.

We used the concept of catalytic projects because, starting from a low base of resources, we worked to partner with the private

sector to fund our projects and to turn these into integrated living spaces, consisting of all the amenities required by our communities, including business centres and industrial zones and all of those areas that are necessary for recreation. I believe one of our biggest shortcomings has been our inability to fully communicate our many successes to our people because, if we did, South Africa would know what has been provided in the space of human settlements. These catalytic projects are our cities in the making and in the process we have provided more than 4 million houses and housing opportunities. This consists of more than 1 001 000 serviced sites and more than 3 000 200 housing units completed.

Despite these achievements, we remain with a registered backlog of 2 300 000 people who are still waiting for housing, and it is growing. It is growing because urbanisation is one of those unstoppable phenomena of our time, especially on the African continent. However, I have yet to learn of a government that has been able to provide as much for the poorest of society within the context which we have had to operate, to remove the indelible apartheid spatial pattern and put pressure and expectations on ourselves to meet the expectations of our people.

When we delivered our first million houses, to a disbelieving world, the United Nations gave us an award as the first developing country to achieve a mark of a million houses. We have now provided 4 million, so they have given up on us.

[Applause.] These were delivered by a free government and we are leading a country in a developing world. Our vision and policies are being gradually updated to ensure that our rate of delivery meets the expectations of our people. However, of course the problem remains with increased urbanisation and the breaking up of households into smaller units. There is still a lot more that we need to cover.

South Africa has been instrumental in the conceptualisation of Human Settlements and we have a responsibility to stay ahead in our implementation. It is working for us because it caters for the injustices of our spatial patterns. Success is in sight. Our biggest challenge remains the demand for housing that far outstrips delivery and the stubborn separateness of our past. Our catalytic projects, which are our new cities, cater for that in some small measure.

In the next five years, we are determined to declare 94 priority development spaces for human settlements development and our multipurpose programmes of an integrated delivery to fully

transform our spatial patterns. The identification of these areas has already been completed with the initial 58 already gazetted for consultation. Municipalities and provinces must be commended for embracing and supporting the proposed priority development areas. Those that have not done so, I urge you, please, to engage with this and accept our proposals to you. We do not have much time.

The transformation and consolidation of our human settlements can no longer be deferred nor excuses be made. We are building new, integrated, functional and inclusive settlements. These settlements may vary in size and complexity, but all share a similar common element. For instance, there is no reason why Thabazimbi or Emalahleni and Matlosana cannot become a new town, instead of the ghost cities that they are distressed from long-term mining. [Applause.] These are perfect spaces of opportunity to be transformed and consolidated as vibrant thriving urban centres offering the best of the 21st-century living.

Our inner cities of Johannesburg, Pretoria, Germiston, Durban, East London and Bloemfontein cannot and must not be allowed to decay. These are priority spaces and represent the finest opportunity for spatial transformation and consolidation through renewal programmes and harnessing the inherent economic momentum

within the cities. Similarly, our townships that include Khayelitsha, Soweto, Umlazi, Seshego and KaNyamazane must be transformed from dormitory settlement status to vibrant economic hubs that point the way towards future city precincts where property values are competitive in a fully-functional property market.

We have long accepted that settlements in their variety as villages, towns and cities must be changed to attract economic activity and growth. As we proceed to build new settlements and consolidate existing neighbourhoods, we are inspired by the Special Economic Zones and the reindustrialisation programmes that are aimed at economic growth throughout our country.

In the development of these priority areas, our partners stand ready to co-invest and see the blending of public investments with private capital and equity to ensure increased and rapid delivery. We are resolute. We are building new neighbourhoods, new houses and new cities. We are consolidating our urban spaces. As we build new settlements, we must also renew existing neighbourhoods and precincts that are dilapidated and suffer ravages of neglect and poor maintenance. Our budget, although limited compared to the housing and settlements needs facing us,

will be directed towards our delivery priorities and priority development areas.

We are glad to note that draft legislation on the expropriation of land has already been published and we hope that the process will be fast-tracked. If the Bill is adopted as it currently stands, we would like to take advantage of the following proposal which I'll read to you, around abandoned property. And I am very glad to recognise Minister Thulas Nxesi who made this possible in his previous dispensation. The Draft Bill says:

Where the owner of the land has abandoned the land, we will seize that land.

[Applause.] We would like this definition to include hijacked buildings. Where we have hijacked buildings, we will expropriate those buildings. [Applause.] We would like to expropriate these in order to create social housing and secondly, where land is owned by the state or state-owned enterprises, we would like to expropriate that. We will however follow the correct route and make sure that all the necessary steps are followed. We would like to be the first to be given the advantage to choose land because our people need to be settled in the most comfortable areas possible. [Applause.]

I am glad that Parliament has finally got to this point where we are able to expropriate land and I would like to be the first taker. I thank Parliament for the opportunity that they have afforded me. [Applause.] The draft legislation determines that no land would be expropriated for any other reason except for the public interest. I cannot see that there is any greater public interest than what we represent at Human Settlements. It should therefore be possible for us to be the first to benefit from this legislation.

In 2009, the Housing Development Agency, HDA signed an agreement of alienation of ownership with the Provincial Government of the Western Cape to transfer land that belonged to them to the HDA so that human settlements could be created for the people of the Western Cape. As soon as the DA took control of the Western Cape, they reversed that legal agreement. I am giving notice today that we will expropriate that land which was given to us in 2009 and make sure that it is given back to the HDA.

[Applause.]

During my Budget Vote address in 2017, I proudly announced the launch of the Human Settlements Development Bank, HSDB. The Bank was set up as an apex level financial institution catering for the housing needs across the Human Settlements supply chain.

Once fully established, the bank will be central to all financing activities and market-making activities across the housing supply chain. At the wholesale level, the bank will participate directly in risk funding of large-scale development projects and programmes as well as facilitate and fund the requirements of housing finance intermediaries operating in the social and gap markets. The bank already supports a number of specialised asset-based social housing finance entities.

This model is not new. In the not so distant past, building societies performed much of the same work as we intend to take over in the bank and provided much of the ... [Interjections.] ... no, not at all. After the expropriation, I am very relaxed. This provided for much of the liquidity needed to extend into mortgages and the building of new homes. We will follow this enhancement to our work. The approach ensured much-needed focus and support for housing. Today, our people are confronted on the streets of the townships and cities with branches belonging to microlenders. This has created a culture of consumption borrowers and spenders at a great cost to themselves. I think these are called abomashonisa, for your information. The new bank that we have will play an active role in developing the models for Housing Banks that will address these challenges at both national and local level.

We are attending to the challenges of the South African residential market that is still very dualistic. One part is functioning and well-resourced, and the other one is completely dysfunctional, which is where we live. This is the township housing market which is nearly 4 million houses, undervalued, and underleveraged economically, and we need to turn this around. While much of the work has been done towards the vision of a single residential market in the future, an immediate opportunity is available to us to ensure that we can provide our people with the necessary resources to lever themselves out of their situation. At a replacement cost of approximately R350 000 per unit, the total market value of the township housing that we have built is approximately R14 trillion. That is what we have put into the economy of this country. [Applause.] This is the value we could leverage.

To illustrate the enormous benefit of the construction industry and we are part of that construction industry, we could refer to the 2007 Global Financial Crisis. Contrary to the debilitating effects of the global economy that was experienced in many countries following the 2007 Financial Crisis the South African economy was completely unaffected. The main contributory factor being the investment in infrastructure supporting the 2010 Fifa World Cup which not only averted a financial crisis in South

Africa, but created tens of thousands of jobs in the construction sector and attracted billions of rand in foreign investment. We have now finished building our stadia and we are now building our catalytic projects; and we will cushion our economy in the same way that it was cushioned in 2007.

Having reached this point, we want to take a different direction, however, from what we have concentrated on in the last 15 years. Now that Parliament has agreed on the need for expropriation of land and a Draft Bill has been put on the table, we want to ensure that we can ask those South Africans who are able-bodied to take the opportunity and work with us and join us in our projects so that they can build their own houses. We are open to the idea that has been bandied about by the young people that what they want is land so that they can build their own houses. This, we are very open to, and we are going to do that. [Applause.]

In the past the project where people built their own houses was called the People's Housing Programme, PHP. We have decided to rename these programmes so that they are self-explanatory because PHP does not appeal to anybody. Therefore, I am making a suggestion that those people who are going to be joining us in building their own houses, the programme will be called

Zenzeleni, which means do it yourselves. We believe this is a much more empowering tool and will bring greater yield. What is more? This is the answer many of our young people have been waiting for.

As part of this approach to encourage people to take up the 'do-it-yourself' concept, I urge people to come together to assist each other to build a house. It has occurred to me that in most developing countries where, unlike us, the state does not play a vital role in providing housing. A number of innovative ideas have emerged and have been tested and used. I was therefore excited to come across the use of the stokvel idea. As you know, it's a traditional urban practice where people pool their resources together to make better of the little income that they have.

I have come across an idea which is working very well - I am told - here in Cape Town. It is called Masakhe Ladies of Philippi, Crossroads, Khayelitsha, Strand, etc. It has been established as a stokvel to build houses and it would have, of course, to be ladies. Men sit there and they know that somebody will provide them with a meal in the evening. [Interjections.] It is true and I am expecting the ladies to cheer and applaud. It is true. [Applause.]

I have decided that I will find these ladies and I will contribute to their fund. I will contribute to any fund where people come together and build their own houses. [Applause.] I will contribute to make sure that they are successful. The Fourth Industrial Revolution ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Minister, let me just take this.

Mr M N PAULSEN: Why is the ANC Caucus cheering their failure to build houses for our people?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, that is not a point ... [Interjections.]

Mr M N PAULSEN: Why did they cheer their failures? You are useless. [Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION: We are taking advantage of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to overcome some of our problems. We will, for instance, embrace this to

ensure that we use satellite technology and as such make sure that we have real-time information on the ground. This will be a design for purpose which we can measure the quality of the work of the projects that we are dealing with. It will also reduce the incidents of bad workmanship and help us to see where land is invaded and act decisively on time. I'm therefore establishing ... [Interjections.] No, you are not going to invade nowhere.

I am therefore establishing a fully-fledged, skilled and capacitated ICT Management Unit with the required innovative software and technology that will assist me to do this and assist the municipalities to ensure that their land is not invaded. Within the next year, we will ensure that we have digitised our entire platform of projects in order for persons to access all relevant information and we will make this available. We will ensure that we place the details of beneficiaries in the public domain in a similar way as the matric results were once done, so that anybody who is on the list is able to check how far they are. This will help us reduce corruption which is part of the problems that we have been experiencing, especially in the awarding of housing units.

We would be able to cut down on our turnaround time by 50% if we increase the use of this technology. We want our municipalities to be responsible to issue notices of illegal invasions and follow the law even when we have discovered invasions. We will partner with the private sector to assist where land is available for people to build their own houses. This will ensure that the programme is properly managed and that due skills assistance and training is given to people who are willing and able to build their own houses. This is a programme we would like to work on, on an urgent basis to assure our people that we are making an attractive proposition to them. We want to renew our social compact with the banks to revitalise the Finance-Linked Individual Subsidy Programme, Flisp programme, and I have been informed that the Minister of Finance has asked us to stop using these acronyms and make our terminology more user-friendly. The Flisp is, help me buy a house.

We want to revitalise this programme that helps people to buy their houses. This is largely meant to help first-time buyers and will benefit greatly government employees, a sector very much in need of our support. The Human Settlements Development Bank should be part of the banks supporting the housing market. The bank will be failing in its responsibility if they do not do so. I give them six months to ensure that the bank is fully

functional and accessible for all those who require loans to build or buy houses. [Applause.] Just a few days ago I handed over some title deeds at Cornubia in Durban and I resolved that my Deputy Minister and I will spend every Friday as a special day to hand over title deeds. [Applause.] I am sure that in this way, between Deputy Minister Pam Tshwete and I, we would be able to clear the backlog in the next two years. [Applause.] After the event on Friday I received a message through social media that has helped me refine my thoughts around the title deeds. The message was that it would be important for people with title deeds to be assisted to write a will to ensure that the asset which is given to them as families, is attached to it. This is because, when the owner of the house dies, there is a great deal of disputes within the families and our courts are not geared to deal with these family housing problems.

These are our successes and our successes continue. We have had serious failures - yes, we have. We have had fraud, corruption and slow delivery. We read about these on a regular basis. We are daily experiencing protests. This is where we need the support of everybody keep us constantly accountable. This is why I am here very happy to report to you our successes and say to you, we are ready and able to account for any of our failures.

Because of the huge pressure we have around housing, people sporadically go out in protests out there. We will take it to the media and assure them that we have taken a decision and ses'fikile [we have arrived.] We will create an environment very similar to the Fifa World Cup to make sure that we take them out of their misery

Members of Parliament, thank you very much. Chairperson, thank you very much for the opportunity. [Applause.]

Ms M R SEMENYA: Hon Chair, the ANC rises in support of Budget Vote 38 on Human Settlements. We would equally like to take this opportunity to commend our predecessors, under the stewardship of former Chairperson, the hon Mafu and to equally congratulate her on her new responsibility as the Deputy Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture.

On the same note, we would like to welcome our new and returning public representatives to this legislative arm of the state and encourage that irrespective of party lines, we commit to working together in performing our function of executing enhanced oversight over the Department of Human Settlements, and all its entities, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life of our people.

Re rata go tšea le sebaka se re leboge batho ba Afrika-Borwa ge ba re file taelo re le ANC gore re tšwele pele ka go kaonafatša maphelo a bona. (*Translation of Sepedi paragraph follows.*)

[We would like to take this opportunity to thank all South Africans for allowing us as the ANC to continue to better their lives.]

Providing decent housing and shelter for our people has been a long-standing mission of the ANC. Since 1994, the ANC has focused on people who cannot afford to provide for themselves, built basic free homes, upgrade houses and services in the informal settlements, and work towards restoring their dignity and improving the livelihood of our people.

The Freedom Charter captured the ANC's commitment to provide houses, comfort and security. The ANC did not only stop at committing to safety and comfort, but also to the mandate of dismantling segregationist spatial patterns to create integrated and sustainable communities where our people live close to socioeconomic activity. The social contract remains our inspiration and strategic guide to realising a better life for all and a South Africa that truly belongs to all who live in it, as stated in our election manifesto.

The fifth administration made commendable strides in achieving the following objectives within the human settlements sector: Increasing housing units in better-located mixed income projects, especially in social, co-operative and rental housing; focusing on catalytic projects such as integrated residential programmes and direct investment; and overcoming apartheid spatial geography.

These achievements are crucial to revitalising inner cities, mining towns and developing cities. However, the impact of the dire consequences of the segregationist spatial configuration of South Africa by the colonial apartheid state is still massive today. In his state of the nation address, our President, Cyril Ramaphosa, highlighted that significant work still needs to be done to ensure that colonial apartheid spatial patterns are unravelled to ensure that our people live in integrated human settlements with socioeconomic activity and do not spend a large portion of their income and time commuting to their place of work. Dismantling apartheid spatial patterns is not going at a desired pace and requires the delivery of a significant number of catalytic projects which will play a huge role in the recreation of new and integrated communities.

Having integrated sustainable and economically-active human settlements is important as we journey behind the President's call to growing the economy of our country. It is based on the reason that spatial integration, human settlements and local government form part of the priorities that will receive attention from this new administration.

The ANC welcomes this prioritisation and the merger of the Departments of Human Settlements and of Water and Sanitation to ensure that indeed, better life for all is realised.

The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements will continue to provide oversight over the Department of Human Settlements in order for it to fulfil its responsibility of ensuring that dignity, housing and access to social and economic activity is not a privilege, but a lived reality for all our people in South Africa.

Government expenditure on housing has grown faster than any other budget since 1994 and South Africa is world-renowned for its housing delivery efforts. The Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements emphasises its support for the 2019-20 budget for the department so that it can continue in delivering on its task of changing the lives of our people.

With the world fast approaching the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the role of development finance institutions in terms of ensuring that Africa ... [Interjections.] ... is not left behind, will be crucial. In this regard, we welcome the launch of Human Settlements Development Bank that was announced by the Minister of Human Settlements. As reflected in her budget speech, the bank will facilitate increased provision of finance across the human settlements value chain, and the specific priority for the bank in this respect is the mobilisation of and the provision of finance for all planned catalytic projects.

The 2019-20 budget of R33,8 billion allocated to the Department of Human Settlements is a crucial instrument in achieving some of the salient objectives of the National Development Plan of transforming human settlements and the spatial economy; securing a well-located land for affordable housing; and increasing the performance of the lower end of the property market through the supply of affordable housing.

The bulk of this budget will go towards Programme 4: Human Development Finance. This programme is instrumental in housing projects and in ensuring infrastructure development to support the upgrading of informal settlements.

Through the Urban Settlements Development Grant and the Human Settlements Development Grant, the Department of Human Settlements is empowered towards providing sustainable and integrated human settlements and ensuring that our economy grows by including the participation of youth, women and people with disabilities through the 30% set asides within the housing value chain. There is a very important matter of the economic value chain that is associated in the grants aimed at building sustainable human settlements.

We call on the department to ensure that women, youth and people with disabilities find expression in the economic value chain to such projects as this will play a pivotal role in curbing the increasing unemployment rate in the country and providing the masses of our people with the necessary skills required for them to enter into the market and be active participants in the economy.

The budget is also focused on providing affordable houses to our people who are excluded and cannot access housing opportunities through the banks. The Auditor-General of the Republic of SA has been generally pleased with the Department of Human Settlements which has constantly received unqualified audit opinion and has commended the department's financial health, oversight and

monitoring mechanism as well as its procurement and contract management processes - I know you don't like to hear this one.

We further urge the national department to support municipalities and ensure that our provincial counterpart have the ability to exercise effective monitoring of conditional grants so as to realise their respective mandate. This performance has, in turn, made the work of the department much more meaningful and impactful. It has reduced problems and allowed the department to closely focus on advancing and delivering on its mandate.

However, the spending of the Urban Settlements Development Grant and Human Settlements Development Grant requires attention, Minister. Some metros and provinces experience challenges and struggle to perform at a satisfactory level in terms of spending, and this translates into the inability to deliver decent housing, particularly on the upgrading of informal settlements, which is a crucial commitment of the ANC.

In conclusion, we are confident that the committee and the department will work together in monitoring and providing oversight over the financial performance and the expenditure patterns of metros and provinces so that they do not fail to

spend money that is appropriated by this Parliament because it is for the people of the Republic of SA. Malibongwe! [Praise be to women.] [Applause.]

Mr L J BASSON: Chairperson, the lack of affordable housing in South Africa is a well-documented problem. The housing backlog stands at 2,3 million houses and is growing with approximately 180 000 houses per year. The Socio-Economic Rights Institute estimated that between 2,9 million and 3,6 million people still live in informal settlements in South Africa today.

Chairperson, Section 26 of the Constitution stipulates that everyone has the right to adequate housing. In the ANC's first election manifesto in 1994, the party stated and I quote:

A roof over one's head and reasonable living conditions are not a privilege. They are a basic right for human beings.

Chairperson, millions of South Africans are still deprived of this basic right in 2019. People continue to live in appalling conditions where a home is often nothing more than a shack made from whatever materials available, with neither running water, proper sanitation, nor electricity.

In 2014, Minister Lindiwe Sisulu boldly declared that the Department of Human Settlements would create 1,5 million new housing opportunities by 2019. This amounts to 300 000 built units per year!

Given the fact that the number of built units decreased, this was nothing more than a pipe dream. At its peak in 1999, the government delivered 235 000 built units per year. In 2018, this number had dropped to a shocking 90 000 built units per year.

It is clear that the ANC-led government will never resolve the housing backlog. Government can no longer follow the narrow strategy as outlined initially by the Reconstruction and Development Programme, RDP and the then Breaking New Ground, BNG programme for addressing the housing backlog as these have patently failed. Firstly, because many South Africans still do not have houses, but also because the approach has not worked to create integrated cities and towns.

Chairperson, the DA believes that there is no single solution that will eradicate the housing backlog. What is essential is a basket of solutions which can address the issue and give South Africans more choice and a better quality of life when it comes to finding a place to call home.

The DA recommends that we take a new approach. Give more South Africans safe and dignified living spaces; create more diverse and inclusive cities and towns; bring more people closer to the economy and education activities; densify existing towns and cities; and provide more options that allow South Africans greater choice when it comes to housing.

To do this, we need to give recipients of RDP and BNG houses ownership of the land they live on by giving them title deeds. Thank you, Minister. I appreciate that you are going to do that on a Friday but that is not good enough.

Create a single national housing database where each province and local government will have to cross-reference to prevent beneficiaries from benefitting more than once. Launch a national housing audit to verify the current ownership of RDP and BNG houses to identify where houses have been allocated through corruption or have been sold illegally.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Basson, would you just take your seat. Why are you rising, hon Deputy Minister?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION:
Is hon Basson prepared to take a question?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Are you prepared to take a question, hon member?

Mr L J BASSON: No, I am not. [Laughter.] There has been surprisingly little innovation in the field of housing within the Department of Human Settlements. Disadvantaged communities in poverty and unemployment are trapped and they are robbed of secure livelihood.

Minister, there is no time for you to dream like the President. It's time to have a new approach; time to have a plan; time to put South Africa first; and Minister, that time is NOW!
[Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member.

Mrs S M MOKGOTHO: Hon Chairperson, the EFF rejects Budget Vote 38 on Human Settlements. South Africa is facing a huge housing crisis and it will soon blow up in our faces and bring this country into a standstill.

Statistics SA reports that by 2018 South Africa had a housing backlog of 2,2 million housing units and the government has only built over 3 million houses since 1994. This means that it may

take us another 20 years just to build 2 million more houses. This means that at the current pace, there are people who may die without ever having had a proper house in this country.

While this crisis is happening, the ANC is busy destroying houses of black people. Just a few weeks after election results were announced, ANC-led municipalities across the country started, on a massive onslaught against our people whose only sin was simply to build houses for themselves.

In the Buffalo City in the Eastern Cape, the ANC-led government destroyed millions of worthy houses of black people who had, out of their own sweat, built themselves houses close to East London airport.

In Ntabankulu in the Eastern Cape, the local municipality destroyed houses they claimed had been built illegally on municipal land. In Alexandra in Gauteng, rogue Johannesburg Metro Police officials ... [Interjections.] ... working with the provincial government destroyed people's houses under the pretext that they were built illegally.

The ANC has been using the laws selectively to keep African people homeless in this country. But what this points to,

Chairperson, is that there is no overarching vision, plan or political will to alleviate the housing crisis in this country. The Budget presented here is willfully insufficient to deal with the housing challenges facing our own people. It fails to re-imagine the country's approach to the problem of housing backlog and urban's prowl; and fails to acknowledge that this is a consequence of having a few cities that can reasonably absorb a large number of labour.

The dispossession of African land in rural areas, the uneven development of cities, and the poor employment prospects in rural areas has caused massive urban's prowl that your policymakers have been unable to handle. As a consequence, we have thousands of people flocking to Gauteng, Cape Town, and Durban each and every year because there is no hope of them finding work anywhere else in South Africa.

The housing crisis in this country therefore is, at the same time, a labour crisis. It is about the pride of millions of black people who are unable find jobs closer to their homes. It is as a consequence of this that black people have been forcibly repossessing land in urban areas to build houses for themselves because your government has been unable to do so for the past 25 years.

The dehumanising reality of homelessness, the psychological injury of not having a place to call yours are both rooted in history of land dispossession and the brutal apartheid project of social engineering. The state is not out of options and can resolve the housing crisis if there is a political will to do so.

This can be done through the following: Do away with apartheid special planning and expropriate land without compensation closer to inner city centre to build sustainable housing for all; establish a state housing company that will progressively build houses for the poor; improve the quality and size of low-cost houses through the state house construction company; ensure that the state regulates housing finance by providing housing finance that does not exceed the period of 10 years; guarantee integrated human settlements with guaranteed bulk services such as water provision, electricity, sewerage systems, parks and recreation facilities; convert unused state buildings into affordable houses for the poor; and offer people long-term secured leasehold to these buildings.

The state must, once and for all, clarify the powers of traditional leaders to allocate land for housing in rural areas. People's livelihoods are at risk because of the contestation

between traditional leaders and municipalities about who has power to allocate land for housing. Failure to do this will collapse our current cities because we cannot sustainably have any human settlements strategy that will accommodate the current growth of cities.

The failure of the post-1994 regime to decentralise economic development and promote industrialisation in areas other than those cities developed during colonialism and apartheid means that we will have more and more people moving into a few cities and towns looking for employment and not having any place to stay. The problem of human settlement is directly linked to our inability to decentralise development to area other than our current cities. Unless we do this, we will continue pumping money for short-term, unsustainable solutions to the human settlement challenge. We reject this budget as the EFF. Thanks, Chairperson. [Applause.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Thanks, hon member.

Mr X NGWEZI: Hon House Chairperson, the constitutionally-enshrined right to housing for all in South Africa, especially our poor and most vulnerable, remains an elusive pipe dream and vain promise for millions of South Africans who, 25 years into

our democracy, still struggle with the realisation of having their own homes.

Informal settlements are burgeoning through rampant urban migration due to the lack of commercial opportunities, quality education and basic delivery in rural areas. Yet, the hon President, in his state of the nation address, only mentioned rural development three times. To me, this was indicative of the lowest prioritisation.

As the IFP so succinctly stated in its state of the nation address response before this August House, and I quote:

We must ensure that rural and not just urban communities are a priority too, as there has never been a successful urban strategy without taking commensurate rural development into account.

Rural and urban communities are in essence two sides of the same coin and for us to have successful socioeconomic upliftment in South Africa, state resources must be balanced between these two sectors of our society in order to achieve the greatest synergy possible. There are many examples of this in other countries.

Why are we not emulating these examples or at the very least drawing from their experiences?

Another critical issue is the dilapidated state of many of our hostels, which are underdeveloped and in a poor state of repair. A simple visit to any hostel in KwaMashu, Glebelands, Thokoza, Daveyton or Sebokeng in Vaal, will show this to be the case. The people in these hostels live in subhuman conditions many of which could be comparable to the living conditions of our animals and livestock, and in some instances, even worse. This is a shame on this government!

Some RDP houses are being illegally occupied, hon Minister. The titleholders do not have occupation and in her budget speech last year, the Minister announced that the housing backlog stood at 2,1 million, with the department's budget slashed by billions. The hole is getting deeper and deeper, and South Africans are not receiving what they have been promised.

Backyard dwellers are still in what they have aptly described as their cages. And Government still has no policy to address this issue. People are denied title deeds and there is little development in these previously-disadvantaged areas. When these dwellers move onto vacant land for shelter, they are being

evicted. Hon Minister, there must be urgent resolution and policy in this matter.

If one looks provincially in KwaZulu-Natal - listen carefully - in the previously NFP-run municipality of Nongoma, which is now run by the IFP, one would note that in 2012, in Wards 2 and 5, 2 000 housing units were promised and contractors were appointed, but construction has not begun. In Nkandla Ward 6, it is the same story. In uMhlathuze, in the previous Ward 5 in the then Ntambanana Local Municipality, which is now Ward 33, it is the same story. Contractors were appointed, but the construction has not begun. This needs urgent attention.

This is the mess in some of the municipalities that the IFP inherited when it regained control of these municipalities from the now defunct NFP. We are hard at work in these areas in delivering houses and services to the residents.

Hon Chairperson, allow me to conclude by stating the status quo as it is today. Twenty-five years into our new democracy, there is little change. It is not that we don't see change, but it is too little. [Interjections.] Poverty has been somewhat addressed, but by and large, our poor and most vulnerable have not seen change. This government must do better. The IFP will

partner with you in ensuring that the mandate of this department is achieved, and we accordingly support this Budget Vote debate. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr P MEY: Chairperson, I believe in dreams.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Order, hon members!

Mnr P MEY: In die sestigerjare was ek 'n lid van die polisie wat verantwoordelik was vir die beveiliging van die Eerste Minister. Oppad vanaf Kaapstad na Pretoria het ek vir my vriend in die polisie gesê: *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.)*

[In the sixties I was a member of the police who were responsible for the security of the Prime Minister. On the way from Cape Town to Pretoria I said to my friend in the police:]

One day, I would like to return to Cape Town but not as a policeman. I want to become a Member of Parliament.

Fifty years later, my dream came true and I entered the National Assembly. [Interjections.]

There is a saying: Once a policeman, always a policeman.

Daarom wil ek vandag aan elke polisieman en polisievrout in hierdie land hulde bring. Die Vryheidsfront Plus sal julle ondersteun sover dit moontlik is.

Ek wil vir u sê dat ek vir 40 jaar in die eiendomsbedryf is. Ek beskou myself as 'n grondvlakpolitikus. Ek het gesien hoe plakkerskampe oornag opskiet, maar dit gaan nie net oor plakkerskampe nie. Nie een van ons in hierdie land wil sien hoe iemand in 'n drie-by-drie sinkgeboutjie sonder water en sonder elektrisiteit moet woon nie. En dan moet hulle nog honger gaan slaap. Ons wil dit nie hê nie.

Ek het ook gesien hoe jongmense - alle rasse in Suid-Afrika - wat min geld verdien, maar tog kan bekostig om 'n paalement op 'n woonhuis te betaal, nie een kan koop nie, want daar word nie voorsiening gemaak daarvoor nie. Ek wil daardie mense ondersteun en wil hê dat die regering van die dag planne moet maak om hulle ook te help om hul eie huise te besit.

Ek sal 'n paar voorbeelde noem om die oorsake van die agterstand in behuising te verduidelik. Die eerste voorbeeld is onwettige immigrasie. Mense stroom oor die grense van Suid-Afrika, vanaf Afrika. Dit plaas groot druk op behuising.

Die tweede voorbeeld is korrupsie. Ons hoef nie eens daaroor te praat nie. Ons weet hoeveel miljoene rande in hierdie land verlore gegaan het.

Verder, ons het nie kundige mense nie. Ek het in die Langkloof, die Misgungebied, gesien dat 400 huise wat gebou is tot op die grond afgebreuk is. Dit moes oorgebou word. Dertig kilometer daarvandaan is gelukkige inwoners, want daar was beheer en toesig. Dis een van die mooiste projekte wat ek nog aanskou het en ek wens u kan dit saam met my gaan bywoon.

Ons moet onthou dat behuising 'n groter krisis in Suid-Afrika gaan word as wat ons nou beleef. Een van die redes is die ontvolking van die platteland. Daar is nie werk nie. Mense stroom na die stede. Een van die redes is dat daar geen werk is nie.

Beplanning is baie moeilik. Ek praat dikwels met amptenare van die munisipaliteite. Daar is duisende hektaar plaasgrond om die metros, maar dit vat baie jare om dit te ontkoppel en te hersoneer na residensiële eiendom. Dit veroorsaak dat stadsbeplanners nie werklik vooruit kan beplan nie. As gevolg daarvan, beset plakkers dikwels met opset onwettige grond in die hoop dat daar vir hulle dienste voorsien sal word.

Die President van die land het 'n paar maande gelede gesê dat hy nie sal toelaat dat grond onwettig beset word nie. Kort daarna het hulle die gebied tussen Uitenhage, Despatch en Port Elizabeth beset. Tussen Uitenhage en die N2 gebeur dieselfde ding. Niks word gedoen nie en die raad swyg. Twee weke later is ek deel van die groep mense wat staan, want hulle brand die pad. Dit veroorsaak polarisasie.

As dit kom by die oplossing van die behuisingsprobleem in Suid-Afrika, sal ons moet wakkerskrik. Wat is die oplossing? Ons moet beter beheer toepas op ons grense. [Tussenwerpsels.]

(Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.)

[That is why today I want to pay tribute to every policeman and policewoman in this country. The FF-Plus will support you as far as possible.

I want to tell you that I have been in the real estate industry for 40 years. I regard myself as a grassroots politician. I've seen how squatter camps shoot up overnight, but it is not only about squatter camps. None of us in this country want to see someone living in a three-by-three corrugated iron building without water and electricity. And then they also have to go to bed hungry. We don't want this.

I have also seen how young people - all races in South Africa - who earn little money, but can nevertheless afford to pay an instalment on a house, cannot buy one because it is not provided for. I want to support those people and want the government of the day to make plans to also help them to own their own homes.

I will mention a few examples to explain the causes of the housing backlog. The first example is illegal immigration. People flock across the borders of South Africa, from Africa. This puts a lot of pressure on housing.

The second example is corruption. We don't even have to discuss it. We know how many millions of rand have been lost in this country.

Furthermore, we do not have skilful people. In the Langkloof, the Misgund area, I have seen 400 houses built there being demolished to the ground. It had to be rebuilt. Thirty kilometres away there are happy residents, because there were control and supervision. It is one of the most beautiful projects I have ever seen and I wish you could come and visit it together with me.

We must remember that housing is going to be a bigger crisis in South Africa than we are currently experiencing. One of the reasons is the depopulation of the rural districts. There is no work. People flock to the cities. One of the reasons is that there is no work.

Planning is very difficult. I often talk to municipal officials. There are thousands of acres of farmland around the metros, but it takes many years to separate it and rezone it to residential property. This means that city planners cannot really plan ahead. As a result, squatters often intentionally occupy land illegally in the hope that services will be provided to them.

The President of the country said a few months ago that he would not allow land to be occupied illegally. Shortly thereafter they occupied the area between Uitenhage, Despatch and Port Elizabeth. The same thing happened between Uitenhage and the N2. Nothing is being done and the council is silent. Two weeks later, I was part of a group of people standing still, waiting, because they were burning the road. This causes polarisation.

When it comes to solving the housing problem in South Africa, we will have to wake up. What is the solution? We need to apply better control of our borders. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE SECURITY (Mr N G Kodwa): House Chair, on a point of order: Is it parliamentary to misrepresent what the President had said in this House, that people can occupy land illegally?

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): No, that is not a point of order. Can you take your seat, hon member? Continue, hon member.

Mnr P MEY: Hier in Suid-Afrika is die sakevertroue baie laag. Dit word voorspel dat daar 'n gemiddelde groei van 1% vanjaar gaan wees, maar die bevolkingsaanwas is 1,5%. Wat vertel dit vir ons? Die agterstand gaan net groter en groter word. Wat staan ons te doen? So dikwels vra ons onself af wat die regering alles moet doen, maar wat moet ons doen?

Ek is een van 11 kinders. Die 11 van ons het 21 kinders. As ons nie ook kyk na die bevolkingsaanwas van hierdie land nie, sê ek vir u dat ons op 'n ramp afstuur. Ons as inwoners van hierdie land sal mooi moet dink as ons meer as twee of drie kinders wil hê.

Ek wil afsluit. Dit is die verantwoordelikheid van elke leier in hierdie Parlement om hoop oor te dra, vertroue te hê en nie pessimisties te wees nie. Pessimisme is erger as ateïsme. Die

Vryheidsfront Plus sê dat ons hoop moet hê en moed moet hou.

Sterkte! (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.*)

[Mr P MEY: Here in South Africa, business confidence is very low. It is projected that there will be an average growth of 1% this year, but the population growth is 1,5%. What does this tell us? The backlog is only going to get bigger and bigger. What are we to do? So often we wonder what the government should do, but what should we do?

I am one of 11 children. The 11 of us have 21 children. If we do not also pay attention to the population growth of this country, I tell you that we are heading for disaster. We, as residents of this country, will have to think carefully whether we want more than two or three children.

I want to conclude. It is the responsibility of every leader in this Parliament to convey hope, have confidence and not be pessimistic. Pessimism is worse than atheism. The FF-Plus says that we must have hope and keep a stout heart. Good luck!]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION

(Ms P Tshwete): Hon House Chairperson, Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, Chairperson of the Portfolio

Committee on Human Settlements and Water and Sanitation, the MECs that are here today form various provinces, hon Members of Parliament, Director-General, Mr Mbulelo Tshangana, Chairs and CEOs of Human Settlements institutions, our sector stakeholders and hon guests, I have the honour and privilege to deliver this year's Budget Vote speech when the country is celebrating 25 years since the dawn of democracy. It is a bitter-sweet pill though, as we continue to be faced with challenges of growing numbers of unemployment especially amongst the young people.

Following the gruelling election campaign where we went door to door in all corners of the country, we were reminded of the plight of many South Africans who continue to live in squalor. This persists even though the government has delivered more than 4,7 million housing opportunities in the past 23 years, assisting more than 20 million people.

Hon Chair, we have been mandated by the electorate, the majority of whom voted for us, the ANC, to accelerate economic growth, and tackle poverty and inequality as a matter of urgency. This was reflected again in President Cyril Ramaphosa's statement on the announcement of the new national Executive for the sixth administration when he said:

We have been guided by the need to build a modern developmental state that has the means to drive economic and social transformation, to embrace innovation and to direct effort and resources towards where they will have the greater impact.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is against this background that, as we take over the baton and the responsibilities of moving South Africa forward to the creation of sustainable human settlements, we become catalysts on how we collectively plan and coordinate investment and delivery amongst the different spheres of government and departments, the private sector and the civil society, in order to unlock developmental synergy.

We will strengthen our effort to deliver houses and create poverty alleviation measures to support the SMMEs to play an active role in the human settlements value chain. Hon Chair, we have seen how building houses through the People's Housing Process, PHP self-help model works. It delivers the large number impact results in capacity-building, empowerment programmes and job creation. The department has supported the establishment of construction and nonconstruction co-operatives to deliver various services in human settlements value chain.

The PHP directorate participated in the National Upgrading Support Programme's core team meetings and contributed to the development of the new informal settlement. We are exploring the repositioning of the PHP programme to interphase with the informal settlement upgrade programme by formalising the self-help model. The modalities of this probe still have to be refined and will form part of proposals to the National Treasury for the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant funding. The need to address housing for vulnerable communities, including Military Veterans, upgrading of informal settlements and allocation of serviced sites, can increase the rate of delivery and make a huge dent in reversing the housing backlog which was caused by you, DA - now, you don't know that you caused the backlog in this country - and create jobs through the implementation of the PHP Self-Help Housing Project. A classic example of this is the successful execution of the PHP programme in the Vulindlela Rural Housing Project in KwaZulu-Natal which will deliver 25 000 housing units on completion and currently standing at more than 22 000 housing units delivered.

Siyaghuba nokuba aniboni, siyaghuba. [We are moving forward even though you do not see that; we are moving forward.]

Therefore, to commemorate the 63rd Anniversary of the Women's March to the Union Buildings against Apartheid Pass Laws and we also want to thank those women like aboMama Sisulu and Winnie Mandela - You are here because of them - who decided to go and march for pass laws. Even the houses that you are claiming today were not there and would not have been built today. Through the Department of Human Settlements Women's Build campaign, we will hand over houses built using the PHP model in Nxarhuni Village outside Mdantsane in the Eastern Cape, and participate in the construction of houses for the vulnerable at the Walmer Enhanced PHP Housing flagship project in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality which is utilising the cooperatives method in the delivery of houses, amongst others.

We will also participate in the construction of houses for women and the elderly in the Viljoenskroon. We must change this name [Laughter]. We will use the PHP project in the Free State and visit Mosselbay, George and Knysna where government is implementing PHP projects.

Hon Chairperson, as we assume responsibility, we take into consideration the strides that have been made in relation to the empowerment of women and driving the transformation agenda forward in the sector. Thus, we urge all provinces that have not

done so - MECs listen to this - to start implementing the decision of Ministers and Members of Executive Councils, MINMEC, to allocate 30% of their budget to women. We will monitor that.

The time for structured incubator and mentorship programmes linked to allocations of projects to emerging women contractors and SMMEs is now. Women have increasingly shown boldness and interest in other areas of the human settlements value chain such as green building, infrastructure development, financing, materials supply, property development and management. We are looking forward to taking this conversation to the next level of implementation when we meet with women in the build industry during the month of August in Mpumalanga, siyaqhuba. [we are moving forward.]

Ladies and gentleman, in December 2014, Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, during her address at the Youth Brigade Seminar said the reason for the gathering was to indicate to the young people that our priority in job creation in the human settlements value chain was the youth and people with disabilities. She said:

In you we look forward to harnessing the necessary energy and eagerness to get both you and the elderly out of the cycle of

poverty caused by the DA, and unemployment that has become such a worrying factor in our country.

Hon Chairperson, we are happy to inform you today that, indeed there are those young people and people with disabilities that have remained resolute and committed to the course. We will ensure that they get the necessary support and remove all the unnecessary red tape and stumbling blocks that hinder their progress going forward. [Interjections.] Caused by you!

Siyacela ke ngoko kubantu basemakhaya ukuba xa sizama ukwakha ezi zindlu singasebenzisi abantwana abancinci abaneminyaka eli-14 sibenze ukuba bahambe baye kuqhankqalazela izindlu. Abo bantwana bafanele ukuba kumagumbi okufundela ezikolweni hayi ezitalatweni. Masingasebenzisi abantwana kwimicimbi yocalucalulo nopolitiko, nibulala ikamva labantwana, yekani abantwana bafunde.

Xa ndigqibezela Sihlalo Ohloniphekileyo, ndithunukwa ngulo tata usuka apha. (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[We therefore urge our people that when we try to build these houses, they must not use 14 year-olds to protest for houses. Those children are supposed to be in classrooms at school, not

on the streets. We must not use children in discrimination and political matters; you are killing the children's future. Let them become educated.

As I conclude hon Chairperson, I am touched by the last speaker.]

It is not in my speech but ...

... ndinayo into ethi mandikhe ndiphendule. Eyokuqala into yile, imeko seyilolu hlobo nje Mphathiswa, kukuba ootata bethu babehlala ezihostele kungavunywa ukuba abafazi babo babahambe. Andithethi kuhlala mna, ndithetha ukuthi umfazi eze afike athi, bendizokubona tata, iinkomo ekhaya zifile, loo nto ibingavumelekanga. Emva ko-1994, abantu namakhosikazi bayakwazi ukuhambela abayeni babo eRhawutini. Namhlanje sixelelwa ukuba ... [Laphela ixesha.] [Kwaqhwatywa.] (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[... there is something that makes me want to respond. Firstly, the reason the situation is like this, hon Minister, is that our fathers lived in hostels and their wives were not allowed to visit them. I am not talking about the wives staying, I mean just to visit and say, I came to see you my husband, the cows

are dying at home; that was not allowed. After 1994, husbands and their wives are able to visit each other in places like Johannesburg. Today, we are told that ... [Time expired.] [Applause.]]

The HOUSHE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Before the hon Meshoe, we would like to appeal to the people at the gallery. You are supposed to listen but not actively participate in the debate.

Rev K R J MESHOE: Hon Chairperson, hon members, the challenges that are faced by the residents of Alexandra are substantial. The people of Alexandra deserve answers to what happened to the R1,4 billion of tax payer's money that was allocated for the Alexandra Renewal Project, ARP. This money was supposed to be used to develop the township and build houses for residents who are living in very unhygienic conditions. There have been allegations for a number of years that most of the R1,4 billion that has gone missing has little or nothing to show for it and nothing has been done about it. Most people who know about this ARP project are very disappointed that Treasury has not demanded full accountability for the missing funds.

The vision of the Medium-Term Strategic Framework is to realise sustainable human settlements and improve the quality of

household life. Priorities include the delivery of 110 000 new housing units by the end of this year. Hon Chairperson, unless corruption is rooted out and accountability demanded, this vision cannot be realised. Millions of our people are still living in squalid conditions in informal settlements where there are no basic services such as water and sanitation.

On 31 May, we were shocked to see the demolition of about 80 houses in Stjwetla Informal Settlement in Alexandra. Protesters reacted by throwing stones and sadly, two bonded houses were torched in the process. The Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department, JMPD, spokesperson Superintendent Wayne Minnaar later said that the demolished houses were illegally built and too close to the river. The ACDP believes that it is cruel to allow people to build houses illegally and then send the Red Ants later to demolish those houses. People must be stopped from invading illegal land in the first place because if they do not do that, people will go in there and their houses will be demolished again.

Government should subsidise and encourage self-help schemes throughout the country so that many of our people can start building their own houses. If this is not done, then informal settlements will forever be with us. The ACDP is not going to

support this budget and subsequent budgets ... [Interjections.]
... until a criminal investigation into the unaccounted for
R1,4 billion has been concluded and steps against the thieves
and all those who benefited from corruption at the expense of
the needy people of Alexandra, have been taken. Unless it is
done, the ACDP is not going support the subsequent budgets.
Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr B H HOLOMISA: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister and hon members
...

... siyavuya xa uthe waphinda wabuya, kule nto yenu yokuphuma
ningena. Umntu asebenze iinyanga ezintandathu aphinde akhutshwe.
[Kwahlekwa.] Ngoku nawe uzakuchitha ezinye iinyanga ezili-18
ucoca la monakalo kaNomvula, uphinde uhambe. (*Translation of
isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[... we are glad that you are back, especially with your
unpredictable reshuffling practice. A person works for six
months and is reshuffled. [Laughter.] Now, you are going to
spend 18 months sorting out the damage done by Nomvula, and
leave again.]

Part of the problem is that each new Minister thinks that he or she is a new broom that will sweep away all the problems, with a new style and idea of what will work. It is, however, patently clear that the lack of policy consistency and effective implementation is a big obstacle. Without continuity, performance cannot be accurately measured. As the UDM sees it, there must be a dramatic shift from crisis management to a more proactive and comprehensive approach.

We can achieve winning housing for a winning nation only through a master plan that encompasses uniform infrastructure development, which accomplishes housing projects. The UDM supports the housing budget proposal with the following, but not limited to, provisions:

Okokuqala Mphathiswa, kufuneka khe sicebise ukuba makhe kubekho le nto kuthiwa yi ... [Firstly, hon Minister, we should advise that there be this thing called ...]

... Presidential Council on Sustainable Development, where all the departments that will be dealing with infrastructure ...

... ziza kudityaniswa khona, ukuze zisoloko zilungelelanisa ngalo lonke ixesha. Nibe nayo nemaphu ezakubonakalisa xa

kusakhiwa iindlela ukuba le indlela iyaphi, izindlu zizakwakhiwa ndawoni na kule nto yokuba kusithiwa abantu mabasondele kwindawo zempangelo. Ngoku, akukho qeqesho ebantwini, abantu bakha izindlu nasecaleni kwendlela okanye ecaleni kwesiporo sikaloliwe. Sithi ke lilonke, njengomntu osuka kwiSebe laMazwe ngaMazwe neNtsebenziswano noko kudala uhamba. Uyayiqonda le ntetho ye ... (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.*)

[... will be combined, so that there is always co-ordination. You should also have a map that will show where the road is going, where the houses should be built which is in line with bringing people closer to their workplace. Now, there is no training for the people; people are building houses on the side of the road or along railway lines. We are therefore saying, as someone who comes from the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, at least you have been around for some time. You understand this statement of the ...]

... council on sustainable development. Thank You. [Applause.]

Mr M A TSEKI: Chairperson, greetings to the hon members, staff, guests and South Africa as a whole. Today, as we meet here to vote for this budget, we are indebted to the people of our beautiful land; the land in which the beauty was disorganised by

settlers. They found us peaceful and abused our philosophy of botho or ubuntu as Khoi and San, and turned our country into the violence that the United Nations declared as a crime against humanity, lest we forget.

The people of South Africa gave our glorious alliance movement further years to lead the revolution for building an egalitarian South Africa. We are determined to respond and act according to the mandate of the people, as a contract with the voters of the South. As the end of our manifesto states, and I quote:

You, the people, helped us to develop this manifesto, we must work together to effectively implement it.

In that, we are listening and hearing the people of Ratanda, the people of Seshego, the people of Herschel, ha Morena Kakudi [at King Kakudi's place] and in all corners of the land, calling loudly that we dare not fail them in leading this noble transformation agenda. Let me just make some comments on some few points from the opposition. The hon member Basson and hon Mokgotho, I think the challenge you are facing is that you are supporting the ANC, but unfortunately, you are supporting with a different form of support, which is anger.

So, you must say it clear when you support rather than being angry. For those who are not attending our portfolio committee meetings ...

Ek is jammer vir meneer Mey, omdat hy nie na ons vergaderings kom nie. [I feel sorry for Mr Mey for not attending our meetings.]

The department and the portfolio committee are in total agreement that human settlements, water and sanitation gives comfort, life and dignity to the people of the land. Our centrality of oversight is for this budget to achieve exactly that. Policy formulation ... [Interjections.]

Ms N R MASHABELA: Chairperson, I am standing on a point of order.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): What is the point of order, hon member?

Ms N R MASHABELA: I think that the hon member is misleading the House because the EFF didn't support the budget.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): What is the point of order?

Ms N R MASHABELA: The point of order is that the member is misleading the public.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): That is not the point of order.

Ms N R MASHABELA: I am saying this because we didn't support the budget.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Can you take your seat, hon member?

Ms N R MASHABELA: We won't support the ANC.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): That is not a point of order.

Ms N R MASHABELA: We are not sleeping with the ANC here. Yes, we are not.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): That is not a point of order. [Interjections.] You can continue, hon member.

Mr M A TSEKI: A re nwe metsi, mma. A re nwe metsi. [Let's drink water, Ma'am. Let's drink water.]

The policy formulation is to advance intergovernmental relations to co-ordinate the harmonisation of plans of all spheres of government. Tripartite forums that constitute government, business and civil society in all projects, will take us a long way. This will even deter the unscrupulous behavior, including the selling and buying of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, RDP, house before the eight-year term, and to clarify the notion of who is the preferential buyer of government houses.

The current studies reflect that there are informal settlements which will be upgraded soon. It is because of high level of inequality to access land, and this Parliament is engaged in the rapid land release, integrated residential development programmes, different typologies of units like rentals and subsidy deliverology that will be implemented soon.

These programmes are leading towards a bigger project of access to land through expropriation. South Africa will never be the same again. The upgrading of informal settlements means that the third and second generations will not live anymore in this kind of situation, albeit their dynamics in these formal settlement, but change will happen. Collaboration of stakeholders at all spheres of government should plan within the definition of what human settlements, water and sanitation means; that a house develops into a home with the social amenities and the grounds that government provides; and the integrated planning from the department becomes an enabler.

I think we agree with the General there in terms of integrated planning. We will make the department as enablers for human settlements to have townships to be proclaimed to have electricity, water, sanitation - nako ya ka ha e tsamaye; ha ke sa tseba hore na ke hokae [my time is not ticking; I don't know where I am] - roads, health, education, recreation and business facilities, etc. These are the prerequisites for any project to happen. If we are having a joint planning and not planning in silos, we are going to meet the requirements of defining human settlements. This is a big difference from building houses and building human settlements.

This government is investing in assets that create value. Government will also partner through its entities with other co-operatives locally and internationally with the emphasis on gender mainstreaming. We agreed with the department on considering publication of the needs register, Minister - I think this is very important - to address those people who say that they have applied for the RDP since 1994.

President, our beloved leader, we are on track to build a smart city. I, therefore, on behalf of this glorious movement, support the adoption of the budget for the R33,8 billion for 2018-19 financial years. Let me highlight some few points in relation to what the opposition has said. Mr Basson, what you said about the backlog, I think you should not free yourself from the history of this country.

As the DA, every time when you speak, you should be able to reflect on why we are in this mess. We are in this mess because you created this it. [Interjections.] In all that you have said, you are actually saying ... [Interjections.]

Ms A STEYN: Chairperson, I'm rising on a point of order.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Please hold on, hon member! What is the point of order?

Ms A STEYN: Chairperson, the hon member is mentioning Mr Basson by name as if he himself is ... [Interjections.]

Mr M A TSEKI: Meneer Basson. Ek het gesê, meneer Basson. [Mister Basson. I said, Mister Basson.]

Ms A STEYN: No, he cannot cast aspersions on the member.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Hon members.

Mr M A TSEKI: Meneer and Mister mean one thing.

Kapa o batla ke re Monghadi? [Or you want me to say Mister?]

Ms A STEYN: You can't cast aspersions.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Hon Tseki, let me intervene on your behalf. I think the order is not sustained. Please, carry on!

AN HON MEMBER: Why?

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Meneer was said, and meneer is honourable. [Interjections.]

Mr M S MABIKA: Chairperson ... [Interjections.]

Ms A STEYN: Chairperson ... [Interjections.]

Mr M A TSEKI: I must encourage that ... [Interjections.]

Mr M S MABIKA: Chairperson ...

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Can you take your seat, hon member?

Mnu M S MABIKA: Ngicela ukuhlola ukuthi ngabe umhlonishwa angawuthatha yini umbuzo?

USIHLALO WESIKHASHANA (Mnu F D Xasa): Ungawuthatha yini umbuzo lungu elihloniphekile?

Mnu M A TSEKI: Angikwazi ukuwuthatha umbuzo mhlonishwa.

Ngizawuthatha ngesikhathi esizayo. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.*)

[Mr M S MABIKA: May I ask if the hon member will take a question?

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Are you going to take a question, hon member?

Mr M A TSEKI: I'm not going to take a question, hon member. I will take it next time.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Next time.

Ms A STEYN: I am sorry, Chairperson.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Yes.

Ms A STEYN: It is not about calling him meneer or honourable, it's about casting aspersions on Mr Basson that he was responsible for the trouble as the person. That is the point that I'm making, Chair.

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Hon member, can you please take your seat? That is not a point of order. Continue, hon Tseki.

Mr M A TSEKI: That means you guys are excited. Oh, sorry, let me not go there. Minister and Chairperson ... [Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Hon member, can you please take your seat?

Mr M A TSEKI: I just want to withdraw what I said, when I said, you guys. I withdraw that part. [Interjections.]

AN HON MEMBER: Thank you for taking the responsibility.

Mr M A TSEKI: I was saying, members on my left are getting excited and that reflects on the truth of what I have said. The last point I want to say is that, for those hon members who are not attending ... [Interjections.]

The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Mr F D Xasa): Order, hon members! We must not drown the speaker, please.

Mr M A TSEKI: ... for those hon members who are not attending our portfolio committee meeting, they will continue to come to this platform and say things that were not discussed in the meeting. So, don't remote our discussion. You must be part of

the discussion and attend the meeting of the portfolio committee. On that note, Chair ...

... ha khensa swinene [... thank you very much.]

Pula!

MALOKO A PALAMENTE: A e ne! (*Translation of Setswana sentences follows.*)

[Mr M A TSEKI: I thank you!]

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT: Thank you!]

Mr S N AUGUST: Hon Chairperson, now is the time to put back the human into Human Settlements. The conditions in which poor people live is the truest measure of the health of any society. In order to accurately appraise these conditions, it is important to consider context and honestly acknowledge that which is good, bad and ugly.

South Africa can be very proud of the number of fully-subsidised homes built to accommodate poorer families over the past 25 years. I'm not sure if any other country on earth can boast

having given away 2,5 million plumbed-and-piped brick-and-mortar homes in this period. Few can disagree that this is good service delivery. [Applause.]

The quality of the construction work has sometimes been poor; and the numbers indicate that delivery of new homes has slowed down over the past 10 years. It is clear delivery is not keeping pace with demand, and so, that's bad. That we have built all these homes without unstitching apartheid spatial planning, perpetuating the Group Areas Act model that reserved the best land for white people while consigning black people to the peripheries of our towns and cities is shameful and ugly.

[Applause.] Where people live matters!

Hon Chairperson, Minister Sisulu has set ambitious targets for the department, which include committing to end the indignity of the bucket toilet system within six months. GOOD will monitor these targets and hold the Minister to account. Hon Minister, South Africa wants to champion your vision as we keep our fingers on the pulse of good service delivery to ensure we fix South Africa. This is critical considering your department's budget should be well-used and not misused.

The Minister has returned to a department she knows intimately. She has another opportunity to begin to reshape our towns and cities, to continue providing families with comfort and security at home, and title deeds that can afford them access to economic security. With another opportunity to address the relationship between space and race, I am painfully reminded how our people were dumped between bridges and highways that still separate us by race today. We must build more quality homes a lot faster. And we must address urban sprawl, spatial division and injustice by filling in the empty spaces and integrating our people.

There is only one way to fix South Africa. As a good starting point, use all public land for public good. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr M NYHONTSO: Chairperson, the approach should be informed by the position of the PAC of 'one family, one plot'. As far as PAC is concerned, it is the size of the plot and the allocation process now. People are crying out loud for land to build decent homes and move out of shacks. Instead, you want to put money into confining them into indignity of being landless shack dwellers, who as a result, end up being victims of crime on a daily basis.

The African masses are tired of hearing fairy tales and lullabies, and how much money will be wasted without changing their daily realities. They want decent homes, Minister. They want crime-free environments. Take the land Minister, don't repossess unused land. Repossess land.

Aba belungu bawuba lo mhlaba kwaye bawuxutha. [These white people stole and took this land by force.]

Repossess and restore the land to its owners. We are the owners of this land.

Ngokuya nanisiya emzabalazweni nanisithi niyokwenzani xa ngoku niza kufuna umhlaba ongasetyenziswayo? Nanisiyaphi? Kaloku lo ungasetyenziswayo ubukade ukhona kakade, sifuna lo bakuwo ngoku. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)*

[When you embarked on the struggle, what did you say you would do when you now want to take unused land? Where were you going because the unused land was always there? We want the land that they are occupying now.]

Take the land and restore the land to the African people. This land belongs to us. Build homes for military veterans Minister, regardless of political affiliation. True veterans...

... zihlala ematyotyombeni babe abantwana behlala ezindlwini besithi bangamaggala. [... stay in the informal settlements while children are staying in formal houses and they call themselves veterans.]

That must change, Minister. The PAC rejects this budget.

[Interjections.]

Mr M G E HENDRICKS: Hon Chair, we want to tell the Minister, stop giving money to provinces and municipalities, and spend it yourself. Al Jama-ah welcomes the do-it-yourself houses and looks forward to it. Gentrification, hon Minister, must be on your radar, as developers destroy communities, which is the new apartheid. Hon Chair, it is good to have the Minister back but the R2,2 billion drop in the budget is sad but Al Jama-ah is sure the quality of leadership will make up for this.

We cannot wait for the Minister to expropriate land stolen from the people in the Western Cape. Minister, you have now given

hope to the people of the Cape Flats and Philippe, which has been the Cinderella of every government since 1948.

On another note, Minister, start budgeting for the cyber civilisation that the country needs. Don't forget rural areas such as KwaDumayo and Umgai. Electrify them from your R14 million budget. The R647 million for disaster recovery in KwaZulu-Natal is a start - not enough. Please roll it out to Umdoni and Umzumbe in the Ugu district where we have councillors. The African child must not live in sewerage, eat in sewerage and learn in sewerage. So, we call on the Ministries to implement the National Environmental Management Act in informal settlements and to jail officials of municipalities hell-bent on harming the dignity of the African child.

Human Settlements Development Bank must provide interest-free loans. I agree with the Minister that it must go to women as they are good payers. The research I picked up in Indonesia was that 99% of 5 million women pay back their loans, which are interest-free. I saw the joy on their faces and I would like to see the joy on the faces of women in our own country.

Minister, at the beginning we said, please stop giving money to provinces and municipalities. You mentioned that you give them

money and they don't spend it. They are afraid of what Al Jama-ah calls, black creeps in the previously-advantaged areas. In Masiphumelele, for example, near the Simon's Town Naval Base, you find that every attempt is made to prevent black creep. There is land available. Minister, please unleash the land. Thank you very much. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Ms G K TSEKE: Good afternoon, hon members, Minister, Deputy Minister, and the Human Settlements family.

Re le mokgatlho o busang wa ANC, re rata go leboga setšhaba sotlhe se se tsereng karolo mo ditlhopong tsa ngwaga o. Re a ikana gore re tla tokafatsa matshelo a lona go ya ka lenaneo tlhomo la ANC. Ebile re a netefatsa re le maloko a ntlokgolo ya bosetšhaba, gore re tla tswela pele ka go bona gore Lefapha la Kago ya Matlo le Diterelo le tlisa diterelo tse di maleba go batho ba Afrika borwa, bogolo setona ba ba dikobo dikhutshwane, re lebeletse thata bomme le batho ba ba nang le bogole.

(Translation of Setswana paragraph follows.)

[As the ANC ruling party, we would like to thank all the people who voted this year. We commit ourselves that we will better their lives as per the ANC programme. As members of the National Assembly, we hereby confirm that we will continue to make sure

that the Department of Human Settlements will provide services that are relevant to the people of South Africa, especially the poor, focusing on women and people with disabilities.]

Hon House Chairperson, as outlined in the Strategy and Tactics document of the ANC, we will act as agents of change in the centres of power that we are deployed in, be it in the state, the economy, mass organisation and international work. We will exercise our leadership not by decree or through arrogance, but in terms of the logic acumen and from the exemplary conduct. Honesty, hard work, humility and respect will be displayed to our people at all times.

As the Minister said when she was handing over title deeds in Cornubia last week, the ANC will also fast-track the issuing of title deeds to housing beneficiaries, further strengthening the partnership with private sector in the development which has resulted in the creation of the inclusive modern settlement made of decent housing units, malls, industrial factories, retail parks and office spaces for various businesses.

Minister, we welcome these initiatives and we pledge our support for the next coming five years, and we will make sure that we conduct our oversight as the members of this House. Hon members,

it is for this reason too, that as the ANC, we support this Budget Vote so that we can implement clause 9 of the Freedom Charter which says:

All people shall have the right to live where they choose, to be decently housed and to bring up their families in comfort and security.

Hon members, before 1994, as the Minister has confirmed, 5 million people were living in 1,5 million self-constructed informal dwellings and since we took power in 1994, we have built more than 4 million houses. I think that this is a good story to tell. [Applause.] We have also created institutional mechanisms to facilitate housing deliver, for example, the National Housing Finance Corporation, Social Housing Regulatory Authority, Housing Development Agency, and the National Home Builder's Regulatory Council.

We have adopted the Breaking New Ground Policy to build integrated community which has made an impact in most of our areas. Today, we can tell a good story about the N2 Gateway Housing Project in the Western Cape; in Cosmo City, in Gauteng, Aloe Ridge Social Housing Project in Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal; uMhlathuze catalytic project which is in KwaZulu-

Natal, and the Bridge City integrated city which is also in KwaZulu-Natal in Durban.

Hon Chair, we also support the R1,2 billion of the budget allocated to Human Settlements entities and we will continuously hold them accountable to see if the money allocated is spent wisely and productively. The establishment of a Human Settlements Development Bank will also assist in the delivery of houses.

In his state of the nation address, His Excellency, President Ramaphosa said:

If the South African government is to effectively address the substantial housing backlog, models of financing Human Settlement needed to be developed. The Human Settlements Development Bank will leverage both public and private sector financing to aid housing delivery, and it will assist in expanding the people's housing programme, where households are allocated serviced stands to build their own houses, either individually or through community-led cooperatives.

We support the capital and operational funding allocated to this Development Bank for the administration and management of the

finance-linked subsidy programme and the housing subsidy, which of course, will assist first-time home buyers with purchasing a home.

Hon members, the National Home Builders Registration Councils' mandate is to protect the interest of housing consumers and to ensure that builders comply with the prescribed building industry standards. Its aim is to assist and protect housing consumers from any unscrupulous home builders who deliver substandard houses, bad workmanship, and poor-quality material, no matter the size or value of your home-building project.

Hon members, we will put this entity as one of our priorities in our agenda as we continue to experience defaults in many of the houses across the country. We urge them to clean up the inspection and crack down on allegations of inspectors committing fraud and other malpractices. The Social Housing Regulatory Authority has also failed over a period of time to utilise the grants allocated to them, resulting in poor performance in the implementation of its mandate. We will strengthen our oversight as the portfolio committee in this regard too.

The Community Schemes Ombud Service must also improve in terms of its revenue management system. And, the Housing Development Agency also has some challenges of not utilising the grant allocated to them which resulted in returning the unspent money to the National Treasury.

Overall Minister, governance of the entities has been weakened as reported in the media. The boards are accountable to you. Call them to assist and apply sound governance or they must simply resign and step aside so that you can appoint competent and focused people who will have the interests of our people at heart. [Applause.]

Human Settlements entities are important and critical for our delivery machinery. They are our special-purpose vehicles on service delivery and we expect to live up to the mandate they are created to fulfil. The entities must fully align their performance plans with that of the department. Anything less than that should be seen as treason and betrayal of the mandate given to, by the ANC.

In conclusion, hon members, Gaston Bachelard said:

The house shelters daydreaming, the house protects the dreamer, the house allows one to dream in peace.

The ANC supports Budget Vote 38 of the Department of Human Settlements. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Hon House Chair, Ministers and Deputy Ministers, colleagues and guests in the gallery, the NFP welcomes the report tabled here today. We acknowledge that this department has over the last 25 years put in place policies, strategies, etc. to deal with the issue of housing in South Africa.

That it is the mandate it gets in terms of the Constitution. I want to plead with the Minister while she is here. Minister, I will urge you to spend just one night, just one night in one of this Reconstruction and Development Programme, RDP, houses in winter. Just spend a few hours at night and look at what life is for our people in these homes that we build for them. That is why I don't call them homes but call them houses. I feel that there is a difference between a house and a home. They are substandard, of poor quality, lack proper sanitation and water, and this is the life of our people 25 years into democracy.

Don't misinterpret what I'm saying. I'm not saying no good work has been done. Yes, indeed, millions of our people have been provided houses by the ANC, the DA, the IFP and the NFP wherever they govern. Let us be honest about it. We build houses but 25 years later millions of our people remain homeless. Many of them die while on the waiting lists for a home and they couldn't get one. And the question is: Why? What haven't we been doing correctly?

The NFP has been repeatedly calling for a change in the model and I'm glad that in the state of the nation address in February, the President announced a Human Settlements Development Bank.

We don't believe that is enough because it is not only government's responsibility to provide funding. That is why we said, Minister, provide adequate fully-serviced sites to the people, create this development bank and not only through the state but also to outside investment so that they can all participate in providing houses and also creating a lot of jobs. Then, the entire economy is going to be driven by this and a lot of people will get houses a lot sooner than they are getting right now.

If you look at the current situation in South Africa, even the number of the homeless is growing. What we are not taking into consideration while we are building houses is the increase in population which is increasing by 800 000, which is almost a million a year. If you don't take that into consideration, it means the challenge of housing in South Africa is going to remain.

I want to urge the department ... and one of the major problems we have with all the departments is that departments are not adequately functioning in the interest of servicing the people, and with such a large proportion of our budget going to compensation of employees. It is time to fire those people who cannot perform. The NFP will support this Budget Vote on the basis that we will go forward in providing decent housing to our people. Thank you very much.

Ms E L POWELL: Chairperson, on 11 March 2017, while working in local government, I awoke to a frantic call informing me that a devastating fire had broken out in Hout Bay and was ripping through the informal settlement of Imizamo Yethu.

I arrived 20 minutes later to scenes that I can only describe as tragedy. Helicopters rounded the mountains in dangerous winds

while firefighters traversed the steep terrain trying to extinguish the fire where the winds were spreading it west.

As we navigated our way up through the settlement to meet officials, we were passed by men and women hurrying down the mountain to safety, carrying on their backs their last remaining possessions - mattresses, couches, suitcases of clothes - stealing their resolve to get down that hill and away from the fire that had already swallowed whole their homes. Children, some dazed, lost and confused, screaming hysterically as they ran after their terrified mothers barefoot.

And as we approached the top of the settlement where the fire had first started, the acrid smell of burning bodies permeated the soot-filled sky. Three people died that day; over 2000 homes of some of our nation's poorest people were destroyed; and 10 000 people were displaced. The hon Minister Sisulu will remember that fire well because she visited the recovery operation once, in coming days. It was of course the last visit we had also from the Ministry.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: On a point of order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member at the podium, take your seat, please. Hon Powell, would you just sit down, please. Why are you rising, hon member?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: House Chairperson, it is parliamentary convention that when a member makes a maiden speech, that they are not heckled and howled at like the hon member at the back there is doing. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members, it is a parliamentary tradition and convention that we do that, unless of course the member is provocative. But let us respect the member at the podium and also not allow for running commentary, right? We don't allow it in the National Assembly, running commentary on speeches. Hon Powell, please continue!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: On a point of order, hon House Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Why are you rising, hon member?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: You were not here and the member was sitting there and she was very provocative herself. So, it seems as if she is not making her maiden speech.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member. The hon member is delivering her maiden speech. Continue, hon member.

Ms E L POWELL: Informal settlement fires are not unique to Cape Town and its strong headwinds. For the 2017 municipal reporting period, 5 283 informal dwelling fires were recorded across South Africa. The value of this loss carried by already cash-strapped municipalities equated to more than R179 million.

Chairperson, no one should have to live in an informal dwelling with the constant threat of losing their home to fire. Sadly, according to National Treasury, more than 13% of South Africans live in informal homes. Rapid urbanisation is making it increasingly difficult to address existing backlogs, let alone respond to new demands.

The vast majority of municipalities do not even have inventories of their informal settlements, which makes understanding the magnitude of informality almost impossible. There is something

fundamentally wrong with a system in which millions of people do not have their most fundamental need for basic shelters met because the state and the economy have failed them.

Chair, it is abundantly clear that the problems with the current approach to housing are numerous. South Africa's housing allocation system is unable to cope with the complexity of migration across provinces, and the outstanding backlog on the housing database is rousing an ever-increasing tide of frustration, resulting in violent riots across our country.

The informal sale of RDP houses means that desperate South Africans are selling their homes on the informal market to fund their basic living costs, and then again end up living in back yards or zinc structures built on inhabitable land such as wetlands and flood basins prone to fire and flooding.

The ANC's commitment to political expediency and populism has meant that calls by desperate municipalities for legislative amendments to the prevention of Illegal Evictions Act have been ignored, resulting in Greenfield sites obtained for development being illegally invaded before even basic earthworks can be completed, and once more, perpetuating the cycle of informality.

The sluggish pace of land reform, combined with whole-scale government corruption has meant that land intended for development has not been forthcoming. And in response to the slow pace of reform, our ruling elite has sought to obscure their failures with populist calls for expropriation of land without compensation.

In the face of this ever-shifting landscape, our national legislation on the issue of housing remains archaic, expensive, and frankly, the most fundamental hindrance to executing real and lasting change.

And juxtaposing this crisis in bitter irony is an air that has for years been thick with promises of reform – the National Development Plan, NDP, the Breaking New Ground Programme, Thuma Mina – the so-called New Dawn – but on the ground we are yet to see those reforms materialise into genuine change.

Instead, the country's leaders have the audacity to stand at this very podium and make lofty statements about great dreams of smart cities and bullet trains while the people of our land languish in the dust of our leader's apathy.

Hon members, we, as legislators, sit in this House entrusted with the last remaining rubble of our nation's hope.

[Interjections.]

Mr B A RADEBE: Chairperson, on a point of order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): What is the point of order?

Mr B A RADEBE: Can you see the member?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): What is the point of order?

Mr B A RADEBE: She is supposed to be presenting a maiden speech. She cannot be offensive.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, that is why I'm allowing the members to interject and to respond to what she says. Let me chair the session. Thank you. Continue, hon member.

Ms E L POWELL: Hon members, we, as legislators, sit in this House entrusted with the last remaining rubble of our nation's hope, and we are charged with seeking out honest and evidence-

based solutions that will finally turn the tides on the poverty of our people.

The DA will not stand by in silence and watch our great nation reduced to a begging bowl of informality. [Applause.] As a result of the need for change, it is the DA that has worked most studiously to develop an innovative housing policy.

The DA recognises that after years of corruption, the state resources to give every family a house simply do not exist. The department needs to move away from building free-standing structures and instead build compact, environmentally-friendly developments close to economic opportunities, using the latest building methodologies the open market can offer.

Under a DA housing policy, National Treasury would implement tighter regulations on the expenditure of the Urban Settlements Development Grant to ensure that this money is actually used to alleviate the housing backlog.

A DA housing policy would provide vouchers to qualifying beneficiaries, allowing them to build their own homes on government-provided service sites, and social housing units in mixed income developments would be made available by leveraging

bulk rights to ensure developers add at least 25% additional low-cost units onto all new developments.

Chair, what is clear is that the DA has already developed solutions to address the housing crisis. [Interjections.] If only the ANC could look past their cheap political expediency and invoke their imaginations to envisage a different way doing things, then we may begin to see the incredible power that good policy can wield in the lives of desperate South Africans. In finding these solutions, we must remember that the decisions we take today will shape tomorrow's future.

I urge the leaders in this House to urgently seek innovative ways of bringing about change, instead of seeking innovative ways to pocket it.

The clock is ticking and its five minutes to midnight. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M R MASHEGO: Chairperson, the last I heard of the surname Powell was in KwaZulu-Natal, an IFP person. I am just reminding you. [Interjections.]

AN HON MEMBER: What's your point?

Mr M R MASHEGO: Minister, Chairperson, Chief Whips and Deputy Chief Whips ... Minister, we are happy that you are committed to ending the difficulties of the service delivery in housing but also that, in doing so, you are still going to give houses to people whilst you are doing your work. Already, you have started to identify areas where these houses are going to be built speedily in provinces that you have already mentioned. You also have said that the triple Ps shall be used to fast-track the processes thereof.

We must just warn you, however, Minister, that for instance, over the weekend I was in Ekurhuleni and the Ekurhuleni municipality has committed to give houses to the people of Ekurhuleni.

There are people with some colours who are in here, and who definitely do not want to allow that process to continue, simply because they either have sold the land or they have already occupied the stands and the houses we want to give, deliberately. It is for that reason you will hear them debating here that you demolish people's houses when it is illegal houses built on illegal land. I think we really need to continue demolishing houses that are built wrongfully and arrest those who are building those particular houses.

Minister, I think the House must not forget that in the world there is only one party in government, the ANC, that could have built 1 million and more houses within a very short space of time. [Applause.] And of course, the fact that we have identified 3 million people who are still outstanding, is a good sign that we are going to work towards eradicating that particular homelessness in your area.

However, you must also understand that people are moving in droves into the cities and populating the structure, makes it difficult for you. The fact that you want to bring back the People's Housing Process, PHPs, which is going to give us 'the help me to build a house' is going to be very important, more especially because there is a Human Settlements Development Bank that you are proposing must now be restarted. It will give credence to this issue.

Chairperson, I think we must try to help those whose memories are short.

Mnr Mey, ek dink jy was hier gedurende die tyd toe die meerderheid van Suid-Afrika se mense nie toegelaat was om huise te hê nie, en jy het toe niks daarvan gesê nie. Vandag gee ons huise vir elke mens in Suid-Afrika. Dit maak nie saak of hulle

wit, swart, geel of blou is nie. Maar jy het 'n probleem daarmee. Ek kan dit nie verstaan nie. (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follow.*)

[Mr Mey, I think you were here during the time when the majority of the people of South Africa were not allowed to have homes, and you said nothing about it then. Today, we provide homes for every person in South Africa. It does not matter if they are white, black, yellow or blue. But you have a problem with that. I cannot understand that.]

Minister, it is our view that you agree with the ANC that indeed housing symbolises dignity, security of tenure, financial security and safety, and comfort to our people. It is a good thing that even the DA, in their own words, confirm that housing is not necessarily a benefit but a right, and in your words you said that right must never be taken away from anybody. We must give houses to everybody, as you have already said.

[Interjections.]

AN HON MEMBER: Thank you for learning.

Mr M R MASHEGO: You are copying from original and you make original yours when you are a fake. We also do know, Minister,

of the issue of the backlog on the title deeds. We want to believe that the Medium-Term Strategic Framework, MTSF, and the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation will deliver houses speedily to bring about that dignity to our own people.

Accelerate the eradication of backlog on title deeds. You have said in your statement that you are going to have a process of bringing back those particular title deeds every Friday. We believe that it must not only be on Fridays. If there is time, please do that even on Saturdays and Sundays.

We know that, at some point, the Title Deed Restoration Grant was given R518,6 million and today it is given R547,7 million in the 2019-20 financial year. We will be looking with keen interest - as the ANC - Minister, to see if there's no spending of this particular money. The R547,7 million must be spent, and title deeds must be given to people. We believe the Friday approach on the title deeds will help to do that.

We also know at some point there was a programme called 'One Learner, One Estate Agency' Youth Empowerment Brigade Programme. That programme brought about knowledge and understanding to the students to understand the real estate and its implications. But

we know that, at some point, the programme was not funded. We are asking that it be brought back and funded because, besides creating small jobs, it also created knowledge which we might need from young people in the long run.

Chair, it is our view that, unless we do that, we will have the difficulty of complementing the fact that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, both black and white. Therefore, as the ANC, we want to support this particular Budget Vote.

We must also say that it is not true that in the committee there was a party that did not support the Budget Vote. There was unity of support in the committee. So, those who are saying they did not support were not in the meeting. We must appreciate and forgive them. But the fact is that all of us who are members of that committee have adopted the budget, and for that reason, I want to support those who have already moved and seconded that we support this Budget Vote. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION: Hon Chair, oh my God, how did it come to five minutes?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): That's five minutes, Minister.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION: I would like to thank all of those who have supported the Budget Vote. I would like to thank, in particular, the ANC members who stood here and debated on this matter. As they stood here and talked I could see that these are people who come from a party that is steeped in understanding what it is that they come to Parliament for. [Applause.] You could learn from them and what they were saying. You could see they had read up on what they were saying. They were not just here to howl and demean and all of those things.

Thank you very much to the hon members. I want to thank also in particular to the chair for giving excellent direction to the committee. And I want to say, at this point, that I am glad that we have brought together the two Departments of Human Settlements and Water and Sanitation because it makes our work in human settlements so much easier. A great number of our projects have been blocked in the past while we waited for water licenses. Now, we will have one streamlined delivery and we will be able to deliver better.

At this point, I would like to recognise the presence of the Deputy Minister Mahlobo here for Water and Sanitation purposes. Thank you.

The Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, you do me proud. You have covered most of what I wanted to say and I would not go over that, especially in relation to responding to hon Basson. Yes, millions of our people are living in appalling conditions, and that is the backlog we inherited from apartheid. Where else did you think we found it? And we are building every to make life better for our people. Do you know where most of the other people come from? They are evicted by farmers in the Western Cape - your people - on a daily basis, and this must stop. [Interjections.] Yes, it must stop!

Then we have members of the DA coming here to say they have best practice. That is absolute rubbish! Let me tell you. When we run this province, we delivered 16 700 houses per year. The DA came in and you know what, they deliver a shameful 7 400. What is there to teach us? [Interjections.] This is ... This is not true. This is statistically proven, go and look at it. Yes, go and check it.

I would like to say to the EFF, it is unfortunate that you desist from supporting this Budget Vote because deep inside you know that you support every step of what we are doing. Every step of what we are doing. [Applause.] Simply just to be different and whatever it is, you decide that you are going to

blame someone else and absolve yourself. However, I do know that the message fell on very fertile ground and this Budget Vote will go through with your support at some point.

I would like to say to the IFP that we are very concerned about the rural areas and rural towns and we are dealing with this. It is in our policy, and please read it. We have been at this policy for a very long time. The reason why we have won international awards is precisely because it is world's best practice.

I want to indicate to the member that we are very concerned about the IFP constituency that lives in our hostels. We built hostels; we renovated hostels and they refused to move from the original hostels. If you come along and persuade them, we will move them into descent accommodation so that when you come here next time, you will not be grumbling about that. [Applause.]

The FF-Plus member says that he was a policeman and it confirms my worst fears. Once a policeman, always a policeman.

[Interjections.] Even in the way of thinking, he can't get over to becoming a politician. [Interjections.] And again, please assist us with making sure you can police your farmers from

throwing out our people from their land and evicting them.

[Applause.]

Hon Meshoe, thank you for reminding us about the levels of poverty. This is what we are dealing with every day. I don't know, apart from praying, what it is that you are doing and your party. [Interjections.] We are solving the problem of Alexander renewal and the allegation of missing billions is something that we are concerned about. Perhaps, hon Meshoe, you can approach the IFP to put this matter to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Scopa, so that we can get to the bottom of this. We are also very much in agreement with you on this.

The UDM's hon Mgebe, I am here now but he is not here. Okay, I would like him to ... [Interjections.]

Mr B H HOLOMISA: Ndilapha, ndikhona, ndiyakubona. [Kwahlekwa.]

[Here I am. I'm present. I can see you. [Laughter.]]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Minster, your time has expired.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION: Thank you to all of you for supporting this Budget Vote and Mgebe you

can now move over to the ANC; that is how close you are today.

Thank you very much. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members, you are reminded of the following debates at 4:30 this afternoon:

Transport Budget Vote debate in the NA, Science and Technology Budget Vote debate in the Old Assembly, and Statistics SA Budget Vote debate in Committee Room E249.

That concludes the debate and the business of this mini-plenary.

The mini-plenary will now rise.

The mini-plenary rose at 16:11.