

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 1

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Delegates assembled in the Cape Town International Convention Centre at 10:05.

The Usher announced the hon Chief Justice of South Africa, Justice Raymond Mnyamezile Mlungisi Zondo, who was received by members standing.

The Chief Justice took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): I will now request the rendition of the National Anthem by the parliamentary choir.

BLESSING OF THE HOUSE

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 2

I will now request the religious leaders to bless the House. You may be seated. Each of the religious leaders who will bless the House should take not more than one and a half minutes. They will confer their blessing in the following order: Dr Bishop Templeton Mbekwa, from the Pentecostal Church; the Rev Rodney Whiteman, from the Western Cape Provincial Council of Churches; and Mr Kirtibhai Pandya, from the Hindu faith. Thank you.

Dr BISHOP T MBEKWA: Let us all stand, close our eyes and pray together. Heavenly Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we come before your throne this morning. We want to say thank you for our country. Thank you for this Parliament. We dedicate this House unto you. We trust, Almighty God, that all the proceedings, every utterance and every discussion will be from you. Father God, we are here to bless the Seventh Parliament, and the first sitting of this House. Father God, we bless the Chief Justice who will be Chair the proceedings and the elections. We dedicate those who will be elected unto you in advance.

Father God, we challenge each and every political leader that is in this House to call upon your name so that you can answer

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 3

and honour them. Through these leaders South Africa will be blessed. We challenge them to acknowledge that you are the sovereign God, you are the true omnipotent, you are the true omniscient and you are the true omnipresent. Lord, we dedicate South Africa and the people of South Africa to you - wherever they are and in every corner - and we bless them in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Before the next spiritual leader comes to the podium, allow me to inform you that I am told that there are two further spiritual leaders who will bless the House, and they are Sakwiti Njobe, African Traditional and Sheikh Riad Fataar, from the Muslim Judicial Council.

Rev RODNEY WHITEMAN: We continue with our prayers. O God of the bright sky and of the simmering dark shine your holy presence on our nation and our leaders. Our nation has walked for a time in the light of democracy and hope of a better life. However, some are still plagued by the darkness of poverty, crime infestation, lack of proper housing, health service and other social dynamics.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 4

The future for many young people looks dim. May all called to govern give us credible leadership that is people-focused and instill, through servant leadership, confidence in our citizens that they will be heard, that their vote will be respected, and that our democracy will improve the quality of their lives. Free the potential of each citizen to be navigated to fields of employment and development, so that South Africa will truly become united and transformatively democratic. May the Chambers of governance be rooms of critical debating, vigorous discussion and despite disagreement find consensus for the common good. In the name of Jesus, who came to restore life and creation, I pray. Amen.

Sanskrit:

Mr KIRTIBHAI PANDYA:

Om

Om

Om

Om bhur bhuvah svah

Tat savitur varenyam

Bhargo devasya dhimahi

Dhiyo yonah prachodayat

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 5

Om

Sam gacchadhvam sam vadadhvam sam vo manamsi janatam

Deva bhagam yatha purve sanjanana upasate

Let all assemble together! Let all speak together! Let all minds be in harmony! Let the proceedings be preceded by the spirit of this verse.

This place is common to us.

These thoughts are common to us.

Let our hearts be shared.

Let all thoughts, minds and hearts be united.

So that all may enjoy peace and contentment.

O Almighty Parmeshwar

God

Maalik [Lord]

Grant all kinds of blessings on this very beautiful rainbow nation, South Africa.

Sarve bhavantu sukhinah

Sarve santu nirāmayāh

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 6

Sarve bhadraṇi paśyantū

Mā kaścidduḥ khabhāgbhaveta

Om shaanti, shaanti, shaanti

Let truth, love and compassion, peace and non-violence always reign here and over the whole world.

Thank you.

Satya, prem, karuna

IsiXhosa:

Mr S NJOBE (INKOKHELI YEZENKOLO): Masicamagushe.

Ndiyacamagusha kwizihlwele ngokubanzi. Ndiyacamagusha kumathambo amhlophe alele ukuthula. Ndicamagusha kuni ngokusiphahla side size kufika kwezi sakhiwo size kubumba urhulumente wamaphondo. Shukumani manyange oMz'ontsundu kuba namhlanje isizwe similisela isiskhokelo esitsha samaphondo.

Buyani emiqolombeni, emaweni, emilanjani, engetheni naselwagcwabeni nize kunika umkhombandlela. Thobani iintsikelelo nobulumko khon'ukuze ilizwe liqingqe libheke

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 7

phambili. Ndiyacamagusha ndinqula ndisithi, mabubhange ubumnyama kubechosi kubehele. Camagwini.

Arabic:

SHEIKH RIAD FATAAR: Bismillaahir Rahmanir Raheem

Alhamdu lillahi Rabbil 'aalameen

Was salaatu was salaamu alla ashrafil mursaleen

Sayyadina was nabiyyinna wa maulana Mohamed wa alla alihi wa sahbihi ajmaeen.

Allahumma aslih lana fi deenina alladhi huwa ismatu amrina

Wa aslih lana fi dunyayana allati fiha ma'ashina

Wa aslih lana fi akhiratina allati illaiha ma'aduna

O God Almighty, improve for us our religion, which is our protection.

Improve our world, which is our livelihood.

Improve our Hereafter, which is our return.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 8

Allahummaj'al hathal ballad aminnan mutama'in nan warzuq
ahlahu minath thamaraat.

Allahummaj'al hathal ballad aminnan mutama'in saghha'an
raghha'an.

O God Almighty, make our country safe and reassured, and
provide its people with the fruits

O God, make this country safe and reassured with generosity
and prosperity

Allahuma man araada binna sharran fa'ajghilhum fi nafsihi
Wa radda qaidahu fi nahrihi.

Allahuma laa tuaakhizana bima fa'lasufaha minna

O God, whoever intends evil against us, distract them within
themselves

And turn their plot away

O God, do not hold us accountable for what the foolish amongst
us did in the past.

Rabbana aatina fid dunya hasana wa fil aakhirati hasana waqina
adhaban-nar.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 9

Our Lord, grant us good in this world and in the Hereafter,
and protect us from the torment of the Fire.

Wa aakhiru dawana anilhamdullilah hi rabbil alameen

Wa alai kum salaam wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu.

RULES OF THE MEETING

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): This meeting is convened in terms of section 64(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The permanent delegates will be requested to swear or affirm faithfulness to the Republic of South Africa and obedience to the Constitution in terms of section 62(6). We will now proceed to the swearing in of permanent delegates to the NCOP. Your names will be called per province, thereafter, you will approach the Table and form a line. Those who are taking the oath will repeat after me, followed by those who are taking affirmation.

Once sworn in, delegates will take their seats to allow the next provincial delegation to approach the Table. Delegates

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 10

will be requested to sign the two copies of their certificates in the space provided for their signature and leave them on their tables. I now request the Returning Officer and the assistant Returning Officers to call names per province.

Let me first announce the contents of the oath or affirmation that will be taken by those who are about to take the Oath or Affirmation now, so that the public understands exactly what they commit themselves to. It reads; I ... (they will say their names and in the case of an oath) swear that I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties in terms of the Rules for the election of President of ...

No, this is wrong. This is not the right one ... [Laughter.] ... Is it this one? Just check it properly. No, I am sorry. I nearly made you do what you are not supposed to do ... [Laughter.] ... They will get me the Constitution so that we make sure that you take the right oath and affirmation. So, I will suspend the proceedings for now.

Proceedings temporarily suspended.

Proceedings resumed.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 11

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CONTENTS OF THE OATH OR AFFIRMATION

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): The oath or affirmation that is applicable is provided for in item 4(1) of Schedule 2 to the Constitution. It says, oath or solemn affirmation of Members of the National Assembly, permanent delegates to the NCOP and members of the provincial legislatures, and of course, this is permanent delegates to the NCOP. Item 4(1) says permanent delegates of the NCOP must before the Chief Justice or the judge designated by the Chief Justice swear or affirm as follows: I will read the oath or affirmation so that the public knows what those who are taking the oath or affirmation commit themselves to. I reads; I ... (then it will be the name of the person ... swear ... that is in case of an oath ... solemnly affirm ... in the case of an affirmation) that I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and will obey, respects and uphold the Constitution and all other law of the Republic, and I solemnly promise to perform my functions as a permanent delegate to the NCOP to the best of my ability.

In the case of those taking the oath they will then raise their hand and say, so help me God. In the case of those who take their affirmation they will say, I do. That is the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 12

contents of the oath that the permanent delegates will be taking. I have now read the oath and the affirmation. Is there any one of you who has an objection to taking the oath or affirmation? Everyone either takes their oath or affirmation, is that correct?

HON MEMBERS: Yes.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC (Mr R M M Zondo): Do you consider the oath or affirmation binding on your conscience?

HON MEMBERS: Yes.

SWEARING IN OF PERMANENT DELEGATES TO THE NCOP

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC (Mr R M M Zondo): Thank you. You will then say after me ...
Read on I think it is better like that.

The following members made and subscribed the oath or solemn affirmation:

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 13

Adriaanse, JM; Arries, LH; Badenhorst, FJ; Bains, M; Billy, M; Boshoff, HS; Breedt, T; Britz, JHP; Ceza, K; Chirwa; NN; Dhlamini , MG; du Plessis , NS; Farmer, BJ; Feni, M; Fienies, DW; Gericke, V; Gotsell, N; Govender, P; Kaunda, TM; Kennedy, M; Legwase, TI; Mabebo, B S; Mabilo, SP; Makesini, M; Mananiso, JS; Mcinga, NP; Medupe, OD; Mmoiemang, KM; Modise, MG; Mokae, OJ; Mokwele, F; Molokomme, R; Mokoena, SM; Mtsweni-Tsipane, RM; Ndlangisa, MB; Ndhlovu, S; Ngcobo, ZN; Noe, EP; Nonkonyane, M; Nxumalo-Zulu, CS; Nzimande, E; Peter, MM; Phala, P; Pienaar, NH; Radebe, BA; Ryder, DR; Scheurkogel, I; Sibande, MP; Sithole, SL; Siwisa, AM; van den Berg, HJ; Swart, PJ; Zulu, SA.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC (Mr R M M Zondo): We will now proceed to the election of the chairperson of the NCOP. Before we do so, I would like to announce that the Rules as contemplated in item 4 of Part A of Schedule 3 to the Constitution were made available to members. I would like to inform you that Mr George, the Secretary to Parliament, has been appointed as the Returning Officer as required by the Rules.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 14

In addition, the Returning Officer has appointed the following Assistant Returning Officers: Adv M E Phindela, the Secretary to the NCOP; Adv B N Nonyane, Ms V H Mnana, Ms S Bowers, Adv M C Mbebe, Adv M K Skolo, Mr L Nxelewa, Ms S Ally, Ms N Ernstzen and Ms Y Gungaram.

ELECTION RULES AND PROCEDURE

Now, I would like to inform you of the election procedure. The nominations should be submitted in the prescribed form and duly seconded. In terms of item 4 of Part A of Schedule 3 of the Constitution, no debate will be allowed. I now call for nominations of candidates in terms of item 2 of Part A of Schedule 3 to the Constitution for the position of chairperson.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP

Mr K M MMOIEMANG: This side, Chief Justice.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Yes.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 15

Mr K M MMOIEMANG: Greetings to yourself, hon Chief Justice. My name is Kenneth Mosimanegape Mmoiemang, a permanent delegate from the Northern Cape province. I rise proudly to nominate hon Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane as the chairperson of the NCOP. Thank you, hon Chief Justice.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): I am sorry, I don't know whether it is the optics. I can't hear well. I don't know whether your mouth is too far from your microphone. Maybe if you do it like that it will make it easier. So, please, repeat.

Mr K M MMOIEMANG: Hon Chief Justice, I rise as Kenny Mosimanegape Mmoiemang, a permanent delegate from the Northern Cape province to nominate hon member Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane to be the chairperson of the NCOP. Thank you, Chief Justice.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Thank you very much. Is there a seconder?

Mr M P SIBANDE: Hon Chief Justice, my name is Mtikeni Patrick Sibande from the Mpumalanga Province. I rise to second the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 16

name of Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane to be the chairperson of the NCOP.

The CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (Mr R M M Zondo): Thank you very much. I will then wait for the form. I have a nomination form here. I have the name of Kenneth Mmoiemang as the first proposer and the second proposer, Mr Mtikeni Patrick Sibande. However, there are no signatures next to the names. I have the name of Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane and there is a signature.

So, I will request that the first and second proposer sign next to their names on the form. Now, this nomination form complies with the requirements and it is valid. Are there other nominations? It looks like there is no other nomination. In that event, that means that there is only one nominee. I, therefore, declare Ms Refilwe Maria Mtsweni-Tsipane duly elected as the Chairperson of the NCOP. [Applause.] The Usher of the Black Rod, please, usher the Chairperson of the NCOP.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY NEW CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 17

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Ms R M Mtsweni-Tsipane): The Chief Justice of South Africa, hon Justice Raymond Zondo, hon premiers in our midst, hon Speakers of provincial legislatures, Chief Whips of provincial legislatures, heads of institutions supporting democracy, members of the National Council of Provinces, members of the diplomatic corps, secretary-general of the ANC, Comrade Fikile Mbalula, first deputy secretary-general of the ANC, Comrade Nomvula Mokonyane, treasure-general of the ANC, Comrade Dr Gwen Ramokgopa, secretary-general of the ANC Women's League, Comrade Nokuthula Nqaba, and all other leaders from other political parties, thank you for gracing this important occasion.

Distinguished guests, it is with great humility and a deep resolve to honour your trust that I assume the position of Chairperson in the National Council of Provinces during the seventh parliamentary dispensation. It is indeed an honour for me to serve our Constitution which is the base framework for democratic governance in South Africa. Far from being purely prescriptive and constraining, our constitution is permissive and enabling, putting the power of the state in pursuit of a positive project of achieving equality, justice and freedom.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 18

The NCOP, as the second Chamber of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, is constitutionally mandated to ensure that provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of government. Since its inception, the NCOP has always played an important role in the promotion of the principles of co-operative governance and intergovernmental relations.

To this end, the critical intergovernmental relations mandate of the NCOP ensures that the three spheres of the government work together co-operatively in performing their unique constitutional functions. This mandate compels the NCOP to deepen synergy across the three spheres of the government on matters of concurrent competence.

The important flagship programmes that have repositioned the NCOP as a formidable second Chamber in the execution of the electoral mandate of the Sixth Dispensation include the following: Taking Parliament to the People Programme; the Provincial Week programme, as well as the Local Government Week programme. These strategic programmes have over the years become institutionalised public participation and oversight programmes which will continue to improve on as part of the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 19

evolutionary path of the NCOP's work. Under the Sector Parliaments programme, the NCOP has also made great strides in institutionalising key oversight and report-back programmes.

Some of the key Sector Parliaments programmes driven by the NCOP include the Women's Parliament, Youth Parliament, Men's Parliament, as well as the Provincial Women's Charter Report Back programme. Additionally, the NCOP has institutionalised the Three-Sphere Planning Sessions whose primary objective is to address planning and co-ordinating disjuncture across the three spheres of the government.

Now, the NCOP has also implemented a number of strategic oversight and public participation programmes which include the State Capability summits, the Inclusive Economic Growth Oversight Summits, the Reconstruction and Recovery Plan Oversight summits, as well as the High-Level Commemorative Day lectures. Through the effective execution of its core function, the NCOP has hence been strategically repositioned over the past few years to improve the quality of life of ordinary South Africans, particularly the poor and the marginalised across our country.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 20

As we begin with the task of the Seventh Parliament, the NCOP will need to address the uncertainty which is rife around the status of intergovernmental relations, decisions and recommendations. We must also address issues relating to who takes responsibility for the follow up on recommendations, key executive undertakings, whilst addressing the lack of horizontal integration between the activities of various government departments.

To this end, the NCOP must foster and maintain a dynamic relationship with the provinces, particularly the provincial legislatures as well as the communities that we serve. It is my sincere hope that the permanent delegates will serve as active agents for the ongoing promotion of a dynamic interaction with their provinces. The significance of this ongoing interaction cannot be overemphasised, as this facilitates a useful link between both provincial and national spheres of the government.

South Africa is still faced with a wide variety of developmental challenges, which include high levels of poverty, inequality and unemployment, slow economic growth as well as gender-based violence and femicide. As we enter this

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 21

critical phase of advancing key policy deliverables across the length and breadth of our beloved South Africa, we must collectively strive to work co-operatively with all our stakeholders to address the developmental challenges of the nation. We must also collectively strive to ensure that this new era of transformation and impact-driven oversight yields key deliverables for all our people as guided by the electoral mandate of the current dispensation.

As I conclude, allow me to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the former Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Amos Masondo, for the sterling work he has done over the past years. Let me also express my sincere gratitude to the former Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Sylvia Lucas, including all other Presiding Officers of the Sixth Parliament for their excellent work in managing the institution with such devotion.

[Applause.]

I would like to give you my assurance that I will execute the obligations of my office in accordance with the provisions of our Constitution and to the very best of my ability. My door remains open to each of you as we traverse this important era of transformation. I thank you all. [Applause.]

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 22

HEADS OF DELEGATION ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT OF SALGA (Cllr B Stofile): Chairperson of the NCOP, the Chief Justice, premiers of our land South Africa coming from different provinces, permanent delegates of this House, it is an honour for us as the SA Local Government Association, to build relations with an institution such as this one, within the context of co-operative governance and intergovernmental relations.

It's an honour for us to congratulate this House in electing the Chair, and a new chair and we are hoping and believing that we will build on the work that we have done in the Sixth Parliament to this Seventh Parliament, with an intention of expeditiously dealing with the challenges that are faced by communities, working collaboratively as a single unit of the government and responding to challenges that we are facing in our communities, and we hope and believe that the projects that we have agreed on in the Sixth Parliament, as I listened to you as you outlined them in your welcoming statement.

We appreciate that, and it is our commitment as the local government family to work with this House in dealing with the

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 23

challenges of our communities. Congratulations on having a successful sitting. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Inkosi M NONKONYANA (Eastern Cape): Chairperson and the officials, hon Chief Justice Zondo and the leaders of the ANC that are here and all leaders of various political formations that are here, fellow delegates, and honoured guests, I rise to deputise for our leader to express our warm wishes for you Chairperson, for having been elected unopposed by all of us. Thank you for the wonderful words, from the Eastern Cape leadership of the ANC as well as all political formations that are emerging from that mighty province. A province that we all know ...

IsiXhosa:

... liphondo leengqwele ...

English:

... where kings, heroes and heroines emerge. We want to assure you that as deployees of the ANC, we will not fail you in discharging your duties. Fortunately, we know you very well. You are one of the trusted and tested leaders of our

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 24

movement. Rest assured of our support at all times.

Congratulations! [Applause.]

Ms K D MAHLATSI (Free State): Chairperson, to yourselves as the newly elected Chair, the Chief Justice, hon members, fellow South Africans, we are truly gratefully honoured to congratulate you Chair, on taking office as the Chairperson, and also congratulate the incoming Deputy Chairperson, though not yet elected, so that we don't come on the podium to congratulate all of you at a later stage.

We believe that we are witnessing something truly historic in the political ... [Inaudible.] ... of our great nation. We are - in some way - reminded today of the excitement and enthusiasm in our country at a time of our transition to democracy. We are also excited to witness that in both Houses, we have appointed both the Chair who is a woman, and the Speaker of the National Assembly, as a woman. [Applause.] We are saying, we are grateful as the nation that we are led by women. People in our country have once more been inspired to believe that through common human efforts, injustice can be overcome, and that together we can build a better nation for all.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 25

As hon members are aware, the NCOP occupies a unique position within our constitutional system of governance. This derives from the fact that it is the only institution with the system that ... [Inaudible.] ... all three spheres of government being national, provincial and local government. This places the NCOP as a strategic oversight position. It has possibility and a mandate to keep constant eye on the process that must integrate legislative and executive decision in all spheres of government.

We therefore wish you strength and fortitude in the challenging days and years ahead. As the Free State province, we are saying congratulations on a very historic month of June, a month of young people. Thank you very much, Chairperson. [Applause.]

Mr P LESUFI (Gauteng): Chair, let me extend my warm greetings to our Chief Justice. Thank you so much Chief Justice and all the delegates that are here. Ours is simple, it is to serve our people, inspire them and ensure that their lives are changed for the better. We are all told it's much better when we work together than when we are divided. We are all told it's much better when you don't leave anyone behind. The

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 26

processes of the last two days or so have demonstrated one thing and one thing only, South Africa is now better, ours is to fast track that betterness.

We are also told that in the new future, it's not the big that will defeat the small, it's the faster that will defeat the slow. Our task is to move with speed and move faster to serve our people. Madam Chair, congratulations! Enjoy our support in every inch of Gauteng. Thank you so much. [Applause.]

Mr S DUMA (Kwazulu-Natal): Chairperson, thank you so much for affording us this opportunity. Let us greet your good self. Let us greet our CJ Mthiyane, thank you so much for ensuring that we drive a sterling democracy. In our midst, we are graced to have the secretary general of the ANC, Comrade Mbalula, Qengeba, with your collective ... [Inaudible.] ... and the entire collective other political formation that have also created a comprehensive outlook of South Africa that we are going to see today.

I am sure we all agree that South Africa of the yesteryear must be characterised and be portrayed with new virgo that the camaraderie spirit must ... [Inaudible.] ... and permit

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 27

because we need each other if we are to build a betterment for our people. If we are to build the strongest welded nation, we must work together as one. Thank you so much. [Applause.]

Dr P RAMATHUBA (Limpopo): Chairperson, special greeting to Chief Justice Raymond Zondo and also our secretary general, who is also with our first deputy secretary general and our treasurer general, the leadership of the ANC, delegates from all our provinces who are here. I rise on behalf of the people's Eden, the province of Limpopo, to convey our message of congratulations to you Madam Chairperson, to say we are proud of your election, and we want to guarantee you our support as the people of Limpopo.

We are saying it's not going to be an easy journey as you would note that one of the most responsibility bestowed on this National Council of Provinces is to make laws. In making those laws, you would be forced to pass, to amend and sometimes reject, because this is an important task. As provinces, we will need those laws to be passed. Sometimes we will differ, but we are hoping that through your guidance you will be able to navigate this House so that South Africa moves forward.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 28

We want to always remember and ask all of us to remember that we are here because people have voted for us. Our people are not looking for slogans. Our people are not interested in the ideology. They are not interested in to how much you can unpack Marxism. Our people are looking for jobs. Our people are looking for water. [Applause.] Our people are looking for quality education. Our people are looking for quality healthcare services. That's what we must remember at all times as we will be differing into who can unpack Leninism better than the other. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M NDLOVU (Mpumalanga): Chairperson of the NCOP, thanks for this opportunity and greetings to Chief Justice Zondo. I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to congratulate you as you were elected today as the Chairperson of this important House.

Hon Comrade Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane, I know you more than you know yourself. You are humble, honest, respectful, disciplined, democratic, you are always accountable, and transparent. A person of her own ways. Yesterday, on behalf of the province of Mpumalanga, I said go well and represent this province of Mpumalanga. Go there and be the ambassador of

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 29

Mpumalanga. Only use ... [Inaudible.] ... when necessary. I wish you all for all. Congratulations, Comrade Tsipane. Nkomo! [Applause.]

Setswana:

Rre K M MMOIEMANG (Northern Cape): Ke go tlotlile Modusetilo wa Ntlo ya Bosetšhaba ya Kgaolo ya diPorofense, ...

English:

... to the Chief Justice, esteemed members of this House, the leadership of the Sixth administration that is present here led by the Deputy Chairperson and the House Chairs, I saw mama Ngwenya. But more than that, bro Ambi who indeed gave us a sterling leadership.

Setswana:

Go baagi ba naga ka kakaretso le boeteledipele jwa mokgatlo o o busang, ...

English:

... the top seven under the stewardship of the secretary general. Allow me to rise on behalf of the Northern Cape delegation, on behalf of Dr Zamani Saul, to express our

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 30

congratulatory remarks on your election, mme Refilwe Ntshweni-Tsipane, as the Chair of the National Council of Province. Indeed, our congratulatory remarks are informed by the fact that you were able to display sterling leadership to the people of Mpumalanga. But more than that, the guidance that you received from the ruling party, which is the dominant narrative informed by the outcome of the May 29 national and provincial election.

Our starting point in terms of the congratulatory remarks to yourself is in expectation that you will do everything in pursuit of our strategic objective of the mighty ANC to unite all the people of South Africa, Africans in particular, for the complete liberation of the country from all forms of discrimination.

We will be giving you support. We express our commitment to fully give our dedication and commitment to ensure that this House becomes a vibrant and energetic House. We do this of course, appreciating the fact that the ground has shifted. The narrative that we have has given effect to the new political permutation that as the country led by the mighty ANC and its partners in the GNU resolves to chart. The ANC-led Parliament

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 31

was guided and heeded the call by Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel when he advised as follows: "One cannot stand above society and take a position outside history".

In leading us, hon national Chairperson, let the concrete conditions dictate as to who - as to how - we shall chart our path in this Seventh administration. Again, congratulatory remarks to yourself hon national Chair. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr L MOKGOSI (North West): Chairperson, hon Chief Justice, Salga delegation, permanent delegates to the NCOP, the leadership of the ANC present and other formations and leadership of other political parties present, I greet you and I am saying that people of the North West say they wish you a very successful session.

I can tell you and assure you that your election today demonstrates what is called the future is female. [Applause.] On the basis of that, we share a very special relationship. Myself coming from the North West in the district of Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, and yourself with the relationship of people of Mamusa and myself coming from the same region. We say we love you.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 32

We don't have any doubt that you grew in this movement. You are what you are today because of this organisation called the ANC. [Applause.] You have been trained and we believe that your experience in the organisation and government, as you were deployed by the ANC, gave you the necessary skills and training that demonstrates that you are capable and up to the task. We believe that you are going to lead and navigate the House in the interest of provinces. And we believe that all the experience that you gained in Mpumalanga, you will come here and give the necessary leadership.

We are excited and we believe that as you outlined in your remarks, the public participation should be at the centre. We believe that take this House to the people and that quite often as you interact with our people, you will understand the depth of hunger, inequality, poverty, unemployment and the general despair and apathy that our people have.

On the basis of that, we believe that as you come here, you will then focus and deal with the developmental agenda which should be centred in the interest of intergovernmental relations, but premise on what is called a District Development Model, DDM approach. We believe with that; we will

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 33

have a meaningful impact. With those words, thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr F J BADERNHORST (Western Cape): Hon Chief Justice Zondo, duly elected NCOP Chair, hon permanent delegates, leaders of the DA, leadership that are here today, thank you very much for being here, and distinguished guests, I bring you greetings from the well-run Western Cape ... [Applause.] ... and may I say, hon Chair, congratulations on your election. To my friends in the ANC, I believe some humble pie will be served for lunch today. [Laughter.]

The National Council of Provinces plays a crucial role in Parliament as this is where the voices of residents in our provinces in South Africa are heard in Parliament through us their delegates. We in the Western Cape look forward in playing our role as an integral part of the Government of National Unity project in rescuing South Africa and much work needs to be done. Voters in South Africa have spoken and our responsibility in the NCOP is to heed their call in unity, in governance.

Hon Chair, you will find that our House is indeed a House of robust debate. But this is always done in the spirit of a common goal to strengthen constitutional principles. We look forward to serving South Africa and all its residents in the Seventh Parliament, specifically the National Council of Provinces. I thank you. [Applause.]

NOMINATIONS FOR THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP

The Chairperson called for nominations.

Mr B A Radebe, seconded by Ms D W Fienies, nominated, Mr Kenneth Mmoiemang for election as Chief Whip of the National Council of Provinces.

The Returning Officer reported to the Chairperson that the nomination paper had been properly completed.

There being no further nominations, the Chairperson declared Mr Kenneth Mmoiemang properly elected as Chief Whip of the National Council of Provinces.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 35

The Chairperson, on behalf of all present, congratulated Mr Kenneth Mmoiemang on his election as Chief Whip and requested him to address the Council.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY THE CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP

Mr K M MMOIEMANG: Hon Chairperson of the National Council of Province, hon me Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane, to the Chief Justice, Raymond Zondo, hon members of the Council, both permanent and special delegates, our special guest in the gallery, particularly the former members of the National Council of Provinces, the leadership and representative of the organized labor, organized government, *South African Local Government Association*, SALGA, the representative and leadership of the institution of traditional leadership, to the leadership of the ANC, that is present in this House, led by the secretary generals, SG, and other officials that are here, and also members of other political parties that are here and also those that are part of the Government of National Unity, GNU, members of the diplomatic corps, representative of the media, our guests in the public gallery ...

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 36

Setswana:

... baagi ba naga ya rona ka kakaretso.

English:

Allow me to express my profound appreciation of the confidence that my party, the ANC and the members of the Government of National Unity and other political parties, that has bestowed upon me. I indeed, National Chair humble and can only assure all of you, and the people of our country, that it is not only through integrity, diligence and hard work, that honour associated with this position shall born.

Indeed, National Chair, today marks yet another important milestone, after the historic 2024 national and provincial elections. The elections of the office bearers of the National Council of Provinces, which is the second House of our democratic Parliament.

We are assembled here on this day National Chair, that precedes the 48th anniversary of the 1976, June 16 youth uprising. We are reconstituting Parliament as a central institution of democracy to continue the journey of addressing the historical injustices of the past.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 37

This imposes immense duty National Chair, upon us never to fail the youth of our country. We do this, indeed humbled by the fact that the people as final arbiter in the battle of ideas for the building of the national democratic society with social content, has spoken, clear and loudly. That united in our diversity, we must continue the journey started by our forebears, the founding fathers of our Constitution.

And most importantly, the leaders of this august House, in the democratic dispensation. The likes oom Gov, the likes of me Naledi Pandor, me Modise, bro Ambi, and also those that led under their stewardship, under respective deputy chairpersonship and house chairs.

Among the abiding legacy of these leaders, which we must emulate, is how to unite in the midst of fundamental political and ideological differences in pursuit of the common national agenda, which is the creation of a national democratic society with social content.

It is my assurance to the people of South Africa as the newly elected Chief whip of this august House National Chair, that will do everything to the best of my ability, supported by hon

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 38

members, to ensure that our differences do not stand on the way of a bigger national agenda of reconstruction and development program.

The National Chair, I implore all of us in this august House to join hands, united in diversity, to reinspire the confidence of our people in Parliament as a central institution of democracy by pushing back the frontiers of unemployment, poverty and inequality. We should do this mindful of the core constitutional mandate of this House, namely promoting and dispensing, and deepening integrated cooperative governance and being the vanguard of the interest of provinces.

At the core of this task National Chair, should be the strengthening of our system of local government, which has over the recent past, seen a need for cooperation, a need for capacity building. Informed by the diagnostic report of the National Planning Commission, which identified an area of integration, coordination and cooperation between the three spheres of our system of democratic governance as one of the critical challenges of governance since 1994.

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 39

Hon National Chair, hon members will agree that without a strong, robust, and effective local government, there can be no national reconstruction and development, precisely by the virtue of the fact that the Constitution locates this House at the intersection of the three spheres of our system of governance.

It is therefore, in conclusion, Chair, my contention that, turning the system of local government around, should be among the critical tests against which the success of this House should be measured in this seventh democratic Parliament.

Hon Chair, allow me to assure all political parties represented in this august House, that every voice will be heard. And persuasion should be the hallmark of our working style.

Setswana:

Ke a leboga, Modulasetilo wa Ntlo ya Bosetšhaba ya Kgaolo ya Diporofense.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Ms R M Mtsweni-Tsipane): Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip Mmoiemang. Hon members, I would

UNREVISED HANSARD

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

SATURDAY, 15 JUNE 2024

Page: 40

like to take this opportunity and thank hon Chief Justice Zondo, the leaders from various political parties, the former Deputy Chairperson of the House, hon Sylvia Lucas, the Chief whip, as well as the Deputy Chief whip of the National Assembly, the special delegates for your attendance, and participation in the first sitting of the National Council of Provinces of the Seventh Parliament. The House is adjourned.

The Council adjourned at 11:436.