

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 1

THURSDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF P20 WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

The House met at 08:41.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you very much. Delegates, please take their seats; thank you. Good morning to everyone. Welcome to the second day of the P20 Women's Parliament. We are hosted in Parliament on the side of the National Council of Provinces and good morning to my co-chairperson, who is the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP.

There will now be an opportunity for silent prayer or meditation. Will you rise please?

Please be seated. I see a few familiar faces from yesterday; welcome back to the second day. And thank you, once again, for gracing this occasion. I see a few new faces. Welcome, Reneé - I haven't seen Miss Thompson for some time - and to the others who are here for the first time today.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 2

We will continue with day two of the programme, as distributed in the copies in front of you. And we will have a very interactive session today that will be led and chaired by a number of different people. I must say, yesterday, the Multi-party Women's Caucus executed their tasks very, very well. It sometimes helps to be a little bit nervous before things start, but once things get started and you get exposed to sitting on this high chair here in front of you, things get a little bit easier. So, we look forward to the others who will also be directing proceedings today.

We would like to start immediately and recognise Miss S Majozi. She is the former SRC President from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, UKZN, Harvard College, first woman President of the SA Union of Students, Saus, and she will be the moderator for the panel discussion.

I'd also like to welcome and introduce the panelists for this session. They are Dr Myende, the newly appointed Chairperson of the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, good morning doctor; Miss S Mokwebo, a young women activist and founder of Should All Be Feminist Collective; and then, Miss Reneé Thompson, a gender activist and founder of the Thompson Trust.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 3

The panel discussion will focus on the following areas:

Economic inclusion and care economy, climate justice, digital divide and health equity. I now invite Miss Majozi to take over and facilitate the proceedings. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): Good morning ...

IsiZulu:

... sanibonani, ngokukhulu ukuzithoba.

English:

I'd like to ride on the credentials that hon Frolick has also outlined today and of course, those that were outlined yesterday, and greet all of you esteemed guests and delegates ...

IsiZulu:

... egameni lamakhosikazi.

English

It's a privilege to guide this next conversation. Many of you will be wondering why "young women". I think it's really testament to the thought and foresight of this committee or

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 4

the Parliament that has convened today to ensure that young women's voices are also recognised, as well as those nuances that are terribly particular to young women in relation to the issues that we've dealt with in the past couple of days.

My name is Sibu Majozi. Yes, indeed, I was the first president and, in fact, the first female president of the Saus. But most notably, and my claim to fame really is that hon Masego, our late sister, Bavelile Hlongwa, and I were once accused of leading a national all women, female cabal. And so, we gained a lot of notoriety when we dared to disrupt the status quo and Progress Youth Alliance, PYA, structures. So really, I think that qualifies some of us to be here in the Women's Parliament.

So, I think hon Frolick has already outlined what our topic is about today. But, you know, recent statistics from Statistics SA, Stats SA, really reveal that youth constitute over half of the working-age population. Yet, there's a disproportionate burden on young women from an unemployment and economic participation perspective.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 5

Young women are particularly vulnerable with Not in Employment, Education or Training, NEET, rates at 48,1% for young women. Those who are wondering what NEET is, it is Not in Employment, Education or Training compared to 42.2% of men. So, it really is a disproportionate burden on young women.

Today, I invite my fellow panelists to please give their inputs and maybe we can engage with them after their inputs. So, I'll allow just a few minutes and start with the Chairperson of the NYDA, Dr Sunshine Myende. Please go ahead.

My apologies, I don't want to mess up the really nice flow that we had yesterday. Let me invite all the panelists to come to the front, so that we can just minimise the time. Then I'll allow the Chairperson to take over.

Dr SUNSHINE MYENDE (Chairperson of NYDA): Thank you very much, Chairperson. Greetings to you, to the hon Frolick and hon Govender. My name is Dr Sunshine Myende and I've been recently appointed by the President to be the Chairperson of the NYDA. I must make a disclaimer, Chairperson, that I also went to UKZN, the very same campus that the Chairperson of the session went to. So, including Comrade Masego, we both went to UKZN

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 6

and all of us were in the Student Representative Council, SRC. I just wanted to make that disclaimer that we are part of the women that were really accused of having a women's cabal - an all women-led SRC.

So, Comrade Chairperson, I was excited yesterday when one of the presenters mentioned the Asian Tigers. We can and must learn from what is usually termed the Southeast Asian economic miracle - a powerful demonstration that it is possible to turn the tide of the economy through deliberate and strategic action.

In the context of today's discussion, hon Chairperson, it is clear that the rule change for women, particularly young women in South Africa, would require transformative government policies. Just yesterday, a colleague referred to the work of the economist, Ha-Joon Chang, who challenges the notion that markets should operate freely from government intervention. It reminds us that the world's most successful economies, the very superpowers who often look to achieve their status through robust, proactive state involvement. This perspective is critical when we think about economic inclusion and, more broadly, the gender agenda.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 7

If we're serious about empowering women, we must ask: How can government be used as a vehicle towards that? What policies can be implemented, not someday but now, to improve the material conditions of women, young women in particular? In South Africa, women performed the majority of household and caregiving duties. Due to the entrenched gender roles and expectations, many women are unable to actively pursue formal employment, education, skills development or entrepreneurial opportunities. It is, therefore, paramount that care work be recognised as a critical economic sector, as indicated in our topic today.

Measures such as funding childcare facilities is an important and ongoing programme. But there is room for improvement in that regard and implementing flexible working arrangements can help redistribute caregiving responsibilities and expand the work of women. For example, during the NYDA induction last week, it was rightly asserted that when we design and implement programmes for young people, young women, to be more specific, young women from rural areas, we need ... young women from informal settlements and townships, we must consider the complex realities that they face, including caregiving responsibilities.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 8

The question, therefore, that we must ask is how do we ensure that young women, who often need our services the most but also shoulder the burden of childcare, are not excluded from accessing those opportunities? I think that's the question that we need to ask ourselves today as young women in Parliament. Thank you very much, Comrade Chairperson.

Ms SARAH CHARITY MOKWEO (Young Women Activist / Founder of Should All Be Feminist Collective): Chairperson, good morning to everyone, and I am standing on the protocols already observed, for the sake of time. So, I will be speaking on climate justice. How do we ensure that women and girls are not disproportionately affected by climate change and included in climate initiatives? So, around the world and especially in the global South, just like everything else, climate change is not gender neutral.

So, the global South is known as ourselves, as Africa, Asia, and other parts of the world that are not considered to be the worst. Women and girls bear the brunt of the impact of climate change. And unfortunately, the wording or the information around climate change has been made to be this big thing that

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 9

actually does not affect our day-to-day lives, but it actually does.

And women and girls are more likely to lose livelihoods, due to shocks, or even due to, for instance, to fetching something as simple as water when there are droughts. And because of that, it then takes away that time from being either economically productive or actually accessing education. They have the responsibility, which is reinforced by patriarchy, to look after other family members during, for instance, displacement, due to fires or droughts or whatever it is. So, this is one of the many ways in which climate change affects women and girls.

And during displacement, women and girls are even more at risk of facing gender-based violence, because they do not find themselves in the comfort of their own homes. They do not find themselves in safe places, due to displacement, whether it is in Khayelitsha, for instance, because of fires and shacks that burnt, or in KwaZulu-Natal somewhere, because of floods. Those people become vulnerable to gender-based violence, especially the women and the girls.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 10

So, I am going to just outline a few statistics to give the whole House an idea of how bad things are. So, for instance, 80% of people that are displaced by climate change are women and girls. I have already said this.

And only 3% of global climate finance reaches projects that are led by women. And when we speak about climate finance, we just speak about whatever moneys that would have been made available, whether by governments or multinational organisations, to either respond to the disasters that would have taken place, or to help women and girls adapt to the new environment that they live in.

Every day, we hear about renewables, we hear about renewable energy, but there has never been, for instance, deliberate targeting of women-owned businesses that are working in the renewable space, women-owned businesses that are working in green agriculture, although women are one of the biggest smallholder farmers in agriculture. So, the reason ...

One of the things that I think we just need to change is that, through parliamentary processes and all forms of lobbying, we need to ensure that there is a quota that is put in place to

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 11

ensure that the new emerging green economy actually has targeted initiatives towards either developing women professionals in the new emerging green economy and not have women left behind, as well as actually ensuring that women are capacitated to be able to respond to disasters, whether it is floods, fires, or anything that happens because of climate change. Thank you.

Ms RENÉE THOMPSON (Gender Activist and Founder of the Thompson Trust): Good morning, everyone, Chairperson of the session, hon members, yes, I first want to remind ourselves of what the Deputy President had said yesterday, that the South African government is committed and ready to collaborate with us. I just want to know, where do we sign up for that collaboration? Is it with hon Cedric's office? Is there a desk outside? Because you know what, I think, we have this discussion every Women's Month, and it actually becomes very frustrating. And always, when I speak at a panel, I speak about the same thing, economic inclusion, which actually should be excluded, because that is what we remain to be - excluded.

And for those who are mothers, or as nieces, or daughters, or kids, there is a little song called Cocomelon that says: "Are

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 12

we there yet?" And, I think, everyone, when you hear the words, you immediately hear the tune. So, when are we going to be there? We hear the statistics that there is 72% SMEs, there is access to funding, there is mentorships, but, really, there is no access to funding, it is not accessible to the women that need it.

As we are seated here, we are not representative. We are the privileged. The women that we are speaking about are not in the room with us. I think the sessions should also not be in the NCOP or at Parliament. It should be in the same format as Taking Parliament to the People. Then we will have the women in the room that can say to us, yes, I share the same frustration as you do when I apply for funding. The opportunity is there, but actually, I cannot access it.

You see nice photos on social media, where young people have been given equipment to start their own businesses, but after that, you don't hear about it. You don't know whether they have received mentorship, access to markets, whether we are supporting them. It is just a photo.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 13

And I think we should really ask ourselves whether we are advertising something or whether we are just taking photos of programmes that are not really reaching the audience that we are speaking to. And I want to use myself as an example. I was also working in Parliament, and I left.

A simple thing like when you start your own business, you don't know where to go to. You don't know that you have to be Sars compliant. When you start your business and you invoice the company, that invoice will be paid in the first two months, three months if you are lucky.

Where is the bridging finance? Who tells me that, if I have five employees, I must now register with the Department of Labour. So, if I must collaborate with the government, I will be noncompliant. There is no one that really takes your hand and meets you at the level where you are.

The issue of mentorship is great. However, if you go to a small town, rural area, that mentor of mine should speak the language that I am speaking, because that is the first hurdle. You know, the language that you use for an application form

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 14

with the Public Investment Corporation, PIC, for instance, is so daunting.

It is asking you about audited finances and assets. You cannot have those when you are starting out. So, I think the red tape that we keep on saying we are cutting, we are not cutting. And I just want to end off to say that I really would like to know where I must sign up for the collaboration. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): And I am being strict on time because I would like to leave a little bit of time so that we can engage with the inputs. Dr Mienne, I am going to come to you first. We heard yesterday from the hon Minister Chikunga that you get a sizeable portion of her budget for the NYDA, which is commendable. I think that is something that all of us are incredibly proud of. And you spoke a lot about the divide within the youth sector, of course, for young women, the divide between urbanised women, and the rural divide with those in rural areas and access to opportunities and programmes.

So, let us give you an opportunity to give us an elevator pitch. What is the NYDA doing about that? What are the

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 15

impactful programmes that you are running that will really expedite the economic participation, particularly of young women in the rural areas?

Dr SUNSHINE MYENDE (Chairperson of NYDA): Thank you, Chairperson, I think one thing we can agree on is that the issue of access to the NYDA is quite critical, particularly for young people and young women from rural areas, those that know, know that the NYDA only has 43 branches currently and it is quite small compared to the young people that we need to have access to. So, one of the plans that we have as this new Board is to increase the accessibility of the agency with the limited budget. What we intend on doing is to have a zero rated app where every young person, wherever they are, will be able to access the NYDA through an app. But we are not going to be able to do this without proper collaboration and partnership with different entities. So that's what we intend to do. But also, the issue of having an app. An app needs one to have a network. There are areas, for example in KwaZulu-Natal, Mkhanyakude, and Ngwavuma when you go there and there's no access to the network. And you'll find that the offices are also far from the young people that are there.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 16

So, we also intend to have kiosks where a young person can be able to go to a municipality and access the services of the NYDA. We intend to do that. The other day, Chairperson went to Gugulethu, which is an informal settlement where we went around asking young people what their feelings are. Do they feel the agency or not? And what is it that they intend ...? What is it that they want to see from us doing? All young people raised the issue of the accessibility of the agency. So, we're going to ensure that we do that during our term of office.

We intend that every young person in the ward is going to know about the agency and the programmes of it. The agency also has a programme called the NYS, which is the National Youth Services programme, which empowers young people with different skills and areas. But if you can ask ordinary people, they're not aware of such. So, we're going to ensure that we increase accessibility and give out information on the work that is being done by the agency. That's the first thing that we're going to do.

The second thing we want to increase is our turnaround times in terms of young people who access our services. If you have

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 17

applied for a grant, we want to ensure that within 30 days or 20 days you're able to get a response to your application. And we were able to assist in that regard.

The other gap that we want to try to close is young people who are living with disabilities that have raised their concerns, that they're not able to access our services. So, we're going to ensure that all our services are accessible to all young people despite their groups and everything. Understanding that young people are not a homogeneous group. So, that's what we're going to do in terms of accessibility to our services, particularly for young people from rural areas. Thank you, chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): Thank you so much for that. I'm moving to Reneé. Reneé, you gave a powerful input, especially as a person who has been on the receiving end of what is very difficult for many young people, especially women, to get into entrepreneurship and sustain their businesses. We heard yesterday from one of the speakers that only 23% of the positions in the finance sector are held by women and only 5% of the tech exec positions are held by women. So that tells us that our lobbying bench strength is quite weak. So, what do

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 18

you think, I mean, having walked this road yourself? What do you think are the practical steps that we can take to bridge the divide that will meet the resources that are required by women to start successful businesses and sustain them into the future?

Ms RENÉE THOMPSON (Gender Activist and Founder of the Thompson Trust): Thank you very much, Chairperson. Yes, I think the economy really does remain male dominated, and I don't know how are we going to bridge that divide? Just like I mentioned earlier, 72% of the small, medium, and micro enterprises, SMMEs, are women-owned. But if you look at the statistics, the Women's Charter outlines it says women have the right to vote and then employment and everything else that follows. Yet we are 55% of the registered voters nationally. If you go down to local government and municipalities, it increases to 60%, but the policies do not speak to us. Yes, representation is there at Parliament and we're doing very well, but it doesn't translate to us ordinary women on the ground. And I think that's where it starts. Is that access to information, as the Chairperson of the NYDA said we do not know what is happening. There are lots of great programmes that small businesses are

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 19

running, but they will have a workshop, and it will be in Cape Town. And I'm using the Western Cape as an example.

They do not go to the regions, right. So, if you're not in the center, you miss out. Then they're there for one day. You don't really get an opportunity to speak and ask questions. No one is there to assist you and take you through the process. But it's really small things ... like I said, you have to turn that opportunity that's there into something that's actionable. Otherwise, we'll be sitting here next year, five years from now discussing the same thing. And again, I want to reiterate. I mean, those of us that are sitting here are speaking on behalf of who and to whom. It should really not be a panel discussion. It should be a dialogue. I really hope that from this Women's Parliament there is an actionable outcome that can be measured. We can listen to something that happened after this. We didn't just have the privilege to come and speak and address Members of Parliament. We are sitting in the year of the G20. How did we, as women, actually benefit from that? While we are seated here, there is the water investment summit. I thank you.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 20

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): No, I think it's just testament to the fact that these discussions, obviously, we only have two days to discuss them now. But it's a person who currently sits within the private sector. One thing I can tell you is that nation-building isn't for the preservation of government. It's also for the private sector to partner with government for the public good. And I think, perhaps something to think about going forward is how do we consolidate all the discussions that we've had today and action them.

I mean, I sit in the mining sector, there's no reason why within the mining sector, we can't actively participate in programmes of the NYDA and so on and so forth. So, I think from a time perspective, I know we've run out of time, and I really wanted to ask Sarah what her view is on the care economy as a young person and also harnessing indigenous knowledge systems when it comes to climate change.

Unfortunately, we have run out of time and Sarah, please forgive me. I can do this with you and cut you off. I know because I'll use my age as a caveat. But again, hon Frolic and hon Governor, if there's an opportunity for us to really consolidate this even on a virtual platform it would be highly

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 21

appreciated. Thank you very much to the panelists for their input today and hopefully, we can carry on during the tea.

I'm going to swiftly, as the panellists move to their seats, ask the new panel on the next agenda item to move forward. We are running very slightly behind schedule. So, I'm going to be quite tight on this one as well so that we allow for questions. If the panellist could ... Yes, maybe. Let's start with Miss Ancer. I will start with Miss Ancer please. If you can give your input. Maybe use that mic over there and then I'll call you up one by one. Thank you.

Ms KASHIFA ANCER (Campaign Manager - DG Murray Trust):

Chairperson, good morning and thank you very much. I'd like to acknowledge all the protocols observed for the sake of time. Today, being asked to speak on gender-based violence and femicide, and strengthening the National Strategic Plan, I am stuck on remembering when I was in Grade 8, hearing people in a township I was familiar with in Reiger Park calling 750ml bottle of beer *brood*. I remember asking my brother, why do they call it *brood* or bread, is it because it's made with yeast? He said to me, no, it's because it is the same price as a loaf of bread. That was a number of years ago.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 22

When we look at the price of a quart of beer today, it is not much different. There is a few rands difference between 750ml of beer and a loaf of bread. So, when we look at the National Strategic Plan, NSP and look at the six pillars of the NSP, we say, well, how can we strengthen this. My issue is not strengthening the NSP as a sole entity. We have policies and we have measures that can be enacted in all spheres of government, especially in the National Treasury that we can start enacting now so that the NSP will have the capacity to make a dent in gender-based violence.

I'll tell you what that dent can look like. During the COVID-19 alcohol ban, femicide had decreased by 63%. As soon as the alcohol ban lifted and we went back to the status quo, that number shifted dramatically and we are still seeing a continued rise in gender-based violence and femicide. There's a major increase especially in violence against children. Alcohol is a major driver of this violence. It is a major driver of this violence in low-income communities, and yet we have allowed the liquor industry or as we like to call them "big liquor", to control how it flows through the streets of our townships.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 23

You will hear in the media today, and I'm sure in the months to come, that big liquor is advocating against national Treasury's current review process to increase the price of alcohol through excise taxes and through a pricing mechanism called minimum unit pricing, which sets a floor price below which no alcohol cannot be sold. We need to make alcohol inaccessible, more expensive, especially in low-income communities, because our children and our women's lives depend on it.

IsiZulu:

Wathint' abafazi, wathint' imbokodo!

English:

We say it was pride, but I'd like to ask today that we change that phrase, because no more can our women and girls need to exist in their own homes, in their schools, in their places of work and on the street, and need to be as hard as stone. We don't need to be as hard as stone anymore, and big liquor is forcing us to. So, I ask today, if we want to strengthen the NSP, we start with alcohol policy. Thank you very much, Chair.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 24

Ms NOMCEBO DLAMINI (The Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA): Good morning, everyone and thank you very much. This is just a follow up on the presentation that has just been made because the reality is, alcohol is really wrecking our communities. We honestly do know, and we've got the results that show that alcohol is directly linked to a lot of the gender-based violence femicide cases that we face in the country. The Central Drug Authority as I'm standing here as the Deputy Chairperson of the Central Drug Authority, is currently working on the National Drug Master plan. One of the things that we have brought in is the fact that we need to lift alcohol and make everybody realise just how it's affecting communities.

As Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance, Saapa we currently launched a campaign yesterday. We are going to be going throughout the country talking about this this issue because we acknowledge and we realise that the issue of alcohol in our communities is mainly the thing that is causing the social decay. The facts are clear, alcohol and gender-based violence, GBV are linked. I don't think anybody can deny that.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 25

The evidence says it the poll says people recognise it. We did a poll, and I can share the results of that poll with you where we called over 1 000 South Africans. We spoke about this issue to say, what do you think about alcohol in your community? The results are very clear. I'm not going to go into those results now, but you can get this piece of paper which will show you all the poll results.

Then the issue of regulating alcohol availability. In our communities, especially in the lower-income communities in our country, there is a tavern on every street. Yesterday we spoke about that there's probably 10 taverns on every street or some liquor establishment. We need to change that. We need to deal with this issue of availability. There is a study also that we did and it indicated that in every area where there's more alcohol establishments, there's higher cases of GBV.

The other thing that we want to bring forth as Saapa is that we are calling on all provinces to reduce hours of sale and include density as criteria for awarding licences. We are also asking that the Draft Liquor Amendment Bill that has been on ice since 2016 to please be tabled We desperately need that Bill. That Bill will deal with the issue of advertising. It

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 26

will deal with the issue of proximity to schools. It will also deal with the issue of the licensing and how that is pushed on. Thank you very much.

Ms KHANYISA DUNJWA (Chairperson - SANAC Women's Sector):

Chairperson, hon members and fellow women leaders, I stand here joining many of you in this Chamber. This moment is about the SA National Aids Council, Sanac Women's Sector making the struggle and the resilience and wisdom of women in communities visible. Today I speak to amplify the voices of women across South Africa, those in farms, villages, townships, the hawkers in the taxi rank. What we experience as women today often contradicts what was once the norm in our cultural settings.

Women's voices were central to decision-making in African homes. No important family decision would be made without the input of ...

IsiXhosa:

... udadobawo okanye ...

Sesotho:

... rakgadi.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 27

English:

So, we are asking today, what has happened to that culture? What has changed? Because even in religious settings, we know of prophetesses, you know, people that used to take a leadership role when it comes to religion. Women took a leadership role when it comes to culture. So, the big question is, what has caused the shift and why are we allowing that shift to happen? I think one of the reasons that we allow the shift to happen is because we have entirely left the blueprint that we have inherited from the women that marched in 1956. What those women did in 1956, they worked as a collective. They organised, they mobilised, and they had one struggle, one voice.

The Sanac Women's Sector today is calling for one struggle, one voice, because for as long as we work in silos, because we we're doing great work on the ground but what we are not doing is connecting the dots. Some of us are in the HIV response space. Some of us on economic and addressing economic exclusion. If we were to come together as women in solidarity, we will win. We are calling today for us to claim the blueprint that was left by women who marched in 1956. Thank you.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 28

IsiXhosa:

Amandla!

Ms NONKANYISO PHIWAKAHLE MBONAMBI (Visual Artist, Curator, Entrepreneur, Muralist): Greetings to the House at large. I'd like to declare, hi, I'm Nonka Mbonambi and I am not an alcoholic. I run an art agency which is called Curatica. At Curatica, we use art as a tool to educate and financially empower women through the use of art.

To give you a simple example, everyone in this room remembers the advertisement, *Scrutinize ... HIV ... HIVictory*. Most of us learned more about Aids through that advertisement than we learnt at school.

So, the work that we do around gender-based violence, GBV ... we go into communities and paint murals with unemployed local women in those communities. We fund the projects that we do by finding a brand such as Sunlight. I would really like to make everything simple for you guys in order to paint a picture, as I am the artist.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 29

We'll go into communities, collaborate with a brand like Sunlight if they have something that they would like to advertise to this community, but we make sure that women in those communities actually get work. When we leave, we leave them with something tangible. We go into the community, find women that don't have work, teach them the skill on set and actually make them learn how to paint murals, and leave them with a bit of money. The woman who owns that house is a single woman who actually probably lives off a grant ... would also get paid by us by ensuring that we rent her wall from her.

I'm sure all of us have been to townships and know what I'm talking about. However, every time you most probably see men going around painting these murals. These murals should be painted by women because women know these stories. Women use Sunlight. Women are affected by GBV.

In the communities that we've worked in, 43 of those communities have actually proven that 23% of crime has actually gone down because of the amount of murals that we've painted around GBV, and we've painted with the women in those communities.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 30

Actually, there was a story where we were painting in Johannesburg in Maboneng, where an Uber driver came up to us and asked us ...

IsiZulu:

... hheyi bomapendane yini enipendayo la ...

English:

... and for him it was shocking because he was not used to seeing women in those positions. He actually came back the following day and told us that after he saw our mural, he actually remembered that when he gets home he shouldn't beat up his wife, which is something that actually really made us realise that we certainly are impactful in the work that we do.

I have 30 seconds left and all I want to say is that the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, and anyone else in this room that wants to be really impactful in society and not just have another talk show, please reach out to us and hear us speak about how we can help women in townships, in villages ...

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 31

IsiZulu:

... eNqutu, e-Stanger, KwaDukuza, eMandeni ...

English:

.. and many other local communities which you don't reach when you're wearing your high heels and using Uber which is five minutes away from your hotel. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): Thank you very much, ladies. This topic is obviously a colossal topic for us to take on. I think 20 minutes will never do justice to it. All of us in this room have been affected by GBV, whether directly or indirectly. However, the point is that it is the scourge that is really wrecking our communities, whether you are in the urban areas or rural areas. And of course, there's a disproportionate impact in certain demographics as well.

So, I'm going to allow for questions. I only have 10 minutes. So, please be sharp and ... no preambles, no political rhetoric. ... only 10 minutes. I'm possibly going to take ... Let's take one hand. Somebody has already given me the eye in that corner. I'll take one hand in the room and then I'm going to ... Presumably, we still have people on the line. I'm happy

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 32

to take one question from the line as well. Okay, I'll take two hands, but you have to be one minute ... very sharp. I'll recognise you and ... in yellow as well. Let's start there.

Dr TIRHANI MANGANYI (Gender Based Violence and Femicide response fund): Good morning and all protocol observed. I just want to add a funder's perspective to this conversation. I am Tirhani Manganyi from the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Response Fund.

We were launched by the President in 2021 with the aim of mobilising the private sector to get involved in making resources available for the national strategic plan. To date, we've been able to mobilise about R240 million and the majority of that has already been commissioned to 200 community-based organisations across the country. There has been a significant impact that we have been able to achieve to date.

So, I just want to register and recognise that there are funders that have been established with the main aim of supporting the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence. Thank you.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 33

Ms QUEEN PUMLA (CONTROLESA): Good morning, my name is Queen Phumla from the Congress of Traditional Leaders of SA, Contralesa. As I'm sitting here listening, I realise that women go through a lot and that there is a lot of strategy that needs to be employed. Our communities are actually vulnerable. With the work that I do as a pastoral counsellor as well, I can tell you about a story of a woman that I have recently been dealing with.

This woman has a problem with drug overuse and as she has this problem of drug overuse, and as I am unpacking, I realise that the issue is not drug overuse, but the issue here ... drug overuse is actually a coping mechanism. The issue here is the fact that she was raped by her own father and when she heard that her own father was arrested because he had raped someone else, she lapsed again, because she used to use before. She then lapsed back into drugs again.

So what I'm trying to say is that women here in South Africa are really in need of your support and I feel that a lot needs to still be done. Thank you.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 34

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): Thank you very much. Before I go to the lines, they say you must never waste power that has been given to you. So as chair, I'm giving myself power and I'm going to say to Sarah ... Do you have a question, ma?

Ms M L DUNJWA: No, I am just seated here ... both Chairs, the hon Govender and hon Frolick, and I said, there is our future Speaker. You are assertive and you stay on time. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): Thank you. Well, let me live up to it and say I'm using my power now to recognise Sarah. Sarah, I want you to link your earlier input on the care economy, climate justice, as well as this big topic of GBV and its impact on young people in the communities.

Ms SARAH CHARITY MOKWEBO (Young Women Activist / Founder of Should All Be Feminist Collective): Thank you, chairperson of the session. The topic is quite a mouthful. However, what I would firstly say is that care work is necessary for any thriving economy, and I want to speak to it as a young woman who for the longest time thought that, for instance not having a child is the most radical thing you can do, whereas, in fact the reason that I thought not having a child is the most

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 35

radical thing you can do is because I have been ... we, or rather as young women we grew up in an environment where we were told that kids, for instance, you know, tamper with your career progression. However, in fact the conversation that we're supposed to have is that misogyny is the reason that women with kids are not thriving ... [Inaudible.] ... society, whether in the economy or even with our day-to-day ... because there is this notion that they've made care work just the responsibility of women and it's not the responsibility of the entire community ... it's not the responsibility of the entire village as we say.

So, we need to then revisit the conversation of how do we approach care work in our country, in our society. This is even outside of, say for instance, you know, professional women like ourselves, for lack of a better word, who can easily work from home and then are able to balance, you know, being a parent as well as doing work. But what about the women that work in Pick n Pay? A woman in Pick n Pay cannot work from home. So what do we say about care work for women like that, who can't necessarily afford to stay and work from home and also can't afford to leave their jobs because they have

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 36

the responsibility of looking after their families and also looking after themselves?

Another thing that I also want to speak about is the link between GBV and climate change in that, like I said in my initial input, displacement makes women and girls vulnerable, and because we already exist in a society that sees women as a thing to torture, as something to abuse and all sorts of things, climate change then exacerbates that.

So, in addition to actually having responsive policies towards addressing climate change, we also need to undo the patriarchal conditioning of society in that when you see women being vulnerable, then you need to prey on them. So, I will leave it at that. Thank you, chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): Thank you, Sarah. I need to be honest and admit that technology has dribbled me and I'm not sure if there are any questions online. I don't have any visibility.

Ms F T MASHIANE (Mpumalanga): We have.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 37

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): Oh, yes, hon Mashiane, please go ahead.

Ms FLORENCE THOKOZILE MASHIANE (Mpumalanga): Good morning, chair and all hon members and participants. Mine is a question on the issue of legislation and the licensing of taverns ... of taverns and ...

Ms J S MANANISO: Chairperson?

Ms FLORENCE THOKOZILE MASHIANE (Mpumalanga): I don't know what's happening.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): Can you assist by muting the other participant, please?

Ms J S MANANISO: No, it's a point of order in terms of the Rules of Parliament.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): Okay, let's take the order.

Ms J S MANANISO: Yes, I just want to indicate ... can the speaker on the platform switch off the video because it

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 38

displays the political party's banner? It is not parliamentary.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): You are correct. You are correct. Let's ... [Inaudible.]

Ms FLORENCE THOKOZILE MASHIANE (Mpumalanga): My apologies.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): There's no ... Yes, thank you. Perhaps switch off your camera and let's just hear the audio.

Ms FLORENCE THOKOZILE MASHIANE (Mpumalanga): Yes, I've done that. I was saying on the issue of licensing and legislation, there are taverns and bottle stores that were built before and you find that there's a school that was built after that. So what do we do about those issues? More especially, when you check the Bill that is supposed to be passed, there are some kilometres or metres away from taverns and bottle stores. But if that thing has been there previously, what do we do about that?

Ms NOMCEBO DLAMINI (The Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA): Thank you very much for that question, hon

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 39

... That is an issue that can possibly be assisted with an answer by the provinces because the licensing of liquor establishments is with the provinces. I do understand that where the establishment has been there and then a school is built around it, it might be a bit tricky.

It is actually quite unfortunate that this is the argument which even the industry is pushing, in saying that the school and government should figure out how ... where to build schools, instead of it being the other way round.

So, in as much as we are quite concerned about business and how we don't want those liquor establishments that have always been there to suddenly lose business simply because a school has been built next to it, I think the best would be that in terms of the province itself in awarding that licence, they then have to engage with that establishment and the community, because the community around licensing areas also has a right to protest in saying whether they actually want that establishment in their area or not.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 40

So, it is one of those issues that we need to discuss, even with provincial liquor boards, in saying how do we then deal with that.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms S Majozi): Thank you. This brings us to a close. I can see there are plenty of hands. We'll have a discussion during tea.

Just very quickly, my parting shot is as follows. Public and private partnerships are only as strong as the agenda that you put in front of them. It is all about nation-building and how to get the relevant players together.

Much of what we've discussed in the last two days is around equity. However, there can never truly be equity without restorative justice. That is really just akin to putting plaster on cracks and not fixing the foundation. So the structure will fail, the centre will not hold. So with that, I thank you very much and I vacate the seat.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms M L Dunjwa): Good morning, everybody. For the benefit of those members that may not have been in yesterday, my name is Lindelwa and my surname is Dunjwa. I am

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 41

the Chairperson of the Multi-Party Women's Caucus. I am here with my team. From where I am seated let me welcome Ms Maseko from the legislature. If there are any members of the legislatures that are present, they will just indicate so that my co-chair will then be able to also identify. As much as we are chasing time, but I think it is important for me to raise this. I feel so excited to see young, confident women and as much as it was a joke, yesterday I ambushed one of them. Let me disclose. I ambushed one of them. I said, go and deliver. I am in the panel, but she made it. I think the onus is on us. Yes, I do not like this thing of age, but you cannot run away from it. We have got a responsibility to ensure that we build that second layer of leadership. And I can see that, well, they have built themselves. They are all comfortable. We do not have time. If there was time, I was then going to reflect on what they said on the evening activity that we had. But the one that was on this chair, oh my God, I do not think I will be able to stand there with her. She was ... keep it up. We will keep it up.

Now we are going to have, and my approach is, Chair, if we have started the other way around, we are now going to have political statements from our political organisations. We

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 42

would not be Parliament if you do not use the word politics. So be aware that now we are in that process. We are in a session of Women's Parliament. So that is what we will do and, in that process, unfortunately, if a person exceeds her time, I cut without any fear or favour this time around.

IsiXhosa:

NgesiXhosa ke kuthiwa ipower (amandla okulawula) ayingomwangelala.

English:

We will now call upon the first party that is going to deliver its statement, which is the ANC. I will then call the DA. I will then have to refer when she is here. Thank you. There is no rush, do not panic. The other thing that I want to tell members, my apologies, she is going to be the last one to be in that podium. In consultation with the powers to be, is that members will make their statements seated. Members will make their statements except provinces. Am I correct? Except provinces. Because provinces, this is their House. They represent all of us. So, it is only provinces that will be. I have not pointed at you. I just looked at you because I was wondering.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 43

Ms M S LETLAPE: Sorry about that, Chair. I just wanted to propose that can both the political parties and the provinces just follow the procedure that we have been using? I think it is going to be a little bit difficult for political parties to do the declarations from where they are sitting. Thanks.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms M L Dunjwa): Hon member.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you, Chair. I would like to support that motion that was put forward just now. Thank you, Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms M L Dunjwa): I then make a ruling. As you all know what we do in the House. When a person is about your time, you try to be nearer so that there is no too much traffic. Remember that we are online. Everybody is watching us. So, we must not be seen as being confused. If that is what members want, do what we do in our normal sittings in terms of how to follow the next speaker. Thank you very much. Hon Khanyile, sorry for that.

ACCELERATING EQUALITY, SUSTANABILITY AND SHARED GROWTH

Ms T A KHANYILE (DA): Chairperson, the DA welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the 2025 P20 Women's Parliament.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 44

As South Africa's second largest party, we are rooted in the values of freedom, fairness, opportunity and diversity. We view this engagement as vital in strengthening democratic participation, amplifying women's voices and shaping inclusive and Sustainable Global Development Goals. The DA recognises the Women's Parliament as a platform to elevate progressive ideas and policies that can shape a fairer and a more prosperous future.

This submission outlines our political and policy standing and details our recommendations and proposals aligned with the six key thematic areas of this year's P20 Women's Parliament.

Political policy standing of the Democratic Alliance - the DA stands as a centrist liberal democratic political party that champions constitutionalism, the rule of law, nonracialism, a capable state and market-friendly policies. We believe in a social market economy that provides the space for individual enterprise and initiative while ensuring a safety net for the most vulnerable.

On tackling gender-based violence, the DA policy context, the DA supports comprehensive GPV strategies and programmes and the DA proposals, the establishment of femicide watch to

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 45

publish annually disaggregated data on gender-based related killings, detailing victim perpetrator relations, age, etc. A National Council on Gender-Based Violence, including representatives from government, civil society and private sector to oversee a cohesive policy framework. The DA also proposes reallocation of funds from the Ministry for Women to the Commission on Gender Equity and the new council and health, well-being and mental upliftment.

On the DA policy context, we believe women must be active agents in democratic processes and global decision-making structures. Hence, to be able to fully partake in health systems, ensure access and equity. Hon Chairperson, I am going to go straight into the conclusion because I am left with 30 seconds.

In conclusion, the DA remains committed to advancing women-centric policies that empower, include and uplift. The P20 Women's Parliament represents an important platform for constructive dialogue, innovation and collaboration on global challenges. Our proposals are firmly rooted in our track record of governance and our vision for a prosperous,

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 46

inclusive and dynamic South Africa within a strong and driving African continent. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms M L Dunjwa): As we said, we will call the next speaker, who was the ANC, then after the ANC, then follow the sequence.

Ms D D PULE (ANC): Hon Chairperson, good morning. In February 1996 at the National Conference of Commitments, Gender and Women Empowerment, President Nelson Mandela had this to say:

The cause of women emancipation is part of our national struggle against outdated practices and prejudices. It is a struggle that demands equal effort from both men and women alike. Just as the fight against apartheid liberated all South Africans, the struggle for gender equality will benefit both men and women.

The ANC is known for its historic mission of fighting for gender equality and advancing women's emancipation. This has been evidently displayed through progressive policies that place women's empowerment at the centre to build an inclusive and prosperous society.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 47

We have come a long way as a country in shaping the women's development agenda, which aligns with the vision and the principles of the ANC expressed in the Freedom Charter.

The struggle for women's emancipation has been met with progress and action by ensuring that women are represented in all spheres of government. The ANC has maintained a strong commitment to gender equality and always strive for 50% representation, although I heard 80% outside the stars yesterday.

Women in South Africa and the world over continue to experience challenges. They are the most affected by global diseases, by climate change and are excluded in economic opportunities and their status in society has not yet been fully transformed. Making these challenges worse in the growing global conflict, especially conflict in Africa, which fuels migration and displacement, threatening the health, rights of women and children and their families.

South Africa as the only African member of the G20, should play a critical role in shaping global discourse on gender equality, social protection and sustainable development. Our

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 48

participation actually aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our position on the P20's medium-term development plan.

One of the high-level deliverables that the G20 working groups will be focusing on is inclusive economic growth, industrialization, employment and reduced inequality. It is, therefore, important for us to advance the women's development agenda. We need an economy that is functional and allows equal participation. An exclusive economy creates inequality, which in some cases has a direct proportional relation with gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF.

In conclusion ... in summary, we believe as the ANC that specific emphasis should be given to the following priorities that are key for gender impact on the women's development agenda: firstly, inclusive economic growth to allow women to equally participate in the mainstream economy, including the digital economy. Secondly, increase women's access to skills training and agriculture, entrepreneurship and to sector-specific skills. Thirdly, strengthen all gender mainstreaming initiatives to advance the fight against gender-based violence

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 49

and femicide. And lastly, prioritise women's health and safety. I thank you, Chair.

Ms M B B MUHAMMAD (MKP): Chair, I greet you all in the universal greeting of peace ...

Arabic:

... As-salaamu-alai-kum.

English:

Today, in this chamber we are not here to recite the old lullabies of political comfort, we are here to shake the wary words of complacency. The theme before us speaks of accelerating equality, sustainability and shared growth.

But let us be honest, acceleration is impossible if the brakes of patriarchy, corruption and selective empowerment are still clamped on the wheels of progress.

Seventy years after the Women's Charter, our mothers and grandmothers' demands still echo unanswered. Black women remain the poorest in the land of their birth. They are first in the unemployment line and last in the line of opportunity.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 50

We do not have an equality problem because of lack of policy, we have an equality crisis because of lack of political will.

The MKP says enough with gender equality as a decorative slogan. We demand gender equality as a binding, enforceable economic policy. Not empty quotas, not half-baked empowerment schemes that enrich the politically connected. We want real ownership in land, in industry, in the commanding heights of the economy.

And to those who hide oppression behind the veil of culture or tradition, we say this, our traditions are not sacred if they chain our women. True culture uplifts, it does not mutilate, abduct or silence.

The Bill of Rights is not negotiable, whether in Parliament, in the boardroom or the royal crown. We also say this to the men in positions of power.

Gender-based violence is not a women's issue, it's a national crisis and it is a direct indictment on your leadership, we will hold you accountable. And to every department that

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 51

underfund shelters, ignores court orders of failed survivors, your days of hiding behind bureaucracy are numbered.

The MKP's vision is clear. Economic liberation for women through targeted industrialization and preferential procurement that reaches the grassroots, not the elite, land and resource access for rural women as a constitutional imperative, not a charity. Financial systems that open doors for women-owned enterprises without drowning them in red tape. Political representation that is not just 50-50 on paper, but 50-50 in influence and decision making.

We would not want to be included in a broken system. We want to rebuild the system that no South African girl is born into a world where her gender decides her destiny.

My dearest beloved sisters, history will not remember the speeches we gave, it will remember the courage we showed.

The MKP stands ready to be in the uncompromising voice for women, not tomorrow, not next year, but now.

IsiZulu:

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 52

Gwaza, MK, gwaza.

Ms M S LETLAPE (EFF): Chairperson, I rise on behalf of the EFF to speak not only as a representative of Parliament but as a servant of millions of black women who continue to bear the brand of oppressive economic system, a violent patriarchal society and a government that has failed to transform the material conditions of our people.

This year's theme suggests that there is still increasing marginalization of women in this country. We know that in the South African labour market women earn 72 cents of every rand earned by men for doing the very same job. We know that on the top 40 Johannesburg Stock exchange, JSE, listed companies women constitute a mere 36% of board positions.

We know for a fact that deeply embedded misogynist tendencies still persist in our own very public sector, with men in senior positions in provinces such as the Eastern Cape demanding sex for jobs from vulnerable women.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 53

The recently released employment statistics reveal that the unemployment rate for women in this country is 35,5%, higher than that of men and higher than the national average.

We know that every single quarter there is on average 11 000 reported rape cases in this country, with many others going unreported. We know for the majority of women, mainly in townships and rural areas, are locked out of sexual reproductive health provisions in this country. This must change.

And while the P20 Women's Parliament holds deep historical significance, it is concerning to note how women across the globe are still not accorded the place of prominence in politics and in governance. And this session under the banner of P20 Women's Parliament must, therefore, not be reduced to another symbolic gathering of well-dressed politeness and empty resolutions.

We must confront the structural oppression that keeps black women landless, voiceless and excluded from wealth, power and dignity, and boldly tabled proposals for a radical shift in power and influence in society.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 54

We stand here with one message, that Africa will no longer beg for space at the table and without women, because we are the economy and we can build it.

We, therefore, reject the new colonial model that keeps Africa as a raw material supplier, while African and foreign powers profit from our own resources.

We reject an economy built for the rich.

Inclusion without land reform, without access to finance, without black-owned industries is empty talk and women must be centred around those talks.

Chairperson, we are not here to celebrate, we are here to confront. For the continued economic, social and political oppression of women is not accidental, and it is designed and what is designed can be dismantled. I thank you. [Applause.]

Ms B E MACHI (IFP): Hon Chair, esteemed members and fellow South Africans. The IFP stands here today deeply committed to advancing the women's development agenda, as we prepare for the 20th Women's Parliament.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 55

We believe that gender equality cannot remain symbolic, but rather, it must be measurable, resourced and implemented with urgency.

We affirm that the voices, needs and leadership of women must be at the centre of the national policy. This also means women entrepreneurs have access to finance, markets and training, especially in rural and township communities.

In KwaZulu-Natal we are leading by example with a R200 million women's economic empowerment fund to ensure women's-led businesses have direct access to capital. We must also recognise and invest in the care economy, valuing the unpaid work ... caregivers and ensuring their protection.

We demand stronger implementation of the GBVF National Strategic Plan, more GBV specialized courts and zero tolerance to the perpetrators of violence against women and children.

On climate justice, we call for women's leadership in green jobs and sustainable agriculture.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 56

In education, we demand a national stem for girls programme to close the digital divide.

In health, we push for mobile clinics, reproductive health access and sanitary dignity programmes reaching our most remote areas.

The IFP's vision is clear. Equality, sustainability and shared growth must be delivered, not promised.

We will hold ourselves as this House accountable to the women of South Africa so that the promise of freedom is matched by the reality of opportunity. I thank you, Chair.

Ms S PETERS (PA): Hon Chairperson, I would like to also acknowledge my fellow Reiger Parker, the young lady who spoke earlier. I am proud of her. Today we gather in the shadow of greatness. We stand on the shoulders of women who came before us, women who marched, who fought, who refused to be silent. They paid the price so that we could have a voice in this Chamber. To them, we owe our gratitude.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 57

But our true duty is to the women who will come after us, our daughters, our granddaughters, the young girls in classrooms and on street corners today. They will inherit what we build or whatever we fail to fix. Our role is clear, we must create an environment of growth, safety, and stability for the women who will lead long after we are gone.

The Patriotic Alliance believes that the future is not built with slogans. It is built with action. We have a plan. First, to respect women, women must be the foundation of our society. That means teaching boys at an early age how to treat women with love, dignity, and honour, and holding men accountable when they fail. Second, zero tolerance for gender-based violence, GBV. We tell our sisters the hard truth, that if you are being shouted at, insulted, or struck, leave before it escalates. Abuses do not stop, they escalate. We will strengthen community networks, so that no woman ever feels trapped. We are failing the young girl child, like little Nikita that was killed by her own father in El Dorado Park.

Third, community safety through decisive action. We cannot ignore the reality. Many of our crimes that destroy women's lives are committed by people who are not even supposed to be

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 58

in the country. The PA will drive the mass deportation of illegal foreigners who commit crimes to protect our women from rape and murder without consequences.

Fourth, economic empowerment. Equality is meaningless without opportunity. We will prioritise funding for women-owned businesses, free access to green economy jobs, and ensure that government contracts lift women from our townships and rural areas. Also, I would like to obviously emphasise the previously marginalised communities as well from your Indian, white, and coloured communities.

Hon members, accelerating equality, sustainability, and shared growth is not about ticking boxes for the G20. It is about ensuring that, South African women are still fighting the same battles we are today in 20-, 30- or 50-years' time. Let us act now with courage, with unity, and with the world to make South Africa the safest, and strongest place in Africa for women to love, work, and lead. The woman before us has lit the torch. It is our duty to carry it further, higher, and further than they ever dreamed possible. Thank you.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 59

Cllr K V MORODI (Action SA): Chairperson, I rise as a representative for Action SA at the Historic Women's Parliament under the theme: Accelerating Equality, Sustainability and Shared Growth. As South Africa assumes the G20 presidency in December, we have a real moment to lead, not just for ourselves but for Africa and the global South.

This is not just a gathering, it is a call to transform the lived realities of many women and girls. Under the leadership of president Herman Mashaba, rooted in ethical governance, economic freedom and accountability, our manifesto was built from voices of communities, and our vision is simple: A South Africa where every woman has the tools to break systematic barriers and reach her full potential.

The first crisis we must confront is period poverty, seven million South African women and girls cannot afford sanitary pads, and 30% of these girls miss school during their periods, forced to use rags and newspapers while their dreams are put on hold.

Action SA calls for free sanitary pads in schools, clinics and community centres, value added tax, VAT, -free legislated as a

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 60

right, the same as legislated condoms. Secondly, we must tackle entrepreneurship and financial inclusion. Too many women are denied access to finance, and Action SA proposes a women's entrepreneurship fund, drawing from the portion of corporate taxation, to provide low-interest loans, grants, and mentorship. We will streamline business registrations, push for banks to allocate 40% of small and medium enterprises, SME, funding to women and convert hijacked buildings into enterprise hubs.

Third, we must value the care economy. Women's unpaid labour sustains our society, yet it traps many in poverty. We propose community-based childcare facilities, recognising our domestic workers' formal employment with fair wages and removing VAT from essentials like nappies and formula. Fourth, safety, gender-based violence and femicide rob women of their lives and dignity.

We demand specialised gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, codes, mandatory life sentences for femicide and safe houses, and school-based education to challenge toxic masculinity. Fifth, opportunities in education and technology. We must bridge the digital divide with free Wi-Fi in

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 61

underserved areas, subsidies for girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM, stronger teacher training and a higher pass rate requirement for quality learning.

Lastly, we also commit to climate justice that empowers women in green industries, health equity that prioritises reproductive and mental health, and land reform that gives women farmers title deeds and subsidies and training.

Delegates, this is more than just a policy conversation. It is about dignity, opportunity, and justice. Let us ensure that women's development agenda is not just words on paper but a living promise to every woman and child in South Africa. Thank you.

Cllr R M DEES (ACDP): Hon Chairperson, esteemed members, women of destiny and worth of South Africa, fighting gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, is not about being radical, it is about being righteous. The past few years, months, and days and even this very hour have been a very ... [Interjections.]

...

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms M L Dunjwa): Sorry, hon member. Can the table staff assist us with the virtual? And secondly, Mr Xaso,

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 62

can we be assisted? The people that are coming here who are standing on the door, may they please be taken to the overflow because they are not supposed to be standing while the Parliament is in session. Thank you very much. You may continue, Madam.

Cllr R M DEES (ACDP): ... The past few years, months and weeks and days and even at this very hour have been a never-ending story for victims of GBV and femicide in our country. We are not only called to speak up, but we are also called to act.

In South Africa, the cries of women and girls are too loud, too frequent, and too long ignored. Today, I speak as a leader of the ACDP Women of Destiny, a mother, grandmother, sister, friend, and a survivor of GBV. Every day, we lose mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends to GBVF. It is not just a social crisis; it is a human rights emergency.

GBVF stats from January to March 2025 shows that 906 women were murdered, 15 000 assaults and eleven rapes. Our country has come as some of the strongest legal frameworks works on paper, all aimed to protect women. But here is the truth, laws alone do not save lives, implementation does. Many survivors

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 63

are still turned away by under-trained police officers. Protection orders are violated without consequences, rape kits go untested, shelters are underfunded and non-existent in rural areas. And while the law may say zero tolerance, in practice, silence and delays are the norm. Fifty-five percent systemic challenges are experienced due to cases that go unpunished. A weak law enforcement, limited access to justice and mental health support, this is where the system fails.

Because society does not protect its women, it will never develop to its full potential. Women cannot fully participate in the economy, in education or leadership if they are living in fear and that is the important aspect. So, what needs to happen over the medium term? Strengthen oversight, not just policy. Fund the fight. Our schools must teach children about respect, dignity, and consent. GBV starts with a mindset long before it becomes a crime. We need life orientation that orientates lives, not just stick boxes. Regulate alcohol. Communities need to have a say in when, where and how alcohol needs to be sold. We need transparency, real-time data on GBV cases, convictions, and failures in the system. What gets measured gets fixed. Hon members, fighting GBV is not about

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 64

being radical, it is about being righteous. May God bless South Africa. Thank you.

Ms C T NONTENJA (UDM): Chairperson, greetings. As a nation we have become a rhetoric nation, celebrating poverty instead of development. While we have a number of beautiful pieces of legal frameworks that promote gender equality, one may argue that these frameworks have not been effective due to lack of implementation, and that is evident in the persistent challenges that continue to face South African women, especially black women in rural areas and informal settlements.

These women are affected by the structural violence and inequalities inherited from apartheid. As a result, they face economic exclusion which, according to research, is the most severe form of exclusion. Many of these women rely on street vending as their primary source of income with some being the sole breadwinners of their households, yet their informal businesses continue to face hurdles such as lack of funding, having to work in unsafe environments and having to pay extortion fees.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 65

These issues show that departments such as local economic development, Department of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Small Business Development should do more to be accessible and visible to the women at the grassroots level. It is impossible to assist people at the grassroots when there are no practical engagements and visibility from our departments.

Economic empowerment alone will not free women if gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, continues. It destroys lives and blocks women's contributions to development. South Africa has very long conviction rates on GBV cases. Survivors often face a slow inaccessible and retraumatising justice system causing many to abandon cases. This fosters impunity, emboldening perpetrators and silencing the victims.

For the Global Business Services, GBS, to be truly transformative, it must go beyond economic matrix and integrate dedicated funding for improving GBVF case management, survivor support services and reforms within the criminal justice system to ensure perpetrators are held accountable.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 66

The UDM calls on the stakeholders in the P20 forum to confront gender-based violence and justice failures as these are crucial for gender equality. When discussing inclusive development, it is vital to include marginalised women. I thank you.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER (BOSA): Madam Chairperson, hon members and distinguished delegates, as BOSA we welcome the opportunity to be part of and to address the P20 Women's Parliament. The objectives set before us, which are to advance women's entrepreneurship, to strengthen financial inclusion and to secure women's place at the centre of the economy, are not only just urgent, they are also achievable, but only if we work together.

I do not know of a more hardworking group ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms M L Dunjwa): Sorry, hon member. In terms of the Rules of the House we are not to take photos. We are not allowed to do that. thank you.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER (BOSA): I don't know of a more hardworking group of people than black women. Yet, that woman

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 67

is still the face of poverty, 31 years into democracy. She is the street vendor, the domestic worker, the small business owner who can't access capital to grow her business. It is not for lack of hard work that the black woman remains the face of poverty in our country.

That is why as BOSA we support the causes that have come from this gathering to create a women's development agency. This should be an institution that has a clear mandate to fund, support and mentor women entrepreneurs. We have seen this work in Rwanda and Malaysia. These agencies have increased women's participation in the economy, and it could be a game changer in our own country.

We also believe at BOSA that pay equity is inseparable from economic inclusion and that's why we have introduced the Fair Pay Bill which requires companies to account for gender pay gaps. These are the measures that ensure that women's work is valued with equity and fairness.

For this Women's Parliament to have been meaningful and more than a talk shop, we have to remove systemic barriers, whether it's in banking biases or procurement gatekeeping, we have

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 68

to reform access to finance, we have to invest where women trade and live in townships and rural markets and informal hubs and we have to make sure that we hold all mandated institutions accountable, transparent and measurable in order to report. We particularly call on the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities to do this.

Lastly, this is a moment that calls for us to not just be in agreement but to act. Like the women of 1956 we must face and recognise that there is an urgency, and we must leave this gathering united in the call to actually act. Let's be united in the vision that one day this country will be led by a woman.

It will require us though across party lines and across sectors to recognise excellence in women when we see it, and then to rally around a woman, whether it is quietly, loudly, visible or behind the scenes. We can only get this right and we can only be led by a woman in this country if we do it collectively. Thank you.

IsiNdebele:

Kkz G NTUMBA (ATM): Sihlalo, lotjhani.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 69

English:

I rise on behalf of the ATM under the stewardship guidance of Dr Caesar Nongqunga and the resolute leadership of hon Thandiswa Marawu. We meet under the banner of accelerating equality, sustainability and shared growth, yet acceleration lies not in debates or conferences but in everyday realities of women, particularly those in rural South Africa.

Whilst the current government pours hundreds of millions in dialogues, summits and legacy platforms that revolve endlessly around non issues, ATM focuses on delivery.

IsiNdebele:

Umengameli we-ATM, uPhrof. Caesar Nongqunga, ingasi kade wakhe indlela endaweni ekuthiwa yiLibode esePumalanga Kapa akhela umphakathi wakhona. Indlela leyo yakhiwe nguye, ingasuye urhumende.

English:

This is more than a road; it is a lifeline. It is a path where women trade every day, whether trading fruits at roadside, weaving grass mats, selling brooms or traveling to work. That road is not a dialogue; it is progress.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 70

IsiNdebele:

Endaweni yeMaxwele eseMthatha, nakhona kwakhiwe indlu. Umma uNosiviwe Maxhwele watjhelwa yindlu yakhe, samakhela indlu enamagumbi amahlanu.

English:

Whilst the government pours hundreds of millions in dialogues, summits and legacy platforms that revolve endlessly around non issues ...

That is the development that matters to our forgotten monarchs.

Olorato Mongale, a promising journalist, ICT policy graduate at Witwatersrand, former radio presenter and communication officer was murdered after going on a date arranged via a mall encounter.

IsiNdebele:

Umzimba wakhe watholakala ulahlwe eLombardy mhlana amalanga ama-25 kuMrhayili unyaka wona lo.

English:

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 71

We ask this House to observe a moment of silence in a memory of Olorato and many other women who have fallen.

IsiNdebele:

Sidlulisa amagama wokutjhiriya.

English:

We owe this to the women walking that Libode road today to chief Maxwele and every woman whose dignity was restored. To Olorato whose life was tragically cut short and to sister Mongale. Let us stop wasting money on conversation about non problems. Let us invest in solutions and touch lives. Let us accelerate equality, sustain growth and ensure that prosperity is not a privilege but a right to every woman in our land. I thank you.

Adv Cllr S SALIE (Al Jama-ah): Hon Chairperson, *As-salaamu-alai-kum*. [Peace be with you.]

English:

There is a famous saying by Prophet Muhammad Salah Salem, "the condition of society depends on the consciousness of women". Looking at our history and women, we are proud of the women

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 72

who have been advocating for justice, economic freedom and equality. The 1956 march at the Union Buildings is a vivid testimony to women struggle against oppression.

The Women's Charter serves as a cornerstone for women's rights and equality, and yet the inequality and lack of gender parity in our country is concerning. To note, South Africa's representation of women in the Seventh Parliament is at 42% after 31 years. Femicide and GBV are still evident. Sadly, South Africa has the highest rate of unemployed women and inequality remains glaring.

As a Women's Parliament, we should note to government not to restrict nongovernmental organisation, NGOs, nonprofit organisations, NPOs and vendors with unnecessary tape. Many of these NPOs and unregistered soup kitchens run by the aunties and the Gogos are holding our community together.

Al Jama-ah notes government must invest more in projects to enhance in leadership capacity of all on all levels of government. Municipalities Integrated Development Plans, IDPs, must include dialogue on challenges faced by women, at local level women must be representative enough to influence local

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 73

decision-making, support gender equality, more awareness about laws and the rights of women, promote educational sessions on how to deal with harmful gender norms, both in the home and at the workplace.

Our country needs to work harder on improving infrastructure that is denying families the right to water, allowing for homelessness, unemployment, that further exposes women to violence. Many women do not have faith in our justice system because of the slow court processes, missing files and in many cases, women are facing lack of empathy.

Women are often victimised during legal proceedings, which discourages them from pursuing cases. If we want to have a more equitable society, then we must have a solid plan of action and we need to ensure accountability. Strengthening accountability policies and laws must be put in place to hold officials accountable in the mishandling of GBV cases. Ensure laws and accountability on all levels of government to ensure equal decision-making power of women in political parties and the representation of government on all levels. Increase programmes of awareness and access to justice.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 74

Not enough public awareness campaigns are... [Inaudible.] ...

Last but not least, let us remember all the women around the world, South Africa, Palestine, Afghanistan, Syria, in DRC who are fighting the wounds of atrocities. Let us pray for them. I thank you.

Ms RACHEL SEANEGO: Chairperson, ...

IsiZulu:

Malibongwe!

English:

Mother Africa! As the UAT, we stand before you grounded in Pan-Africanism and the spirit of Ubuntu, the African truth that, I am because you are. Our continent's destiny is bound together when one woman in rural village of Makotopong, where a 13-year old girl was raped by her teacher, when two women were killed and thrown into the pigsty, rises an entire community and the entire nation. Indeed, our Africa rise with them.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 75

The development priorities before us and egalitarian state advancing inclusive and sustainable growth tackling interest inequalities and accelerating gender equality in every sphere of economic life are not mere words on paper. They are lived realities for women who wake up before dawn to feed their families, women who till the soil with shrinking access to land and water, women who bears the burden of care while being shut out of markets, mining industry and decision-making. This is not just a global commitment, it is our moral and political duty here at home.

In Limpopo province, when women smallholder farmers in Tshakhuma, Rabali and Tshiombo face systematic barriers, insecure land tenure, lack of irrigation, poor market information and crippling transport costs, these obstacles turn potential harvest into persistent hunger and unpaid labour. Supporting these women with ... [Interjections.] ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms M L Dunjwa): Can IT assist us and take out that person from the platform. He is disturbing. Nomqibelo, you are disturbing the House. We then will take you out of the platform. Can she be taken out, please. You may continue, hon member. Sorry for that.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 76

Ms RACHEL SEANEGO: Thank you, Chairperson. Supporting this women with secure land rights, infrastructure and market access is not charity, it is sound development policy. In the Eastern Cape province, home to some of the highest numbers of female-headed households, women bear the brunt of poverty, service shortfalls and climate shocks. They manage diverse livelihoods, horticulture, livestock, informal trade and social grants adaptive yet precarious.

To truly honour Ubuntu, we must move from rhetoric to concrete action. Reliable water and energy, resilient local markets, quality schooling and public works that value women's time and labour. Hon members, Pan-Africanism calls us to look beyond borders and beyond party lines. Ubuntu demands that we act as one community. Let us honour our women in Africa and women across our land by turning ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms M L Dunjwa): ... I am sorry, ma'm, your time has expired.

Ms RACHEL SEANEGO: Thank you.

Xitsonga:

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 77

Khanimambo!

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms M L Dunjwa): Thank you hon members and our guests. Because Good is not responding, so they are not in the House but it is indicated here that they will be speaking from the Chamber and they are not in the online platform either. We will now take a comfort break of 30 minutes and ...

[Interjections.] ... Can I be allowed to exercise my powers with all the views that you have. After the 30 minutes comfort break we will start even if we are few. I thank you.

House suspended for a 30-minute comfort break at 10:20.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms T I Legwase): A very good morning once again colleagues and welcome back. With the ... [Inaudible] ... that has been already been established, allow me to award this opportunity and invite NCOP delegates and SA Local Government Association, Salga to give their insight through statements on development landscape across provinces and local government aligning with national and provincial agendas, including the local sphere of government, the National Development Plan, the Medium-Term Development Plan, provincial growth and development strategies, integrated development plans and local economic development strategies.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 78

I will now without any waste of time invite Cllr Phukuntsi the Chief Whip of Salga to make her statement. Members of the NCOP will be given six minutes each to make statements on behalf of their provinces. Salga will be making presentations on behalf of the local government sphere. Cllr Phukuntsi.

Cllr K R PHUKUNTSI (Salga): Chair, we bring greetings from organised local government. Let me stand on the protocol that has been established. It was in 1994 on 24 May and on the first state of the nation address under the democratic dispensation that the then President hon Tata Nelson Mandela had this to say, I quote:

Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression.

Today as we convene the first P20 Parliament of the Seventh Dispensation those words echo louder than before. Despite decades of democracy, South African women continue to face systematic barriers whether in economic participation, political leadership or social justice. Considering this, women are on average 27 % less than men in South Africa, and nearly 50% of working women live below the poverty line. These

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 79

are not just numbers, they are lives constrained by inequality.

Chairperson, today's theme and the theme of this particular P20 is a clarion call to correct these imbalances. This session marks a historic opportunity to transform our growth trajectory through the Women's Charter, Medium-Term Development Plan and the 2025 G20 development priorities. On the gender mainstreaming, we are saying we must become institutionalised and non-negotiable. The government's planning process across all three spheres must be scrutinised through gender lens. We need gender responsive budgeting that ensures every rand spent contributes to closing the gender gap, no exceptions.

In this regard, as Salga, we have established the Salga Women Commission to guide the gender transformation agenda in local government, and represent the sector regionally and globally. We have and we are establishing gender transforming oversight structures in municipalities, the Multi-Party Women Commissions. Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Cogta supports us in ensuring that these Multi-party Women Commissions are section 79 committees in all of our Councils.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 80

We want this in all 257 municipalities. Some of the pushbacks we are getting is where some of the municipalities are set to not have enough women councillors or that there is no budget to fund such for remuneration of chairpersons per the upper limits, resourcing the office and the funding programmes. We reject this as an attitude that perpetuates inequality and delays of our achievement of Sustainable Development Goal, SDG 5. The Municipal Structures Act as amended also provides for submission of Council lists to the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC that reflects 50% gender representation.

Why do we continue to allow political parties to change this when the final numbers or to the Council are announced? Why is the IEC not consistent in demanding the 50-50 on the final list from political parties on those they are sending to Council. We also empower municipalities to mainstream vulnerable group. This is women youth person, persons with disability, children and elderly and LBGTQI communities. In the plans for municipalities and to make sure that their voices are heard, forums representing these sectors are part of the municipal stakeholders through their chosen representatives to sit in the municipal planning processes of the Integrated Development Plan, IDP.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 81

Our women in local government programmes create pathways for women leaders and ensures municipal planning includes gender sensitive approaches, from capacity building for councillors to creating platforms for women leaders in local government, to driving gender responsive municipal policies. Salga ensures that the transformation is not just the national aspiration, but they lived reality in every town, city and a rural community. We are all aware that Salga represents 257 municipalities. We are advocating and lobbying on behalf of those municipalities.

Our own Constitution is clear that equality is a fundamental right. We must respect tradition without allowing harmful culture or religious practices to override women's dignity and rights. As the courts have affirmed, customary law must be interpreted in a manner consistent with the Constitution. It is our duty to uphold that particular principle.

In terms of the COVID-19 pandemic exposed and widened gender poverty gap, women bore the brunt of the job losses, unpaid care and unsafe working conditions. We must urgently adopt policies that protect women workers, including wage equity, decent work and social protection, so that economic recovery

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 82

is inclusive and sustainable. We are also centred on the issues of political and civic life. Women constitute over 50% of the population but remain underrepresented in decision-making. It is time to dismantle part ... [sound muted at 03:24-04:05] ... their vulnerabilities to build climate resilient communities.

Hon members, the Women's Charter, the Medium-Term Development Plan and the 2025 G20 Development Priorities form a strategic triad to address the redistribution bias that undermines our country's full potential. This is not just a human issue, it's a national imperative. I leave you with the words of Chinese proverb, famously popularised by Mao Zedong: "Women hold up half the sky" which emphasises the equal importance and capabilities of women in the society.

The proverb has inspired movements and initiatives to increase women participation in politics, business and various other sectors. Let us commit here and now to share the weight of that sky. Thank you Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms T I Legwase): Before inviting a permanent delegate from the Eastern Cape, maybe I should inform all the

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 83

delegates that will be making their statements that, we have a problem with the timer on the podium. So, you will depend on the Chairperson's time. When your time is up, I will indicate. Let me now invite hon Nodada, a permanent delegate from the Eastern Cape.

Mrs M B NDLANGISA-NODADA (Eastern Cape): Chair, also on the protocol that has been observed, let me just go straight to my presentation. The P20 Women's Parliament offers women from all women member states and women of the world through the voices of various MPs representing them in Parliament an opportunity not only to speak on issues affecting women, but to give women of the world an ear to be heard.

Furthermore, it is an opportunity for women of the world to influence policy and shape the world they inhabit. As members of the NCOP, this platform is very important. We are here in this House representing our provinces. We are the closest to the people. Our provinces have entrusted us with that responsibility.

The Eastern Cape has seen a share of investment from multinational companies that have contributed immensely to

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 84

government's plan of alleviating poverty. As one of the poor provinces in our country, women are the most affected, contributing to high cases of gender-based violence and femicide that affects even young girls below the age. The fight against GBVF will not be won unless economic opportunities are democratic and open to women. In the same manner, economic opportunities cannot be democratic if the world is not brought together to create solidarity and conduct its business outside the principles of Ubuntu and mutual respect.

As South Africa, we uphold the principle that problems of the world are problems of humanity. Thus, our provincial challenges of women's economic exclusion and gender-based violence cannot be solved without fostering solidarity with women of the world. Women of Congo, women of Palestine, Sudan, and all nations fighting against wars that displace women and expose them to crime of gender-based violence and femicide.

We therefore call all women that we must stand together as the world of humanity to challenge patriarchy and all forms of oppression that places men at the centre of policy development

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 85

and implementation to the exclusion of women. With that,
Chair, I thank you.

Ms MATHABO LEETO (Free State - Special delegate): Hon
Chairperson, all the guests that are present. It is an honour
and privilege to get an opportunity to make a statement during
the 2025 P20 Women's Parliament, especially during the Women's
Month. Sixty-nine years ago, women marched to the Union
Buildings to protest against inequality and socioeconomic
oppression of women in the land of their own. The protests of
the women of 1956 left an indelible legacy for us women and
generations to come. We are proud that today South Africa has
made a huge progress on the emancipation of women. However,
there are many challenges confronting women, and these
challenges need us as women to write a new book which talks
about how we as women of today who are occupying strategic
positions, how are we using those positions to liberate women
from poverty, unemployment, gender-based violence and
femicide.

Hon Chair, our commitment to gender equality is a cornerstone
of our development strategy. We recognize that empowering
women and girls is not just a matter of social justice, but it

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 86

is also essential for economic growth and a functional society. The province approach to gender equality is guided by national frameworks, including the national policy framework for women's empowerment, gender equality, and the sustainable development goals which aim to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

As the province of the Free State, we are proud to have been led by six female premiers since the advent of freedom and democracy, which include the current premier, hon Queen Lizzoa Matai. Six out of 10 members of the executive council which include the premier are females.

As the province of the Free State, we have established gender units in all departments. These mechanisms are vital for ensuring that gender issues are mainstreamed in all provincial policies, programmes and budgets.

The Department of Social Development has appointed 63% of its senior managers as females. We have also appointed 5% of the total complement as people with disabilities. As the province, we are committed to use the opportunity of high rate of vacancies at management level to ensure that there's gender

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 87

equality at senior management. The economic empowerment of women should be at the centre of our planning and budget theme.

At the apex of our inclusive growth and development imperative is the creation of opportunities for women to flourish. It is therefore not surprising that this commitment is embedded in the National Development Plan that is giving material dimension in our provincial growth and development strategy and the medium-term development plan priorities. I heard you interjecting, Chair. Can I continue?

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms T I Legwase): Yes, you may continue.

Ms MATHABO LEETO (Free State - Special delegate): Our provincial growth and strategy have integrated coordination between government and social partners to better respond to the development complexities that characterizes our province. Investment in infrastructure features highly in our list of priorities with ongoing efforts to develop a bankable provincial project pipeline.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 88

Our initiatives include localization and industrialization. We are increasing competitiveness of small businesses with a focus on township and rural economies. Unlocking the economic potential of digital economy and ICT infrastructure. We are working towards positioning the Free State as a country central energy logistics, distribution and beneficiation hub has already started. This entail promoting investment in production and distribution of energy sources. We are equally providing support to small scale miners in sandstone, clay, salt, diamonds and other commodities.

Attention is also expanding agriculture and investing in agro-processing. At the heart of this intervention is women empowerment. It is our commitment to ensure that women participate, but it is also a challenge that we lack systems that are able to depict how women have benefited from the budget of the province, but we are in progress in making sure that those systems are available.

The Free State province is confronted with a high rate of gender-based violence and femicide. As a province, we have six gender-based violence and femicide centres, one safe house,

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 89

and we partner with the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, at the Thuthuzela Care Centres.

We have established a provincial gender-based violence and femicide forum chaired by the hon premier. This forum is a platform to coordinate and report on the work done by all departments and all stakeholders which include Non-Profit Organizations, NPOs.

We have employed gender-based violence and femicide coordinators in all the five districts. In the 2025-26 financial year, we have allocated a budget of R14,5 million for NPO funding.

Chairperson, there is a need for us to strengthen legislations on domestic violence and legislations related to gender-based violence and femicide, because the perpetrators would be sentenced and go out in parole, but they commit the same offenses.

There is a need to build strong families and intensify our work on moral regeneration, because women are confronted with gender-based violence on a daily basis, and people who are

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 90

killing and raping them are people that are known to the perpetrators. Therefore, it is important for us to build strong families, because some of the perpetrators are uncles, fathers, and brothers of the victims.

On behalf of the province of the Free State, I would like to say that we thank the opportunity that is given to us, but we are saying not yet uhuru. Thank you, Chair.

Ms J S MANANISO (Gauteng): Hon Chairperson, let me stand on protocols that were established. Let me start by indicating that as Gauteng we have hosted the first-time conference on gender mainstreaming dealing with gender auditing, sex desegregated data by the department as well monitoring and evaluation working with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, DPME, to ensure that we fast-track and strengthen equity, equality and affirmative action. In this P20 platform, one would want to acknowledge that all women from all walks of life have shared their ideas in terms of what is it that they would want to see us advocating for. I want to appreciate the fact that Members of Parliament as well legislators have acknowledged that this platform is for them to register concerns raised by other women.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 91

As Gauteng we would like to confirm and commit that we will follow the commitment by the premier on gender mainstreaming and cross cutting issues. As Gauteng we will use all the gaps and challenges identified in this particular platform as problem statement. Taking sessions like this to the hot based level is one of the issues one has noted that it needs to be prioritised prior to all engagement from all levels internationally, original and so forth.

As the NCOP our work is to promote co-operative governance and promote provincial interests. We will accelerate this particular action as permanent delegate of Gauteng. As Gauteng we will follow up with the 40% commitment made the President. We want to say as Gauteng that we understand and believe that accessibility starts with information. It is our call to ensure that all languages and indigenous languages are used to share any information. Policies that are gender wise to be implemented, and not gender sensitive only.

We want to say as Gauteng that we want to fast-track and make sure that we strengthen our programmes to ensure that we include a boy-child. We believe that you cannot speak about human development leaving others behind. We want as well to

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 92

commit that gender machinery and gender responsive budgeting to be prioritised by Gauteng uniformed and institutionalised approach across the province to be fast tracked. We know that we are lagging and not achieving this outcomes on the basis that we are not having a uniform approach from provinces to regions. Actually, we are committed to ensure that we have specific institutionalised model in terms of dealing with gender issues. We want to also say as members of Gauteng that indeed hope based involvement and participation to be mandatory for such engagements like P20 so we leave no one behind.

Gauteng is committed to promote woman, youth, persons with disability, children, elderly persons, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer, LGBTQ+ society and the people at the rural to be included in everything that we do. We adhere to and implement without leaving anyone behind. We believe that collaborations, co-operation and partnership is the new currency for service delivery and development.

I would want to call all delegates of this P20 platform that after this session, please, make sure that you sign a petition that will go to the Minister of Justice And Constitutional

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 93

Development to fast-track the public sexual offence register. It can make our life easier to respond to issues of gender-based violence and femicide.

Dialogue and conversations must continue till all of us are free from all forms of oppression. Woman in senior positions and authorities must champion the woman's agenda because nothing about us without us. We want to charge everybody who is in senior positions that they must carry the interests of all our women to ensure that we fast-track and achieve our economic freedom now and forever. I thank you.

Ms S M MOKOENA (Kwa-Zulu Natal): [Recording Stopped.] ... the living collective. A thriving foodservice, catering, accommodation and rental company with properties across KwaZulu-Natal. Wendy provides not just beautiful spaces to stay, but also a model of sustainable hospitality that creates jobs and showcases our province as a destination of choice.

We also honour Dr Velile Radebe, the driving force behind Omhle Aesthetics. As a medical doctor and an entrepreneur, she has built a practice that blends clinical expertise with the

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 94

art of confidence restoration because true empowerment begins with how we see and value ourselves.

We applaud Thobile Ndlovu, the founder of Thobethulani Trading - a powerhouse in construction. In a male dominated sector she has managed to deliver housing infrastructure and jobs.

Proving that determination and skills can break any ceiling.

We also commend Nomfundo Mcoyi, the remarkable founder of Icebolethu Group, a funeral service empire built from humble beginnings into a trusted name across Southern Africa.

Icebolethu Group is more than a business, it is a pillar of dignity in grief and a source of thousands of jobs in our provinces.

These women are what I call the women in the arena, inspired by Theodore Roosevelt's, timeless words. Roosevelt reminded us that it is not the critic who counts, but the one who steps into the arena, whose face is marked with dust, sweat and effort, who dares greatly, who sometimes stumble, but rises again and whose place will never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat. These women are not bystanders of KwaZulu-Natal's progress, they are shaping it.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 95

They are proving every day that real leadership is earned in action, not in comfort.

To the women of KwaZulu-Natal who are listening to us today, your story is never too small to be heard. Your dream is never too big to be achieved. You belong to every room with decisions about this province is being made. Your voice matters, your work matters and your leadership matters.

Together we are not participants in KwaZulu-Natal's growth. We are the driving force behind it. As long as we stand in the arena with you, we will fight to make sure that every woman in this province has a chance to rise. I thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms T I Legwase): May I kindly check from the virtual platform if the hon Mananiso is still there.

Colleagues, we apologise for that. It seems as if our system is running ... [Interjections.]

Ms J S MANANISO (Gauteng): I am still here, Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms T I Legwase): Hon Mananiso, you were cut off that side, but we were made aware that on the overflow you were auditable, and you continued. I don't know: Do you want

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 96

to make a submission or to continue? If you continue, you have four minutes and five seconds.

Ms J S MANANISO (Gauteng): Chairperson, actually, I was struggling from this side. It is important that as Gauteng we need to commit to confirm our commitment that we will work with everybody in terms of ensuring that we deal with woman issues without leaving others behind.

I want to say to all women who are here that they must make sure that they sign the petition that will be submitted to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Development to fast-track the issue of sexual offence register. It is important that after this session we would say as people who have participated in this platform that at least there is something that will be submitted to ensure that we deal with the issue of gender-based violence and femicide. Thank you, Chairperson.

Ms S NDHLOVU (Limpopo): Chairperson, greetings to the Deputy Chairperson and House Chairperson Frolick, programme directors and delegates from the National Council of Provinces - permanent and special esteemed panellists ...

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 97

Sepedi:

...dumelang.

English:

Receive our sincere salutation on behalf of the people of Limpopo under the leadership of "Mama Action", the hon Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba, as we mark this auspicious occasion which is meant to heighten the plight of women throughout the world. Our convergence into this venue is meant to gauge the work that we have done to lessen the economic hardship of women of this country and to chart the way forward on how to improve their livelihood. Our gathering will not have achieved its objective if it fails to make a deep-seated diagnosis of how to narrow the persistent poverty gaps that are glaringly widening.

Compatriots, if we disperse from this occasion without concrete strategies to dismantle the shackles of poverty that confronts the majority of our women, then this will be another meaningless box-sticking public relations exercise. As a democratic government, we have unapologetically used these past 30 years of leading this country to correct the decade-long economic misfortunes that confronted our women. Programme

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 98

director, it is not secret that the face of poverty the world over is female and largely black.

The ANC-led government has crafted and implemented countless economic policies that are tilted to reverse the misnomers which were perpetuated by the apartheid government and rendered the women of this country to be more vulnerable. We have drastically altered the economic playing field and today we have more women as captains of industry than we have had some 30 years ago. This was achieved because we have always been clear about our developmental agenda of creating an equal, nonsexist society where all citizens can enjoy an equal set of rights.

We stand on the shoulder of our forbears who participated in the 1956 march against the evil past laws and a series of other bigotry regulations which did not regard women as equal citizens in this country. We are alive today to the persistent gender disparities in the labour market, hence our acknowledgement that more still needs to be done for us to attain a complete state of poverty eradication. However, we remain buoyant of the progress that has been underscored on this front.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 99

Our theme of accelerating equality, sustainability and shared growth resonates with the plans that we have set for ourselves for this term of government. The undeniable truth is, if the majority of women were to attain some level of economic self-sufficiency, their dependence of men, the immeasurable levels of gender-based violence will be drastically reduced. I think all of us here will agree with me when I say most women who are victims of gender-based violence and femicide are dependent on their spouses and partners of their livelihood.

This then entrenches high level of patriarchy and the misconception by some men to assume that their partners are their exclusive commodities that they own. It is for this reason that when they differ on any other matters, these men resort to violence as a conflict resolution mechanism. We shall not rest until that goal is achieved and we shall make it our generational mission to ensure that the government will make the necessary interventions to lessen the economic hardships faced by the majority of our women.

As I conclude, I am reminded of the words of the great Thomas Sankara who said, "There is no true social revolution without the liberation of a woman". Thank you.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 100

Ms S NXUMALO (Mpumalanga): Chair, and my humble greetings to your good self, and also all the members that are in the Chamber and those that are online. I want to start my salutation to say that G20 is a platform that makes sure that women are prioritised in all the sectors. As in Mpumalanga, we stand on the shoulders of the 1956 women with their brave courage and commitment. As the province of Mpumalanga, we are the voices of women and young girls and persons living with disabilities.

Women remain the foundation of hope in our community. It is no doubt that the face of poverty, is women and black. Statistics that have been released recently states that unemployment figures are going up and the ones that are topping the majority are women. Mpumalanga is a rural province with many households led by women and children. Women have more caregiving responsibility than their counterpart. That one is a reality.

The province has a department that looks at the issues of women, young girls, and persons living with disabilities. This has cascaded to municipality to create space to diverse voices of rural and unemployed women and persons living with

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 101

disabilities. Gender equality committees have been set to address the inclusion of the private sector grouping aimed at inclusive and equitable and resilient society, shaping the women agenda.

The policy addresses the issue of land reform to assist women with food security because most of them are leading the household. In Mpumalanga, we have the fresh food market where women must be prioritised to make sure that they sell their stuff there. We advocate for gender-responsive budget to all our spheres of government, starting from the national and going down to the province and also to our local municipality.

The following are key gender transformation and development: To promote women empowerment and programme for assisting women; women to access economic opportunity, including entrepreneurship and employment and to create platform for women and township economy. The province prioritised the 40% procurement for women - that's a step in the right direction to assist our women. We aim to promote women empowerment to enhance policy and programme aimed at assisting women, and gender parity in leadership position to make sure that that

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 102

gap is closed. We also aim to evaluate Women's Charter to address their plight.

We advocate for more programmes on women to accelerate equality and strengthen robust engagement. Gender-based violence is a pandemic that must be confronted every day. Resolution has been taken that in every public address in the province, they must include the issue of gender-based violence in department and municipality and also include the budget in the Integrated Development Plan, IDP. Gender-based violence robs women and girls their dignity. The premier of the province has launched the gender-based violence initiative with the inclusion of all the NGOs in the province to make sure that they combat this scourge.

In closing, on behalf of the province, I would like to end with the words of Ban Ki-moon, the then Secretary-General of the United Nation and I quote, "Achieving gender equality is about empowering women to be able to make choices for themselves and have equal opportunities in education and make sure that employment and political participation is improved."

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 103

This is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do to our beautiful women. So, as the province, we are saying, let us make sure that we continue with the dialogue and the conversation on women issues. We should make sure that we level or close the poverty gap between our women and also our male counterparts. With these few words, we are saying as the province, let us continue with those dialogues to make sure that we pave the way forward for the women that are coming after us. Thank you very much, Chairperson.

Ms D W FIENIES (Northern Cape): Greetings to the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, the House Chairperson of the National Assembly, hon members, hon delegates in the Chamber, as well as those on the virtual platform, this P20 Women's Parliament recognises the important role that Parliament can play to promote gender equality. Parliament is the institution where the legitimacy and authority to resolve in a peaceful way what may appear to be irreconcilable differences. Parliament has the authority because it represents diverse interests of the public and because the representatives are elected through a democratic process.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 104

We have sought to promote achievement of equality where nobody is discriminated on the grounds of race, gender, sex, pregnancy, ethnic or social orientation. We have sought to build the society where gender imbalances that are as a result of the kind of past we come from are rightfully and elaborately corrected. So far we have spent August month by celebrating, debating and cultivating our common purpose to bring warmth and humility to every encounter, to our homes and to the communities that we serve tirelessly. We have honoured and continue to honour South African women for the role they have played in the struggle for the national liberation to reflect on challenges that women continue to face.

As we celebrate, let us think of the women farm workers who earn a living as seasonal workers. For them their main concern is to earn a wage in order to be able to put food on the table for their families. It is this plight and hardship of rural woman that those elected to Parliament and provincial legislatures should continue to highlight. We should ensure that issues that daily impact on women are kept on the national agenda. The Northern Cape provincial government is committed to building a society that protects and respects women. We emphasise gender equality, women empowerment and the

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 105

mainstreaming of gender considerations into all government programmes.

The Northern Cape provincial government has developed women empowerment and gender equality strategy and implementation plan. Its purpose is to provide an integrated framework to manage and accelerate gender transformation. There are gender focal persons in all the government departments from assistant to deputy directors. All our municipalities have special programmes officers dealing with a variety of social issues including gender mainstreaming. The office of the status of the women in the office of the premier has inducted municipalities on the implementation of the gender policy framework.

The office further co-ordinate economic empowerment programmes for women in collaboration with the Department of Economic Development and other stakeholders. The province has established the provincial employment equity forum with its terms of reference which looks at the equity of women and the disabled in the public service. The top five departments the provincial administration out of 11 on the placement of women in senior management services positions are the Department of

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 106

Social Development with a 50% gender representation, the office of the premier 41%, Department of Education 38%, the Northern Cape provincial Treasury 37,5% and Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development 36%.

This picture shows that work is happening to address the gender disparities that exist but much more needs to be done to achieve the 50% representation of a women in all sectors of society. The focus is on empowerment and equality of women prioritising social economic empowerment. The provincial government is committed to prioritising and mainstreaming women's social economic empowerment and their rights across all sectors. The Gender Equality Bill, the province has introduced a Gender Equality Bill to accelerate women's empowerment and achieve gender parity.

On addressing gender-based violence, a strong stance is taken against gender-based violence with calls for communities particularly men to protect and provide for women and girls. Participation in decision-making, the provincial government encourages women's participation in leadership roles and decision-making processes. Economic independence, they acknowledge the importance of economic independence for women

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 107

as it can counteract exploitation and poverty. The key initiatives is the Women's Month celebrations.

The Northern Cape government actively participate and promotes Women's Month celebrations, recognising the achievements of women and advocating for their continued progress.

Collaboration with civil society, the government emphasises collaboration with civil society organisations to address gender-based violence and promote gender equality.

Mainstreaming gender equality, the concept of gender mainstreaming is highlighted meaning that gender equality considerations are integrated into all strategies, policies and programmes. I thank you, Chairperson. [Time expired.]

Ms S L SITHOLE (North West): Hon Chairperson, let me also observe the protocol that has been established and go straight to the point. I don't know if I am audible enough on your side.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms T I Legwase): You are very clear.

Ms S L SITHOLE (North West): Alright, thank you very much, Chair. As ...

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 108

Setswana:

Bokoni Bophirima ...

English:

... province we welcome the successful P20 Women's Parliament as a critical platform for the women of South Africa. We say this because we ascribe to the historic mission of fighting for gender equality and advancing women's emancipation. As the North West province, we have championed the implementation of the progressive policies that place women's empowerment at the center to build an inclusive and prosperous society.

We have rallied all government departments and sectors of our society to align their policies and programmes with the vision and the principles of the women development agenda as expressed in the Freedom Charter. We did this because of our historical resolve to ensure that the struggle of women emancipation is met with progress and action by ensuring that it changes the condition of women in our province, particularly the marginalised women who continued to endure the hardship of historical and systemic gender deprivation and discrimination that exists in sectors and institution of our society.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 109

Chairperson, as the North West delegation in the NCOP, we are determined to remain in the forefront of representing the interest of women of the North West province in the national spheres. We are also determined to raise the challenges that are facing the women of the North West. It is for this reason that we have expressed deep disappointment in the North West province government's failure to ensure gender equity in senior appointments in the province. We will make sure that in our interaction with the province in including during the upcoming provincial week, we will engage all departments in the North West to push for gender mainstreams in their policies, in their programmes and budgeting.

We will also ensure that the province develop a robust programme to address the prevalence of gender-based violence and femicide in the province. While efforts are being made to address this, including the establishment of the provisional gender-based, GBV, committee and action plan, challenges persist. We will ensure that the province moves with greater speed and urgency to drive robust gender-based violence awareness campaign and also provide support services to victims and survivors through various initiatives including victim empowerment centers.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 110

The P20 Women's Parliament offers powerful women who holds esteemed positions within policy ... [Inaudible.] ... to meet first ideas and creates lasting solidarities that will shape the place and the role of women in the world and global political institution. As the North West province, we believe that diplomacy and international solidarity are important of unequal world that treat itself and its partners with respect.

Chairperson, the challenges facing women in South Africa are not isolated. Women across the globe continues to experience gender discrimination, marginalisation, violence and remain the face of poverty, economic exclusion and the majority of those affected by climate change. As the North West province, we extend our deepest appreciation to the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Chairperson of the NCOP, the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, the chairperson of the women caucus and all those who are involved in hosting this very successful P20 Women's Parliament.

Setswana:

Jaaka Bokone Bophirima mo ga Thuntsha Lerole, re a leboga.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 111

Ms W KAIZER-PHILANDER (Western Cape): Hon Chairperson, and all delegates, I think all of us here today, and all women at home have our own personal journey and we should never forget. For me today, it is about breaking barriers and building bridges. And it is not just a phrase, it is a call to reflect, it is a call to rise, and most importantly, it is a call to act. Every Women's Day, every Women's Month, we talk, we reflect, we pay tribute and yet, too often, the world goes on as usual. However, this month is not just for tribute; it is a call for us to step up in action - action, not applause; progress, not platitudes.

We honour the sacrifices of 1956, when brave women marched for justice, but let us remember, that was not the pinnacle of change. The real significance lies in 1954, in the Freedom Charter, which recognised women as equal partners in the building of our nation. Those promises remain unfold. And it is our duty to make it real.

The barriers that women face are endless, and we all know them too well. Some are loud, like the manager who calls you, too emotional to lead. Some are silent, like the salary gap that whispers that you are not quite equal. Some are ancient,

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 112

rooted in cultures that teach girls to service and to be quiet. But these barriers are not walls; they are thresholds. Yes, they are challenges, but they are also invitations.

History has always underestimated women, yet women have always made her story - Malala, who breaks barriers with the schoolbook, Rosa Parks, who broke barriers by sitting still, Marie Curie, who broke scientific boundaries with brilliance.

Afrikaans:

Daar is ook die aunties [tannies] vir wie ons sien en elke dag mee kontak maak, die enkel mammië, wie 5:00 opstaan, om 'n beter toekoms te bou, die dogter wie dit waag om ingenieurswese te studeer in 'n vertrek vol mans, die ouma wie opstaan in haar gemeenskap en sê, tot hier toe.

English:

Breaking a barrier is not just about freedom; it is about creating and holding space for us all. Behind every woman who rises is a village, mentors who believed, friends who said, you have got this.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 113

We should turn from gatekeeping to groundbreaking, from isolation to innovation, from rivalry to revolution. When women unite, we do not just shatter ceilings, we redesign the whole building. But breaking barriers is just the beginning. Once the walls are down, then comes connection, healing and progress.

Bridges must rise between generations, so wisdom is not lost between the boardroom and grassroots, so no woman is left behind across differences. Surreal change happens beyond echo chambers.

If we want a movement that changes the world, we need a movement that looks like the world. And with all we have gained, we carry a sacred responsibility. Gender-based violence is not negotiable. It must stop. And all three spheres of government have a duty to act.

Economic freedom is key. Women are fearless workers and entrepreneurs. We must create opportunities, mentor and provide support, so that women can lead boldly and fully. Action matters. Break one barrier this week, build one bridge

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 114

this month, mentor a younger woman, challenge the bias, stand up, even when your voice shakes.

We are not breaking barriers for the sake of breaking it. We are breaking barriers to build companies, where women lead boldly, to build governments, where our voices shapes laws, to build homes, where our daughters' dreams are endless.

Afrikaans:

Ons storie eindig nie hier nie. Dit is net die inleiding tot die volgende hoofstuk.

English:

The barriers will tremble, the bridges will rise, the world will change. And when it does, they will say, it was because women dared to believe, to break and to build. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Chairperson of the session, we have come towards the end of our programme and I am quite sure that you will agree that it is the beginning of a journey that we are embarking upon. And I would like to welcome now the hon Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, the hon Govender, to provide a summary of the P20 Women's Parliament,

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 115

the way forward and the vote of thanks. I will do the presentation after your address.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Hon Frolick, I think I must start by saying "wow!" with the both of us sitting there listening to the various speakers that came up to this platform and on the virtual platform and spoke from their hearts. I must say that the inputs made really blew us away. For we heard from women across our country voicing their concerns, opinions and they did it in such a dignified manner. So, on behalf of the hon Frolick and myself, let be from the outset say, thank you very much.

The Speaker of the National Assembly; the hon Didiza, in her absentia, the hon Frolick, the Chairperson Committees and Public Participation, the chairperson of the Multiparty Women's Caucus and executive Members of Parliament, hon delegates distinguished guests, as we come to the closing of P20 Women's Parliament, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to each and everyone of you for your active participation, valuable contributions, and unwavering commitment to advancing gender equality.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 116

The question that is often asked is: What happens after this?

So, I would like to try and answer that question. I know that we were challenged during the various inputs as to what happens after this.

Moving forward, our next step would include developing a comprehensive report that articulates accurately and captures the deliberations, commitments and recommendations emanating from this P20 Women's Parliament.

Once drafted, the report will be sent to all participants, the Multiparty Women's Caucus, for review to ensure that it truly reflects the aspirations and outcomes of our discussions.

Following the review, the report will be scheduled in the Order Paper for debate by both Houses of Parliament, providing a platform for further scrutiny and adoption.

This process will not only enhance accountability but will also guarantee that the voices and perspectives of women are adequately represented in our legislative processes.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 117

The report will also be shared with all three spheres of government to ensure that the recommendations and perspectives are widely disseminated and acted upon.

Furthermore, we must also re-activate the national gender machinery, to leverage on their expertise and knowledge of all key players, towards implementing the policy priorities and recommendations that were made during this P20 Women's Parliament.

This will enable us to work in a more integrated manner to achieve South Africa's gender transformation priorities, as articulated in the 2021 Women's Charter, the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, and the 2025 policy priorities.

Distinguished members, as South Africa prepares to host the P20 and G20 summits, the views and perspectives shared over these two days, will significantly inform our mandate and shape our engagements across global platforms.

The outcomes of this P20 Women's Parliament will not only influence our national agenda but will also contribute to the international discourse on gender equality and women

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 118

empowerment. What we are saying here is that what has come out of these two days, would feed into what goes into the P20 and the g20 Forums that would be hosted towards the end of this year. So, your voices would be articulated also at the global level.

Distinguished Delegates, we must also take note of the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and children, which also exacerbates the current existing inequalities and vulnerabilities. Furthermore, we express our concern over the lack of effective implementation on gender responsive budgeting, which hinders the advancement of gender equality and women empowerment.

To address these issues, the committees of parliament in both Houses, must ensure that they integrate gender transformation issues into their committee work, which must also be followed by concerted efforts to ensure that government departments budget more effectively for gender transformation. Nothing can move without funding. If we are serious about gender transformation, we need to ensure that money will follow that function.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 119

Through our parliamentary processes, we must also ensure that government departments take the necessary action to integrate gender considerations into climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Hon members, women's charter remains a vital instrument in our ongoing struggle for gender equality, serving as a beacon of hope and a framework for advancing women's rights. We recognise its significance in deepening our collective efforts to address the challenges faced by women and children.

To ensure effective implementation, we must collectively take the charter to provinces and this is very, very important. That charter needs to find expression in provinces, in the deep rural areas. People must feel the effect of that charter.

Engaging with communities, stakeholders and government officials to promote awareness and understanding of the charter is very important, hon delegates. By doing so, we must collectively harness the charter's potential to drive gender transformation across all provinces.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 120

The challenge now for the Multiparty Women's Caucus in particular, is to drive this process. I want to implore the Chairperson of the Multiparty Women's Caucus the hon Dunjwa to ensure that we move into the provinces with the information that has come out of here go to the provinces.

There were some very key role-players that made vital inputs here over these past two days. I want to challenge you to engage with them. You have them here in this House. Engage with them so that when you go into the provinces, they will be your resource and the ones that will assist you in order to drive Parliament's agenda into the lives of our people.

Through the women's caucus, the necessary networks must be created across provinces and the local sphere, particularly through the National Council of Provinces, NCOP's Intergovernmental Relations and Co-operative Governance mandate, to oversee the implementation of gender transformation priorities.

As I conclude, I also want to reiterate that the two Houses of Parliament must also play a proactive and more robust oversight role, as guided by their respective mandates, to

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 121

ensure that the provisions of the charter are effectively implemented.

One of the various serious issues that came up especially yesterday, was the issue of violence perpetrated against our children.

Hon delegates, as leaders in our communities, we should not become so cold to these issues that we read it on one page of the newspaper, and we turn it to look at what is next in the next page. We cannot become so cold that we hear that a child has been murdered as we heard yesterday and then we just pass it over.

Our society is becoming so used to listening to these things on the media all the time that it has now become just another issue. We cannot be so inhumane that we go down to that level.

Somebody said to me the other day even the animals do not treat their babies like that. I said let us not say that about animals because we are going down that route. We should not allow that to happen. Let us go into our communities and preach the word that we cannot allow our children to be

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 122

treated in that way. You know it pains me every time we hear of something like that, we see it in the media and then: What next?

So, let us take this message forward from here. For you will recall what I said in my opening comments yesterday when I said: The question is not: Who is going to let me, it is who is going to stop me?

You have been here these past two days, you have heard, you have spoken and now I say to you do not let anything stop you when you go back to your various communities. Let us make sure that we have safer communities out there.

I would like to pass my vote of thanks especially to the Speaker of Parliament, the hon Didiza for making the time to be with us here yesterday. I know she had other commitments; however, she prioritised the women of our country. She made sure that she was here to open this conference.

I want to also thank the hon Minister Chikunga for being with us yesterday and of course my co-Chair the hon Frolick, thank your guidance, your support and your wisdom as we planned over

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 123

the past three weeks or more, we were pressed for time but I think with your guidance we were able to ensure that this was a successful event.

I want to thank all those that presided. You know it was so exciting to see Members of Parliament come and sit on this chair - we were sharing this earlier. Sometimes you know we get criticised. Why are you stopping us while we still have three minutes to speak? Thirty seconds you are stopping us from speaking but now you get that feel of what it is like to sit on that chair, and you have to stop somebody from speaking. So, it was great having you in that chair. So, I want to thank all those that presided. Thank you so much.

Mr Xaso, I do not know whether you are still here? Thank you so much for your support and for being with us these past two days, the Secretary of the National Assembly. Thank you so much Sir for that. We really appreciate it.

I want to thank the staff for both Houses of Parliament for their support and ensuring that everything was in place before we got here. To the Office of the Chief Whip of Parliament,

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 124

thank you so much. To the Office of the Secretary to Parliament, we also appreciate the support.

The Members of the NCOP, staff that assisted us throughout this planning process. Let me not forget the restaurant staff for the meals that we had. We want to thank them for that also and of course our table staff for giving us their guidance. We appreciate the table staff from both Houses that assist us over these past two days. The security personnel, we want to thank them also the information and communication technology, ICT, and the parliamentary communications services for the virtual platform that was provided to us. We want to thank them for that. Of course, all participants, we really appreciate your input. Of course, I must say thank you the Chairperson of the Multiparty Women's Caucus, the hon Jundwa. We are very, very grateful to you for understanding when we had some challenges, but you took it in your stride. I know you were nervous at some point, but you came through for us. Thank you very much, hon Frolick.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Deputy Chairperson, I now invite the Chairperson of the Multiparty

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 125

Women's Caucus to come forward so that she can hand over the last round of gifts before we formally close.

I invite Ms Majosi. My son told me about you. He also told me about the youth movement thank you for gracing us. Dr Myende, she is still here. Not. Ms Mokwebo. Thank you for your participation. Ms Reneé Thompson.

We will ensure that the the Multiparty Women's Caucus link up and Ms K Dunjwa. Your namesake hon Dunjwa. Ms Ancer. Thank you for your participation. Ms Dlamini for the very insightful contributions you made and Ms Mbonambi. I do not know if you are related to the Springbok player. Thank you. And what these young women showed us this morning. Thank you very much hon Dunjwa. It shows you the immense potential that we have as South Africa as a country. The future indeed looks bright. Thank you for your participation.

The last word of thanks goes to the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces. Thank you for your friendship and also for your co-operation and for the NCOP having hosted us on this side of the parliamentary precinct.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

Page No: 126

It brings us to the end of these proceedings. Lunch will be served in the same venue where it was served yesterday. For those who must travel you must travel safely, and I wish you God's speed, till we meet again. Thank you very much.

The Council adjourned at 12:27.

UNREVISED HANSARD