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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 10:00.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The SPEAKER: Hon members, before we start our proceedings today, I would first like to ask Mr Michael Plaatjies to stand. Hon members, I would like to announce to the House that Mr Michael Plaatjies, the head of the Questions Unit in the National Assembly, will be retiring at the end of July. His retirement comes after 27 years of service. [Applause.] Mr Plaatjies has served Parliament and the National Assembly with both distinction and dedication. We wish you well in your retirement, sir. You may take your seat. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

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Hon members, I also want to recognise Parliament's runners who were able to complete the Comrades Marathon this year. They are the hon Makashule Gana, hon David Masondo, and hon Sihle Zikalala. [Applause.] You may take your seats. We also want to acknowledge the other members who participated but did not make the cut-off, and we congratulate them on their effort. [Applause.]

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS ON APPROPRIATION BILL**

There was no debate.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY (Dr N P Nkabane): Hon Speaker, I move that the report be adopted.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

APPROPRIATION BILL

(First Reading debate)

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Dr M A MAIMANE: Hon Speaker, hon members, ...

Setswana:

... багаetsho, dumelang.

English:

It is my great honour and privilege to be able to table this report on the Appropriations Bill for 2026. Ultimately, as South Africans, we remind ourselves that every budget is an expression of the dreams and the hopes and the aspirations of the people of South Africa. That when we gather in this House, our sole duty is to be able to say, how do we responsibly represent the citizens of this country, budget in a manner that they participate, and they are the ultimate beneficiaries?

I want to say that National Treasury has done an incredible job at being able to ensure that South Africa is no longer grey listed; that each of the resources that are tabled here today apply within the appropriate inflationary target. These are significant achievements given the history of our country. Yet, today hon members, we face a profound choice. We face choices about whether or not we are going to budget for the people to get work for everybody or just for some people

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through agencies and State Information Technology Agencies, Sita. Whether we are going to get security for everybody or security only for a few politicians. Whether ultimately everything that we do in this Appropriations Bill delivers for the people.

The very essence of choice making requires that all of us in this room own the ability to make a choice. And so today, hon members, I wanted to table this report with this one caveat. That we are empowered in this House through the Money Bills and Related Matters Act, either to adopt, reject or amend the budget. Every law in this country that is passed must be empowered to deliver against certain objectives. And that is why today I want to say that we need to come back to the purpose of that law. It is within that law that ultimately citizens are able to give voice to the budget.

Our culture has historically been the Minister of Finance tables the budget and ultimately, we simply vote and agree, but I want to urge this House to think harder about this question. Treasury, as I have already alluded to Minister of Finance, have done an incredible job at holding up their end of the bargain, we have to do our own. So hon members, I am here to challenge a few things. That if we are going to ensure

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that we fund Early Children Development, ECD centres, health care, Statistics SA and all the reports that we talk about, Parliament must have a much more active role.

In the report that is tabled before you, you will read about how we are trying to amend for Statistics SA, but it became quite clear that in the process, Parliament didn't always have the capacity; that the committees weren't able to present their research to amend; and that ultimately time allocation meant that Parliament can't do its job. So hon members, we cannot sit here and be victims. Best we remind ourselves of the supremacy of Parliament in lawmaking and capacitate this Parliament to be able to do its job and meaningfully engage with the budget.

Therefore, in this light, I want to propose that if we can be able to assist in being able to capacitate committees in order to execute the Money Bills and Related Matters Act, that the Public Budget Office be better capacitated for research so that it is able to have a meaningful engagement on how we amend the budget and ensure that we can put the appropriate matters on the table.

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Thirdly, I appreciate your letter Speaker that you sent to the committee that we need to amend the Money Bills and Related Matters Act so that we can give ourselves the appropriate time to process it because at the end of the day, we are rushing through the process, which means what we are about to do today becomes ceremonial, meaningless, and ultimately becomes something that we just rubber stamp, whereas Parliament is empowered by law to be able to do the work it has to do.

So fellow South Africans, we begin this job to say let's not only amend the law, let's not only capacitate, but let us all own the collective choices. If we make a choice, if the Minister of Finance makes a proposal, it is a choice that must be expressed by Parliament. It is a choice that we must be able to give input to.

As I close, I present this report, I ask for us to adopt it, to adopt the Appropriations Bill, and make a number of choices. To say to ourselves, once we've built the technical capacity, the law has been amended, we can practically do that. Let us make sure the Appropriations Bill, second recommendation that is there, that we need to think about capacitating the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, and Statistica SA so that post the Madlanga Commission, we are

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able to deal with the prosecution better and ensure that accountability is effected.

Fellow South Africans, I stand before you as we've deliberated on this report to say, let's create work for our people, capacitate local government, and ensure that every rand that is spent in this country is for the people.

Setswana:

Ke a leboga.

English:

I support the report. Thank you very much.

Mr M SEGEDE: Speaker, the Deputy Chief of the ANC, hon members, fellow South Africans, from the beginning of the Seventh Parliament to date, our macroeconomic conditions have been improving due to the implementation of various fiscal policy interventions despite global headwinds of volatility. Improving macroeconomic conditions, though marginal, are a positive indicator that will enhance our fiscal position as a country and improve conditions for accelerating economic growth.

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Firstly, we have been removed from the Financial Action Task Force grey list, which has cast a shadow on our financial system, posing a risk of increasing the cost of capital and creating unfavourable investment conditions. As a country, we need to increase our focus in tackling the illicit economy and tackling the illicit flow of funds out of our economy because it robs the nation of revenue. This includes illegal mining and illicit trade.

Secondly, our inflation rate has been relatively lower, with an improving country risk premium have essentially reduced our debt servicing costs from spiralling with an objective of stabilising the debt trajectory. Thirdly, our credit ratings have also improved, with Moody's and Fitch upgrading our ratings, further stabilising the cost of capital.

Fourthly, our economy has recently grown above 1% in 2025, an improvement over the 0,5% recorded in 2024, signalling positive outcomes of the implementation of the Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan and Operation Vulindlela, which has contributed to efforts of ending load shedding and diversifying energy generation, ensuring electricity supply is consistent. The President has further increased a focus on investment, mobilising domestic and foreign investment in

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various economic sectors, which is critical as part of social compacting to achieve job creation, transformation and economic growth.

The Appropriations Bill supports the strengthening of our road infrastructure, commuter rail, ports and commercial rail routes. These investments will enhance the growth trajectory of our economy and support industries and workers alike. Fifthly, despite fluctuations in employment creation, an increase in unemployment should always be a concern for us.

Through this Appropriations Bill, the ANC-led Government of National Unity seeks to support the objectives set out by the President in the State of the Nations Address. We stand to support the Appropriations Bill to finance the implementation of programmes that must accelerate our efforts of decent job creation and economic development. The Bill supports efforts to increase our electricity security and measures to lower the cost of electricity through the implementation of the recently adopted Integrated Resource Plan, which seeks to increase the usage of gas fuel upstream and downstream industries.

The Cabinet has recently adopted the Industrial Strategy of Countries to shape public and private investment to leverage

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our competitive advantage as a country and have the highest impact on job creation and economic transformation. The ANC welcomes this development as a critical guide to align our macroeconomic policy with our national industrial ambitions.

As we debate this Bill, for the ANC the debate should serve to shape our fiscal policy trajectory to ensure it aligns with government policy objectives and electoral mandates stemming from our manifesto.

The Appropriations committee considers submission from the Minerals and Petroleum Resources Department which highlighted the major need to increase investment in exploration as a major catalyst for the growth of the mining sector in the medium and long term. It is for this reason that the committee has recommended that the National Treasury and the department mobilise Group Forensics and Investigation Services to increase resource allocations to support exploration through state co-investment.

The committee further recommended the consideration of increased allocations for the Council of Geoscience and MinTec small-scale mining and funding for rehabilitation.

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With regards to the Department of Trade and Industry and Competitions, we have recommended the National Treasury to concede our funding for the film and TV, global business services, automotive investment schemes, and for the industrial parks. This is critical to build on the growth path.

The ANC has called for an increase in funding for Stats SA, which has a high vacancy rate and has stored key statistical outputs, which are critical. We have recommended that the Minister consider these areas in the preparation for the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement in the tabling of the second adjustment to the Appropriations Bill and for the 2026 budget. This is a critical aspect of the mandate of the Appropriations committee.

The ANC welcomes the Industrial Development Corporation, IDC, - led interventions aimed at stabilising Tongaat Hulett and safeguarding the estimated 250 000 jobs across the sugar value-chain. These interventions demonstrate the important role of state development, finance institutions in protecting productive capacity, sustaining livelihoods, and preserving strategic sectors of the economy. These interventions

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illustrate that the state remains a critical enabler and participates in shaping economic development.

The ANC further welcomes the IDC's effort to stabilise strategic steels producers and preserve industrial capacity. Recent engagements involving ArcelorMittal South Africa demonstrate the IDC's commitment to finding sustainable solutions to protect jobs, maintaining local production capabilities, and secure the future of a sector that remains vital to the manufacturing, construction, mining, and infrastructure development.

We also welcome the agreement between the South African Government and the Zimbabwean Government regarding the repayment of approximately R1 billion to South African Airways through monthly payments. Constructive bilateral co-operation is important for protecting public resources and strengthening regional relations. We support continued investment in health, including HIV and Aids programmes and preparations for national health insurance.

We support investment in early childhood development, education, social protection, and poverty eradication programmes, which contribute to improving the living

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conditions of the poor and most vulnerable. Strengthening the social safety net, including efforts by South African Social Security Agency, Sassa, to improve beneficiary verification systems and reduce fraud, and to ensure that support reaches those who genuinely qualify. This should not result in the disqualification of eligible grant recipients. We call on the Minister of Finance to continue prioritising the consideration of funding the basic income grant.

We are in a defining moment to change the trajectory of our economy. The people we represent require all of us to advance measures that will lead to the reduction of unemployment and improve the living conditions of the majority of South Africans. The ANC supports this. Thank you.

Mr T I GAMEDE: Hon Speaker, ...

IsiZulu:

... futhi buka ozakwenu uma ukhuluma, mhlonishwa u-Segede, bashayiwa amahloni uma uthi uyaseka.

English:

I stand here today on behalf of the MK Party to speak not just to the members on these benches, but to the lived realities of

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millions who have been left behind by this so-called fiscal strategy. We looked at the 2026 Appropriations Bill; we saw a document that is technically proficient but morally bankrupt. It is a budget of spreadsheets, not of souls. It is a budget that prioritises the confidence of international rating agencies over the confidence of a mother in Guguletu or a father in Msunduzi, who cannot put bread on their table. The committee reports that our fiscal outlook has improved, but I ask this: improved for whom? Has it improved for the 23% of our people who are still waiting for a roof over their heads while the National Housing Finance Corporation sits on a R3,5 billion surplus? Has it improved for the graduates who walk our streets with degrees in their hands, but no hope in their hearts? Because our capital investment is always medium-term, but their hunger is immediate. We are told that the debt-to-GDP ratio is stabilising, but while you stabilise the debt, you are destabilising the South African family. You speak of Targeted Responsible Savings, a polite bureaucratic term for austerity. You are saving pennies while our people are still losing their dignity.

Look at the report before us. It admits that Statistics SA is crippled by a 23% vacancy rate, 750 vacant posts. How can we plan for a future we cannot even measure? We are flying this

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country blind because we refuse to fund the very eyes of our state. Look at the R1,5 billion SA Airways money sitting in a foreign account while our own rail infrastructure, the lifeline of the working class, is starving for investment. The report speaks of a train every five minutes, yet our people spend hours on platforms, vulnerable and exhausted, because the signal isn't there.

The signals are clear; this government has lost its way. The MK Party does not seek accommodation in a broken system. We seek a fundamental shift. We cannot continue to endorse a budget that treats social grants as a temporary burden to be verified and reduced, rather than a sacred covenant to protect the most vulnerable. We are told that this budget is redistributive, but redistribution without transformation is merely managing poverty, not ending it. We are redistributing crumbs while the loaf is being eaten by a tiny elite and guided by a fiscal anchor that has become a noose around the neck of our development. A betrayal of national wealth. Reflect on this one, hon Minister; we are appropriating R1,2 trillion. This is the wealth of our ancestors, the sweat of our workers, and the future of our children. To spend it on maintaining the status quo of 34% unemployment is not an appropriation; it is a betrayal, hon Minister.

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A call for a humanised state, the MK Party stands in firm opposition to this Bill. Not because we oppose spending, but because we oppose this spending. We oppose the lack of urgency. We oppose the surrender to neoliberal constraints. We call for a budget that's humanised. A budget that sees the person behind the statistics. We call for a budget that builds a state capable of leading, not just a state capable of saving.

IsiZulu:

Somlomo ohloniphekile, konke esengikushilo la ngaphambili kucacile, kusho into eyodwa. Lo Mthethosivivinyo wezabelomali ka-2026 awuziphenduli nhlobo izidingo zabantu bakithi eNingizimu Afrika. Uthi umnotho uyathuthuka kodwa izigidigidi zabantu ziyahlupheka. Uthi izikweleti ziyalawuleka, kodwa imindeni iyacwila ebumpofini. Uthi kukhona ukonga kodwa ukonga kufika nezindleko ezinzima kubantu bakithi, ezingala. Yingakho thina njenge-MK Party sikholelwa ukuthi sekuyisikhathi sokuba uHulumeni abeke phambili izimpilo zabantu kunamanani. Ababeke phambili kunokonga. Abubeke phambili futhi ubulungiswa ngaphambi kwemigomo yezimakethe. Iningizimu Afrika idinga isabelomali esizoletha ithemba ezimpilweni zabantu, imisebenzi nesithunzi kubo bonke abantu bakithi.

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English:

In conclusion, our people did not fight for a stabilised debt-to-GDP ratio. They fought for land, for jobs, and for justice. This Bill provides none of those, and for that reason, we as the MK Party cannot support this Bill. The Freedom Charter, which you claim to advocate, hon Minister, does not negotiate on the fundamental right of our people. It explicitly demands that our people shall have land, jobs, housing, justice, security, and comfort. The current state of eThekweni Municipality and the entire country is a direct contradiction of these principles. And it is our duty to ensure that the promise of the Freedom Charter is not further eroded. MK Party, let us go on 4 November and vote for the MK Party. Aluta continua! [Time expired.]

Mr K H WAKELIN: Hon Speaker, interestingly, the MK Party changed the report, but they're not supporting their report as well. How interesting. Hon members, South Africans are tired of hearing about billions that are allocated to departments and entities. They want answers on how it is spent. They want to know why, despite the record levels of public spending over the past three decades, they are still driving on broken roads, waiting in failing hospitals, sitting in dark classrooms, and living in communities plagued by crime and

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communities that go days without water. How much more money must we spend before the government admits that the problem is not the lack of funding? The problem is waste. The problem is inefficiency.

The SPEAKER: No, hon members, let's not make a running commentary when a speaker is on the platform. Thank you. You can proceed.

Mr K H WAKELIN: They also made changes to the report but be that as it may. The problem is that the government has become comfortable spending taxpayers' money without delivering results. South Africans are expected to stretch every rand to its maximum. So why is the government not doing that? Year after year, this House approves budgets while irregular expenditure increases, while projects continue to stall, and while contract costs balloon out of control. And then the same departments have the cheek to come back and ask for more money.

We, as the DA, say enough. No more waste. No more paying double for goods and services. No more paying a premium price for goods. No more supplies that do not add value. No more blank cheques. No more money for departments that miss targets

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and ignore recommendations from Parliament, the Auditor-General, and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Scopa. And no more to officials that get rewarded for not delivering. No more. South Africa does not have a revenue problem. South Africa has a value for money problem. We do not need high taxes. We need better spending.

The question before this House is very simple: what are South Africans getting back for their tax money? Because every rand wasted is a rand that's taken away from schools without textbooks. Every rand is taken away from clinics without medicine. Every failed project is money taken away from a community waiting for tap water. Every act of waste is an act against the people of South Africa. Let me put this in very simple terms for South Africans to understand. Imagine a mother sending a child to a local shop with R100 to buy bread, milk, and eggs. The child returns with only a loaf of bread and says, the money's finished. Any responsible parent would ask, where did the money go? Why did you pay R100 for a loaf of bread? Why did you accept an overinflated price when the same loaf of bread would have cost R20 at another shop? That parent would not hand over another R100 without asking questions and investigating. Yet, that is exactly what this House does, year after year, decade after decade.

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Departments come back asking for more money while failing to explain why they have paid premium prices for ordinary goods and services. They pay overinflated prices for contracts. They pay premium prices for consultants. They pay premium prices for infrastructure projects. And increasingly, they pay premium prices for basic items that should never carry a premium price. South Africans have every right to ask: who benefits when the government pays more than it should? Because when the government pays a premium price, it's not spending its own money. It is spending the money of millions of hardworking South Africans. That is why the DA fought during this Appropriation to strengthen accountability, tighten oversight, and focus government on outcomes instead of inputs. We pushed for the broadening of the Targeted and Responsible Savings, Tars, programme that should include national, provincial departments and state-owned enterprises to ensure that every rand counts. We pushed for the departments that must spend all their unspent budget first, effectively, with records to prove it, before asking for more money. We have pushed for departments to demonstrate that they have become efficient to ensure all previous audit recommendations are implemented. We have pushed for greater scrutiny of procurement. We are pushing that all duplication of work,

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programmes, or budget be eradicated and that any excessive administrative expenditure be completely eradicated.

We have pushed for performance-based budgeting. And we pushed for stronger financial protection and that the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, should have their own budget to ensure effective delivery on its mandate. The government's procurement has become a black hole into billions that disappear. South Africans deserve to know why one municipality pays double what another municipality pays for the same bottle of water. Why should one metro pay R12 for a bottle of water while another pays R25? Why should the taxpayers fund overinflated prices for products that every South African buys every day? There are warning signs. Warning signs of waste. Warning signs of poor control. Warning signs of a system that too often rewards inefficiency instead of value. That is why the DA, today, is launching the Every Rand Counts project. We will compare the price paid by departments, municipalities and metros for the same goods and services. We will expose overinflated prices. We will identify unnecessary premium costs. And we will shine a light on procurement inefficiencies. And we will ask the difficult questions about who benefits when the government pays more than it should. Because every unnecessary premium paid by the state is money

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taken away from frontline services. Money that should be fixing roads. Money that should be fixing and fighting crime. Money that should be improving schools and hospitals.

The SPEAKER: Order, members. Can we allow the speaker on the podium to ... [Interjections.] ... no. Hon MkhaliPhi, that is not on. The member still has time. Interjections, yes, but running commentary is not what is allowed in the debate. Hon Wakelin, you can continue.

Mr K H WAKELIN: Thank you, Speaker. And today, we send a clear message to every department, every municipality, every public entity and every official entrusted with taxpayers' money.

IsiZulu:

Lonke irandi kumele lisebenze.

English:

Every rand must work.

Afrikaans:

Elke rand moet werk. [Every rand must work.]

English:

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Every rand must deliver services and value. Every rand must improve the lives of South Africans. The days of measuring success by how much the government spends are over. From now on, success must be measured by results only.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr K H WAKELIN: No money without accountability. No more spending without results. No more excuses for waste. Because every rand counts.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members, ...

Mr K H WAKELIN: Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon members, may I appeal to hon members not to have running commentary when the speaker is on the podium. As I have said earlier, interjections are allowed, but running commentaries are not because you disturb the speaker on the podium. Hon MkhaliPhi?

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Speaker, greetings to the president ... commander-in-chief, and commissars. The EFF rejects this 2026 Appropriation Bill.

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We reject this Bill, not because we oppose budgeting, but because we oppose the continued use of the Budget as an instrument to perpetuate inequality in South Africa. We oppose it because it protects elites and reproduces the same economic structure that kept millions of South Africans in poverty.

This House must ask itself a simple question. Who is this Budget for? Is this Budget for the unemployed graduate sitting at home with qualifications but no job? Is it for 9 000 unemployed doctors who remain ready to serve but are denied posts? Is it for communities in Khayelitsha, Diepsloot, Lusikisiki, Jozini, Mamelodi ... [Inaudible.] ... Inanda, which continue to live without dignified housing, sanitation, water and health care? Or is this Budget for rating agencies, Treasury officials and the political establishment that have convinced Parliament that budgets are sacred documents that cannot be changed meaningfully?

What is most disappointing this year is not only the content of the Bill, but the conduct of the Standing Committee on Appropriations. We are told that there is a new chairperson. We are told that there is a new political environment. We are told that Parliament is entering a new era of oversight and accountability.

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Yet, what have we seen? No fresh ideas, no new terrain, no bold proposals, no serious attempt to use the powers of Parliament to reshape this Budget in the interest of the poor, especially the poorest of the poor.

Instead, what we have seen is a committee that behaves exactly as it always has. The chairperson speaks confidently in broadcasts about democracy, consultation and putting matters to a vote, but when it comes to the most important democratic instrument in this Parliament, the power of the press, that democratic spirit disappears, because when it comes to the money Bills, the Appropriation Bill and the Division of Revenue Bill, Treasury's proposals are treated as gospel truth, as if Parliament exists merely to rubber-stamp what National Treasury has already decided.

However, that is not what the Constitution intended. The Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act was designed precisely so that Parliament can amend budgets. Parliament is not here to merely receive Treasury proposals and applaud them. Parliament is empowered to change them. Yet, year after year, we refuse to do so. That is why these Bills are so disappointing.

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Despite all these political shifts, despite a fractured political environment, besides fatal conditions for a genuine people's budget, this Appropriation Bill is fundamentally no different to the Budgets tabled in the last years.

The same austerity, the same fiscal regression, the same underinvestment in health, the same underinvestment in education, the same failure to confront unemployment, the same indifference to structural inequality. Nothing has changed.

The EFF made a practical proposal. We said let us increase the Health budget and absorb unemployed doctors, nurses and health care workers. We said let us increase education funding so that no child learns in overcrowded classrooms, under trees or in schools with pit toilets. We said let us increase infrastructure spending to ensure communities receive water, sanitation, roads and electricity. We said let us strengthen the SA Revenue Service, Sars, because a capable revenue authority can collect billions more and reduce the tax gap. These are practical amendments. These are constitutional possibilities. We say this every year, but Parliament refuses to act. Instead, Treasury dictates. Parliament obeys. This is not oversight. This is surrender.

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This budget does not confront unemployment. It does not confront poverty. It does not confront inequality. It mainly manages crises while protecting the status quo. For these reasons, Madam Speaker, the EFF rejects the 2026 Appropriation Bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member ... [Inaudible.]

Ms N M MHLONGO: [Inaudible.] ... thank you.

IsiZulu:

Halala!

English:

Thank you, commissar.

The SPEAKER: Hon Ngobile Mhlongo on the platform, please switch off your microphone.

Dr L MANAGA: Well done. Well done.

An HON MEMBER: Well done, commissar.

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The SPEAKER: Order, hon commissars on the platform. Can you switch off your phones?

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Please don't be jealous, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: No, no, no, I am not, hon Mkhaliphi. I'm just advising your commissars. They have congratulated you, but they must allow us to proceed. Hon Hadebe.

Mr N M HADEBE: Madam Speaker, the Appropriation Bill is a statement of priorities and a test of whether the government is capable of translating taxpayers' money into tangible improvements in the lives of South Africans.

For too long, our people have been asked to endure unemployment, failing infrastructure, crime and poor service, while billions are lost through wasteful expenditure, corruption and incompetence. South Africans are not suffering because the country lacks resources. They are suffering because, too often, resources are poorly managed.

We believe that every rand appropriated by this House carries with it a sacred obligation to deliver. Budget allocations must not become blank cheques for underperforming departments

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and failing entities. It cannot serve as justification for departments that consistently miss targets, return unspent funds and preside over irregular expenditure, while communities go without water, electricity, roads and basic dignity.

Therefore, we welcome investments aimed at strengthening municipalities, improving infrastructure, expanding access to energy and supporting education.

However, spending alone is not delivery. South Africa does not have a revenue crisis. It has an implementation crisis. We cannot be throwing money at problems while refusing to confront inefficiency and cadre deployment.

Economic growth and job creation must remain at the centre of our fiscal priorities. The government must create an enabling environment for investment, support small businesses and empower communities to become active participants rather than perpetual recipients of state assistance.

We further believe that local government must be rescued from political instability and financial collapse. Accountability must become the cornerstone of governance.

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As Parliament considers the individual Votes, the IFP will assess each allocation through one lens – whether it advances economic growth, strengthens service delivery and improves the lives of ordinary South Africans.

Fiscal discipline is necessary, but discipline without reform will not save this country. The IFP will continue to champion accountable governance, ethical leadership and people-centred development because public money must serve the people, not the politically connected. It is for these reasons that the IFP supports the Appropriation Bill. I thank you.

Mr A !Q SAULS: Hon Speaker, greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

[An unofficial language spoken.]

English:

Matthew Chapter 6, verse 24 ...

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon.

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Once again, we want to celebrate Mr Plaatjies and wish him well on his retirement. Thank you for your service, sir.

As we debate the Appropriation Bill, we want to encourage government to guard against being enslaved to Mammon. We have built a state structure completely dependent on the illusion that money cures all ills, ignoring the profound decay of our national character.

The numbers in this Bill exposes our dependency. We look at a failing social structure and appropriate a staggering 302 billion to Vote No 19 for Social Development. Within that, 292 billion is swallowed up just to manage the symptoms of poverty through social assistance grants. We are pouring billions into survival because we have failed at restoration.

Meanwhile, our national wealth is systematically plundered. South Africa loses an estimated 27 billion annually to corruption, while the historical wreckage of state capture has cost our people between 500 billion and 1 trillion. We are throwing money at poverty, whilst letting Mammon bleed our Treasury dry.

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If this nation chose to love God over Mammon, the impact would be revolutionary. We would not need multimillion rand forensic audits because public servants of character do not steal from the poor. Our families would be restored organically, caring for the vulnerable and the 38 billion allocated to Basic Education would build schools anchored in dignity and divine accountability, rather than just funding crumbling infrastructure.

As a proud partner in the Government of National Unity, GNU, the PA stands here to bring a practical, principled balance to governance. We have studied this Bill intently, and we see exactly where frontline national sovereignty lies.

Look no further than Vote No 5 on Home Affairs, which allocates 13,8 billion for the financial year. We note with extreme vigilance the 4,4 billion funding gap flagged by the Border Management Authority for border security and immigration enforcement.

Let me use these very numbers to be entirely clear. The PA has not abandoned and will never abandon the fight against illegal immigration. We still say ...

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Isizulu:

... abahambe!

English:

We demand that every cent of the allocation to immigration be weaponised to secure our borders and to ramp up lawful deportations.

As a party of faith and order, we draw a sharp line in the sand regarding how this law is executed. We choose character over chaos, and we choose patriotism over populism. We will never tolerate violence. We do not fight lawlessness with the chaos of possible street violence. True patriotism builds; it does not burn.

Let us bring God back into our Budget plans. Let us acknowledge God in all our ways and submit those plans to God, so that God blesses the work of our hands as we build the soul of our nation and become righteous stewards of this appropriation. I thank you.

Afrikaans:

Moenie baiza nie!

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[An unofficial language spoken.]

Afrikaans:

Mnr W W WESSELS: Speaker, hierdie nasionale toedeling is ter tafel gelê in Februarie in 'n tyd waar die ekonomie van Suid-Afrika heeltemal anders gelyk het as tans.

Sedertdien het inflasie weer gestyg, die lewenskoste is baie hoër, en dit as gevolg van, uit die aard van die saak, eksterne druk soos die konflik in die Midde-Ooste wat tot brandstofprysverhogings gelei het en wat dan nou ook, as ons kyk na kerninflasie, reeds gesyfer het na sekondêre produkte en dienste. Mense ly as gevolg daarvan, en dit lei ook daartoe dat ons sektore inkrumping ervaar. Byvoorbeeld, veral die vervaardigingsektor is juis tans in 'n inkrimpingsfase wat beteken dat ons die realiteit in die gesig moet staar dat, teen volgende jaar Februarie, ons inkomsteverwachting waarskynlik nie gaan realiseer nie en dat dit wat aanvanklik hierdie Begroting se grondslag gevorm het, die belastinginkomste wat vooruitgeskat is, minder gaan wees.

Dit gaan nie net oor die inkomste nie. Dit is soos 'n kruik met water in. Ja, daar gaan minder water in hierdie kruik in gaan, en dit is die realiteit wat ons in die gesig staar. Ons

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weet dit, maar dan gaan dit oor die krake in daardie kruik. Ja, die krake is minder as wat dit was in die tyd van oud-President Zuma toe die krake baie, baie groot was en water uit daardie kruik uitgestroom het weens korrupsie en wanbestuur, maar daar is steeds. Nasionale Tesourie het byvoorbeeld in die afgelope jaar 4 323 hoë-risiko gevalle van spookwerkers identifiseer. Dit kos die belastingbetaler ten minste R3,9 miljard per jaar, hierdie spookwerkers. Hierdie korrupsie en hierdie wanbestuur is eintlik, in effek, hoogverraad wanneer die water in hierdie kruik al hoe minder raak. Daardie krake wat gemaak word deur amptenare wat slegs in hulself belangstel, wat korrupsie pleeg, wat wanbestuur pleeg, en wat nie dien om Suid-Afrikaners se lewens beter te maak nie pleeg hoogverraad. Die geld wat gesteel word, is geld wat kon gegaan het om mense se lewens te verbeter, dienste te lewer, en, op die ou einde van die dag, ons land te laat werk.

Ons moet dit stop. Ons kan nie daai krake toelaat nie. Al is dit net haarlynkrake moet elke kraak gestop word. Vir elke saak van korrupsie moet daar verantwoordbaarheid wees. Ons kan nie toelaat in hierdie moeilike ekonomiese omstandighede om steeds so geld te verloor nie. Amptenare steel by die mense deur byvoorbeeld bedrog te pleeg met maatskaplike toelae wat

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reeds te min is, en dan steel hulle daardie geld. Dit is hoogverraad.

Dan is dit al genoem: Die staat is veronderstel om 'n baie groot speler te wees. Hy het bedingingsmag wanneer hy aankoop, want hy koop baie aan. As hy dienste of goedere verkry, is hy 'n grootmaat-verkryer daarvan. Dit beteken in die normale ekonomiese terme dat hy die beste pryse moet betaal, en tog betaal die staat in die meeste gevalle meer as wat markverwant is? Waarom is dit? Dit moet gestop word, want dit is ook hoogverraad. Daardie amptenare en kontrakteurs wat die staat uitbuit deur pryse te eskaleer, moet gestop word. Dit is hoogverraad.

Ons kan hierdie skip op die water hou. Ons kan die krake toemaak, maar dan moet ons saamwerk en verantwoordbaarheid afdwing. Ek dank u.

English:

Mr A D BEESLEY: Speaker, the greatest indictment on the performance of the Government of National Unity, GNU, is that South Africa's expanded unemployment rate has reached a record 43,7%. There are now more than 12 million unemployed South

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Africans, including almost 4 million discouraged workseekers who have given up looking for work.

These numbers are shocking. They are a national disgrace, and the GNU should be hanging their head in shame. They point to an economy that is simply not growing and, in doing so, condemns millions of South Africans to hopelessness, poverty, hunger, and dependency on government support. As more people become dependent on social assistance, fewer resources are available to drive the economic growth that creates jobs. The cycle continues, trapping more South Africans in poverty and dependence.

We see this reflected in the Appropriation Bill before us. Nearly a quarter of all spending is allocated to social development and welfare, whilst economic development functions receive a fraction of that amount. Departments responsible for driving growth, investment, innovation, and job creation continue to receive comparatively limited resources. ActionSA firmly believes that there must be a social safety net for those in need, but we also believe that people deserve the dignity of work, not a lifetime of dependency on the state. Our budget priorities and departmental spendings must reflect that principle.

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What is particularly concerning is that this Bill continues to fund a bloated executive that lives in comfort, whilst facing little accountability for performance. It is bizarre that government continues to maintain multiple departments with overlapping mandates, each with its own Minister and Deputy Ministers, whilst pleading poverty when it comes to economic growth and service delivery. It is bizarre that poorly performing Ministers remain in office year after year without consequences. It is bizarre that Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and their entourages continue to travel around the world at taxpayers' expense, whilst millions of South Africans cannot find work. It is bizarre that we spend more protecting politicians than we spend strengthening the Hawks to investigate corruption and hold the powerful accountable. It is bizarre that the DA talks about making every rand count when they are in government, when they are part of the problem, when they are part of the bloated Cabinet, and when their Ministers and Deputy Ministers and boyfriends and girlfriends travel around the world in luxury, whilst children are starving. Let he without sin cast the first stone.

South Africans deserve better. For this reason, ActionSA will continue to take a pragmatic and constructive approach. We will support Budget Votes that move South Africa forward,

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create jobs, and improve service delivery, and we will oppose those that do not. I thank you.

Ms M O SEATE: Hon Speaker, the ANC supports the Appropriations Bill because it advances one of the central priorities adopted by our movement's 55th National Conference. And this is to build a capable developmental state that delivers the quality services and expands economic opportunities and improves the lives of our people.

At the heart of this objective, it is infrastructure. This entails the R1,1 trillion allocated for the infrastructure in the medium-term, and this is a welcome shift to increase the social and economical impact of the budget.

The quality of the people of South Africa is ultimately determined not by the policy documentation alone, but by whether communities have access to water, sanitation, roads, public transport, electricity, education and digital connectivity.

Every road maintained improves the market access for farmers and businesses, and it enables the efficiency and the movement of our people. Every rail corridor restored, reduces logistic

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costs and strengthens the industrial competitiveness. Every commuter rail route restored, lowers the cost of travelling of our workers.

Every housing development completed, restores dignity and expands the economic participation. Every school and clinic built, contribute to long-term human development.

Infrastructure remains the bridge between the economic growth and social development. It is, therefore, significant that capital investment is fastest growing expenditure category in the 2026 budget framework. This reflects a higher growth rate, improved services and service delivery, and creates jobs without sustained public investment.

The ANC welcomes this shift again. However, we must also acknowledge that South Africa still invests below the level required to overcome decades of infrastructure bed locks and meets the developmental needs of a growing population. This is further impacted by the immigration and interprovincial immigration patterns.

Hon members, the challenge before us is not only the amount of money allocated but our ability to spend those resources

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effectively. For many years underspending has undermined service delivery and delegated critical infrastructure projects. Communities are often told that there is no money available, only to the end of the financial year.

The ANC, therefore, welcomes measures contained in the Appropriations Bill aimed at improving expenditure, efficiency and reducing underspending. In particular, the enhanced authority granted to the Minister of Finance to improve shifts of more than 8% under specific circumstances represents an important intervention. It provides the government with greater flexibility to redirect resources towards programmes capable of delivering results while ensuring accountability and parliamentary oversight ... [Inaudible.]

Public resources must follow performance, and the ANC calls on the Minister to heighten a focus on monitoring contract management by accounting officers. This is consistent in the ANC's longstanding position that fiscal discipline must be accompanied by improved state capacity and improved expenditure outcomes.

Hon Speaker, the recent floods that affected parts of Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and even the Eastern Cape remind us

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that climate-related disasters are becoming more frequent, more severe and more costly.

While the government has made progress in responding to disaster recovery needs, the ANC believes that the country requires a more agile and responsive disaster financing framework.

Communities affected by floods, storms and other disasters cannot wait months or years for reconstruction to commence. The rebuilding of roads, bridges, schools, water systems and public facilities must occur with urgency. As we build new infrastructure, we must build infrastructure that can withstand and realities of the climate change.

Further areas of strategic importance is the implementation of the Public Procurement Act. Government procurement represents one of the most powerful instruments available for the state to shape economic development. It is an economic transformation instrument, it is an industrial policy instrument, it is a job creation instrument and it is a service delivery instrument.

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Hon Speaker, the developmental state we seek to build requires more than just a sound fiscal management. It requires an intervening state and it welcomes the reorientation of the national departments to have an increased focus on supporting local municipalities.

For these reasons, the ANC supports the Appropriations Bill.
Ke a leboga. [Thank you.]

Mr S N SWART: Hon Speaker, the ACDP would also like to thank Mr Plaatjies for his many years of service and wish him well in his retirement.

The ACDP believes that when you look at our budget, we should be looking at it far more than just a ledger of income and expenditure. We should also consider it from a moral perspective. The budget should reflect our deepest priorities and how we care for the most vulnerable amongst us.

And as we reflect on the current realities, navigating demands for structural reform, the stabilisation of our national debt and the protection of our social wage, we can seek wisdom from the timeless scripture that speaks about stewardship, 1

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Corinthians 4 verse 2: Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be faithful.

Now, what does faithful stewardship mean? Faithful stewardship of the fiscus means zero tolerance for corruption, zero tolerance for wasteful expenditure, zero tolerance for mismanagement of state funds. Sadly, we don't see that.

Taxpayers are demanding value for every round of tax that they pay, they are not seeing that. And other speakers have referred to the wastage that we see, to the corruption that we see, to the overinflated prices that we see.

Another aspect, of course, which is deeply concerning is the illicit economy. Speaker, the illicit economy is estimated to cost the fiscus a staggering R100 billion each year. These activities include smuggling, customs, excise fraud, under-declaration, counterfeit trade, fuel and tobacco syndicates, and organised tax crime.

Every illicit transaction deprives the fiscus of revenue needed for schools, hospitals and public infrastructure. And we as the ACDP encourage SA Revenue Service, Sars, and law

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enforcement agencies to disrupt and totally shutdown illicit trading networks.

Chairperson, significantly and despite some of the positives of the budget, domestic companies are still sitting on record amounts of cash. They will not reinvest in it. Non-financial companies hold an estimate of R1,8 trillion, which equates to almost 20% of the country's Gross Domestic Product, GDP.

Why aren't they investing? It is mainly due to elevated interest rates, lingering concerns about stagnant economic growth and policy uncertainty. So, they would prioritise capital preservation over development.

Chairperson, we need to accelerate structural reforms to encourage domestic investment to grow our economy and create jobs. I thank you.

Mr S S ZIBI: Madam Speaker, firstly, let me thank the Chair and members of both the Finance and Appropriations Standing Committees for bringing us to this point, following the tabling of the budget by the hon Godongwana, the Minister of Finance.

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Budgets are never enough. Out of this budget, we have public hospitals that will still not be able to provide the level of care South Africans need to live long, healthy lives.

We will not be able to fund infrastructure at the speed and the extent we need to, notwithstanding the provision that has been made in this year's budget.

We will still have armed forces that can't properly defend the country because they are chronically underfunded.

Public schools that should have Wi-Fi, modern teaching aids, where every child must have access to the best foundation phase teaching and learning possible, but they will not, and they won't for a very long time.

We will continue to have a police force whose vacancy rate in critical detective services and in the Hawks of up to 49%, while we expect them to produce the level of performance and results South Africans deserve.

Madam Speaker, the list is endless. That said, there is enough money not to waste on poorly conceived plans, poor project

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management, poor contract management and corruption, to make a big difference in people's lives.

For you, Minister, last year you spoke about expenditure reviews. Those must primarily be about prioritisation. In South Africa, we have a long list of priorities. It is so long, the word priorities should not be in it.

The challenge for Cabinet must be a shorter list of priorities, allocating more to critical public services while rapidly expanding private investment in others. This requires a fundamental change in attitude, from thinking the state can do everything on its own, to considering the totality of the capital available in the country under different rules and conditions.

All of these must be transparent and subject to parliamentary oversight. We do not have the luxury of vacillating and debating. Our people are desperate and angry. We must respond to their needs.

Personally, I'm passionate about public transport. Every South African should have the option not to buy a car, the option not to use a taxi; the ability to have public transport that

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is affordable, that is safe, that can take them to and from where they want to go in good time. We cannot do that if we insist on taking as long as we are.

We will support this bill. Thank you.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Hon Speaker, to avoid any disappointment in future, I'll say from the outset that BOSA supports this bill. Our support rests on a simple principle, though, that budgets matter only if they improve the daily lives of the people of South Africa. Ultimately, this debate should come down to one question, and that is if we are making life better for South Africans. And so, that's why implementation matters. You can have budget allocations, percentages and policy commitments, which ultimately mean little if they don't reduce the cost of living; if they don't create opportunity, and if they don't make government work better.

The real measure of this budget is not what it promises on paper, but it will be what citizens experience in their daily lives. On that score, we do recognise government for one important intervention, and that was the fuel levy relief, because this was more than an administrative adjustment. It

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protected households that were already under pressure. Without it, higher fuel prices would have driven up transport costs, food prices and inflation across the economy. But affordability cannot rely on isolated interventions. It requires a broader commitment to reduce the cost that citizens and businesses face on a daily basis.

The Standing Committee on Appropriations repeatedly highlights the challenge of state capability. Every time a citizen takes multiple taxis to access a government service; every time they wait for an application; every time they navigate dysfunctional systems to receive support that they are entitled to, they pay what economists call a frictional cost. These costs won't appear in the budget tables, but they are real and they are experienced by citizens, and a capable state reduces that.

Technology, modernisation and efficient administration are not luxuries, they are essential. In a world where facial recognition can verify banking customers in seconds, citizens shouldn't have to spend time and money repeatedly traveling to government to prove who they are. The same principle applies for economic growth. South Africa cannot tax its way to prosperity, have to grow the economy through investment

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certainty, through modern infrastructure and policies that enable businesses to compete and create jobs. The report's emphasis on infrastructure, investment and reform is therefore welcome. But again, implementation matters because delayed decisions and policy uncertainty impose costs of their own, especially while global competitors are moving ahead.

We support a government that will relentlessly reduce these burdens - one that lowers costs rather than raises them, removes obstacles rather than creates them, and ensures that every single rand makes life easier, safer and more affordable for the people that it serves, the South Africans. This is the standard against which this budget must be judged, not merely what it is on paper, but how it is implemented. Thank you.

Ms T L MARAWU: Hon Speaker, this Appropriation Bill is not just about numbers. It is about hunger in households, unemployment in townships, collapsing services in rural villages, and the daily struggle of millions of poor South Africans who continue to be failed by the state. The ATM approaches this budget from a simple reality. South Africa is a deeply unequal society, where the majority remain trapped in poverty, while public spending too often fails to change their

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lived conditions. Year after year, large budgets are passed in this House, yet the poor see little improvement.

They still walk on broken roads, drink unsafe water, endure unreliable electricity, and live in communities where municipalities are unable to deliver even basic services. This is the real test of this Appropriation Bill - not its size, but its impact on the poorest South Africans. The crisis we face is not a lack of money. It is a crisis of accountability, waste, and misplaced priorities. Billions are lost through irregular expenditure, inflated contracts, and weak consequence management. While the poor are told to tighten their belts, corruption continues to loosen the public purse.

Parliament cannot continue to appropriate funds without enforcing consequences. Departments that fail must not be rewarded with large budgets. Those who mismanage public money must be held accountable, not recycled into a new position of responsibility. The ATM believes that the budget must deliberate to target poverty and unemployment. It is unacceptable that millions of South Africans remain without work, while the state continues to spend without transforming the structure of the economy.

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Government procurement must become a weapon against poverty. It must support local production, small businesses, co-operatives, and emerging entrepreneurs. Every run spent by the state must circulate within our communities and create jobs where poverty is best. We cannot continue to import goods that could be produced locally while our people sit without work. That is not transformation. It is economic exclusion. Local government is where poverty is most visible and where government failure is most painful.

It is the municipality that decides whether a community has water, whether refuse is collected, whether roads are maintained, and whether dignity is preserved. Yet many municipalities are broken. They are weakened by corruption, political interference, and the deployment of individuals without the skills required to manage complex public systems. No amount of funding can fix incompetence. The poor do not need more promises. They need functioning services. They need jobs. They need safe communities. They need schools. [Time expired.] The ATM believes that this Appropriation Bill must be redirected to save the people who have been excluded for far too long.

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Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Speaker, fellow beloved family of South Africans, hon members. *As-salaamu-alai-kum* [Peace be with you.] Malibongwe! [Let it be praised!] Thank you. This budget must be measured not only by the figures it contains, but by the impact it has on the lives of ordinary South Africans. At a time of rising poverty, unemployment, and growing pressure on households, every rand appropriated by this House must translate into improved service delivery, economic growth, and tangible opportunities for our people. We welcome the committee's oversight role in ensuring that public funds are allocated responsibly and with accountability.

However, appropriation alone is not enough. Government departments must ensure efficient expenditure, eliminate wasteful and irregular spending, and deliver measurable outcomes. Al Jama-ah further calls for greater support for local economic development, infrastructure maintenance, job creation initiatives, and programs that uplift the vulnerable communities.

As Parliament exercises its constitutional duty over public finances, we must remain vigilant in ensuring that the resources entrusted to government serve the people and advance the developmental objectives of our nation. Every rand must

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reach the people. Every budget must deliver results, accountability in spending, dignity in service delivery, a budget for the people - not just numbers on a page from appropriation to implementation, delivering hope, jobs, and opportunity. I thank you.

Mr F ADAMS: Hon Speaker and well done to Mr Plaatjies on 27 years of service. Again, this House has been served with a budget that does not speak to the 70% unemployed youth, that does not speak to those dying in state hospitals of preventable diseases. This budget asks the taxpayer to put R13 billion for alleged urgent spending. [Interjections.] Urgent spending in the view of the NCC is money spent on housing, on health care, on education. We do not see this urgency.

The SPEAKER: Hon Adams. Hon Adams, could you please stop. Hon members, once again, can we not have running commentary when the speakers on the platform? Secondly ... Wait hon members, I am speaking to all of you. Can we please also ensure that we are not deliberately destructive and make noise such that the speaker on the podium cannot be heard. Continue, hon Adams.

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Mr F ADAMS: Thank you, Speaker, but I forgive the party of corruption and cover up. Hon Speaker, in 2023-24, R120 billion was wasted in irregular expenditure. Thirty-eight billion and eight hundred million was wasted in unauthorised expenditure. And between 2018 and 2024, we lost R407 billion on irregular expenditure. Our problem is not money; our problem is theft. Our problem is not money; it's a lack of morality. My hon colleague stands up here and he speaks to us about making every cent count. I would invite the DA to go and look at tender 243Q in the City of Cape Town, where R10 million was awarded in a tender and they ended up paying R503 million, where the city manager lied to the media and Geordin Hill-Lewis stood up in council and swore under oath that no fraud had been committed, but they won't show us the forensic report. His reward was to be promoted to become the leader of the DA and then he did us a favour by getting rid of John Steenhuisen. The NCC does not support this Bill. Thank you.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Speaker...

Sesotho:

... kgotso, Maafrica.

English:

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At the heart of this debate is one question: Does this Budget transform the lives of the poor, the unemployed, the landless, the youth, persons with disability, women, rural communities and the African majority who continue to carry the burden of inequality? From the perspective of the UAT the answer is, no. This Appropriation Bill may fund the machinery of government, but it does not sufficiently fund the transformation of the society. It is a Budget of administration rather than reconstruction. It is a Budget that manages poverty instead of defeating it.

The tragedy of the democratic South Africa is that the aspirations of our people were clearly set out in the Freedom Charter that the people shall share in the country's wealth, land shall be shared among those who work on it, there shall be work and security, the doors of learning and culture shall be opened and there shall be houses, security and comfort for all. Yet more than three decades into democracy a black government sits over an African majority that remain poor, unemployed, landless and excluded from the wealth of the country.

In a space of two years, the government of national unity, GNU, has achieved mass unemployment, deepening inequality,

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collapsing criminal justice system, collapsing municipalities, poor infrastructure, privatisation, unsafe communities and stagnant economy that exclude the African majority. Yet, this Budget does not treat this crisis with the agency they deserve. It protects the state but does not adequately empower the people. It allocates money, but without convincing evidence that it will reverse the lived reality of the hunger, the joblessness, savings delivery failure and economy exclusion. For these reasons, the UAT rejects any attempt to celebrate this Bill as a transformative Budget. It is, at best, a continuation Budget.

South Africa does not need continuity of inequality. South Africa needs a decisive break of exclusion, underdevelopment and economic marginalisation. The UAT rejects this Bill.

Xitsonga:

Khanimamba!

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Hon Speaker, hon members and fellow South Africans, I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and in the language of the Khoi and San people [Unofficial language spoken.]

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Before I begin, let me thank Mr Plaatjies for his years of service to Parliament. I wish him well on his retirement. I also want to convey my deepest condolences to the families, friends and loved ones of the three councillors, two for the MKP and one for the DA, who were brutally murdered while campaigning for democracy this past weekend. Let us honestly ask ourselves: Is this the kind of life that we want for our people where we go into bloodshed? If we continue down this road, there will be reciprocal violence, and no politician will be safe and democracy would have failed.

To the hon Wakelin and the DA, it's funny how the DA speakers come up here and give hundreds of reasons why they oppose their own GNU government which they are part of when you are one. You must lie in the bed that you made. You must accept it. You are part of the GNU. Despite your so-called opposition points raised against the Appropriations Bill, you will still vote for this appropriations Budget, which you have just shot down in your speech. How can you be for and against something at the same time? That is schizophrenia.

Hon Segede, in which society has macroeconomics translated to bread on the table for the poor? The economy may be marginally growing, but even that growth is cancelled out by other

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macroeconomic issues such as inflation and increased energy costs due to conflicts around the world. You are doing worse than you have ever done before because our people are feeling the effects in their pocket.

Today, we are not just debating numbers. We are debating the future. We are debating what kind of South Africa we will leave to our children, one where the majority of black Africans, Khoi and San coloured and Indian South Africans remain landless, unemployed, trapped in poverty and living in informal settlements now in 2026, or one where we confront the legacy of colonialism and apartheid by ensuring that our land, mineral wealth and economic resources benefit all the people.

For 30 years of democracy, vast tracts of land and enormous mineral wealth have remained concentrated in the hands of a small elite, while raw minerals continue to be exported without beneficiation, taking jobs and opportunities with them and taking money that could be used to our fiscal Budget that could be added to our GDP. The result is that millions remain excluded from meaningful economic participation while the privileged few continue to accumulate wealth from resources that should uplift the nation as a whole.

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The report before us tells us that government expects economic growth of only 1,6% this year, rising to just 2% by 2028. At the same time, debt remains at almost 79% of GDP before declining marginally and yet we are expected to celebrate this as success.

The MKP rejects this appropriations report because no nation in history has ever cut its way to prosperity. No nation has ever austerity budgeted its way into abundance. The problem facing South Africa is not simply debt. The problem is that South Africa is not growing under the GNU. The problem is that this Budget manages decline instead of creating prosperity. The report itself shows that social development received R302 billion in police, R127 billion in wealth and agriculture just under R7,8 billion. We must prioritise food security before we deal just with the symptoms of what apartheid and this GNU has left in place. We must deal with the root problem, and that is the return of the land to the black South Africans of this country.

Mr Chair, I want to say that the Budget exposes the GNU's priorities. This Budget does not transform the economy. It manages the economy instead of ending poverty, Mr Chair. As we approach the local government elections on 4 November, South

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Africans must judge parties by their record, not their slogans. For almost a decade, coalition governments led by the combinations of the ANC, the DA, the PA, the IFP and others have governed many municipalities. The result has too often been instability, corruption, collapsing infrastructure, growing housing backlogs and financially distressed municipalities. Whether in Johannesburg, Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Nelson Mandela Bay or elsewhere, communities have watched political parties in this GNU fight over positions and tenders while basic services are deteriorated. We are in for more of the same if we vote for them. South Africans must ask a simple question. If these parties have governed municipalities for years and the results are visible for all around us: Why should we expect different outcomes from the same people in these local government elections? It's time for change. It's time for the MKP to take over. The MKP is on a different path. We believe public land must serve the public. Mineral wealth must benefit the people, and government must serve their citizens rather than politically connected elites. The record of the old parties is before us. The choice now belongs to the people. Are we going to go to those that are committing fraud, that are sitting in front of the Madlanga Commission, that are sitting in front of an impeachment committee or are we going to stand with the people that are fighting for the freedom of our

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people? Nobody else but the MKP is going to change this country because we will take the land back, we will take the resources back, we will benefit... [Time expired.]

Isizulu:

Gwaza!

The SPEAKER: Hon Douglas, the last I remember I was Madam Chair. The first time I thought it was a slip of a tongue, but you repeated it again and said, Mr Chair. I just want to advise you that I am still Madam Chair.

Mr A G BATEMAN: Honourable Speaker, today we are debating ...

The SPEAKER: Order, order. Can we allow the speaker on the podium to be heard?

Mr A G BATEMAN: Hon Speaker, today we are debating the Appropriations Bill, which is one of the 2026 Budget Bills.

As the DA, we are resolute and we are unwavering in the pursuit of our vision of the open opportunity society for all. However, in any worthwhile coalition, such as the Government of National Unity, GNU, there are battles you must win and

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there are compromises that you must make. And this Bill contains both wins and it also contains compromises. To set the record straight, if you live under DA governance at a local government level, you are ... there is less than one sixth of the chance that you will suffer a water interruption lasting longer than two days.

Let me start with 10 wins in this year's Budget Bills. Firstly, for the first time, the 2026 Budget was a collaborative effort. Number two, the budget contains no tax hikes. Number three, spending growth is responsible. Number four, the Targeted and Responsible Savings Programme, TARS, is beginning to yield savings. Number five, government debt has stopped rising as a share of the economy and is projected to begin declining for the first time since 2008. This is significant, particularly when one considers MK's claim that it would be able to govern more effectively.

Number six, government will be implementing a fiscal anchor. These reforms have already saved South Africa billions in interest costs and they are bringing down the long-term cost of capital, which is good for investment. Number seven, there is a shift from consumption to infrastructure investment in the budget, which is useful for economic growth. Number eight,

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the budget has reforms to strengthen municipal service delivery, particularly through the ring-fencing of revenue to protect infrastructure investment. Number nine is the opening of freight rail access to private operators and number 10 is the expansion of private participation in ports.

The DA has been arguing for all of these reforms for years, but the battle does not stop here. Millions continue to be locked out of work opportunities and trapped in poverty and in fact South Africa is a global leader in unemployment. So, the DA will continue to fight for the open opportunity society for all South Africans. At the heart of this unemployment crisis is the lack of private sector investment and particularly gross fixed capital formation. This is the key to job creation and it has been declining for nearly 20 years. If one imagines South Africa as one gigantic maize field, every year we receive a harvest. If we eat all of this year's harvest, we shall have nothing left to plant for next year and for future years. Some of the harvest must go back into the field. The more we plant, the more we reap, and the more we make, the more people can be employed. That is why investment is so critical for employment.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, just for a moment. Hon Mthethwa, that is out of order. I am cautioning you. Hon Bateman, please proceed.

Mr A G BATEMAN: Some of the harvest must go back into the field. The more we plant, the more we reap and the more we reap, the more people can be employed and that is why investment is so critical for employment. However, here is the problem and in fact there are two problems. The first one is that we are eating too much of our seed. Not enough is being sown back into the field. The second one is that we have added so many rocks to our field that it does not produce the healthy crops that it should and as a result, seed that could be planted in our field ends up being planted in other fields. Our harvests are too small and we have far more people than we have work.

Operation Vulindlela has been clearing some of the rocks, like power interruptions, trains which do not run, ports which are blocked, problems with visas, all the breakdowns in services that we often discuss and this is helping our field to produce better harvests. The problem is that Operation Vulindlela is not dealing with some of the biggest deterrents to investment, some of the biggest rocks that are making our field

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unattractive for investment and are causing our harvests to be too small to support the number of people who are looking for work.

Firstly, Operation Vulindlela is failing to tackle our rigid labour market regulation. Secondly, Operation Vulindlela is failing to address Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment, BBBEE, and thirdly, it is failing to address our uncompetitive rates of taxation relative to other emerging markets. I shall take a moment on the tax rates because this is the particular responsibility of the Minister of Finance. High rates of tax reduce how much seed is left over for planting in the field and that means that high rates of tax take away from future harvests and from jobs. Plus, they chase away investments to the fields of other countries, fields which offer higher returns on investment. Our field is simply not attractive for fresh seed, for investment. And so, if we want strong, sustained investment, which we do because we are all committed to addressing, adjust the jobs crisis, then we must develop a credible plan to reduce taxes over the medium term.

What makes reducing tax rates difficult in the short term are our high levels of both debt and government spending and that is why the Tars programme is so critical to solving the

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unemployment crisis. Department after departments appears before our committee to request more funds, but I cannot recall any department proposing how it will fund its needs by streamlining its programmes that don not work, trimming its administration, which is bloated, cancelling its property leases, which are corrupt and inflated, eliminating functions which are duplicated, winding down its public entities which are redundant, merging its operations with another department and removing the need for a separate Ministry. The result is inflated prices, bloated administrations, too many programmes, too many public entities, too many departments, too many hon Ministers and far too many blue lights.

The DA supports this Bill for the sake of the stability of the Government of National Unity, GNU, but it is far too much business as usual. Unless we reduce tax rates, growth rates will be slow, opportunities will be few, and millions will continue to be trapped in unemployment and in poverty. I thank you.

Ms N A GCALEKA-MAZIBUKO: Hon Deputy Speaker, first thing first, the ANC supports this Appropriation Bill. Why? It is simple, the Bill advances one of the most important objectives of the democratic state, which is building an ethical, capable

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and developmental state that can deliver services, protect communities and drive inclusive development.

Secondly, let us agree that the greatest threat to development is not only a shortage of resources, but the greatest threat is also when public institutions are unable to convert public resources into public outcomes. When criminal syndicates infiltrate state institutions, development suffers. When accounting officers fail to exercise proper oversight, service delivery suffers.

A developmental state requires resources, but it also requires accountability. Sadly, as a nation we are in the business of strengthening local government, improving basic services, improving water provision and expanding human settlement, strengthening the police service and our security services, and holding public servants accountable for appropriated funds.

We welcome the ANC's focus and the continued guidance on strengthening local government. Local government is where we connect with our people. It is us who are providing water, electricity, houses and removing waste to many people in South Africa. As we ensure transfers as contained in the

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Appropriation Bill, we are providing basic services. A vote against this Bill is a vote against humanity.

The ANC consistently argues that municipalities must become centres of development, investment and service delivery rather than sites of dysfunction and financial distress. Where there are challenges, let us support the ongoing review of the White Paper on Local Government and strengthen municipal capacity, improve governance and modernise local government.

The most visible expression of a developmental state is the provision of basic services. One practical example is the support for water infrastructure interventions aimed at reducing nonrevenue water losses and fixing infrastructure challenges in eThekweni, Johannesburg and other municipal metropolitans.

We welcome continued efforts to expand human settlement and afford housing opportunities. For a young family living in an overcrowded informal settlement like Khayelitsha, we must raise our voices so that they too can have access to adequate housing. This is not merely a housing statistic; it is access to dignity, safety and economic opportunity. No one must be left behind.

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A capable and developmental state is a state that does not shy away from challenges. It faces them and finds solutions. However, this type of a state acknowledges good work done. These good stories must multiply. Firstly, we must welcome the work of the President in establishing various judicial commissions since 2018 ...

IsiXhosa:

... nongona aba bangaqondiyo bemgxeka.

English:

Secondly, let us recognise the good work done by the integrated task force led by the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA. It is actively implementing 218 criminal investigation recommendations with total recoveries having reached nearly R17 billion, signifying decisive measures on findings of the Zondo Commission.

Thirdly, the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into allegations of impropriety at the Public Investment Corporation, PIC, known as the Mpati Commission, has laid a basis for the strengthening of the PIC. One hundred percent recommendations have been implemented, and an estimated R19 billion has been recouped by the PIC, safeguarding the investment of workers.

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IsiXhosa:

Ngumsebenzi lo ndithetha ngawo.

English:

We warned against the DA campaign of demonising all instruments that seek to empower the previously marginalised. The Nugent Commission has enabled the repositioning in the South African Revenue Service, Sars, which provides the very essence of our state to function and our constitutional democracy to yield. Today, Sars has broken the R2 trillion revenue collection mark with a robust digital transformation innovation. This is a story to tell.

Lastly, the recently established Judicial Commission of Inquiry into criminality, political interference and corruption in the criminal justice system, the Madlanga Commission, has led to arrests being made as the commission undertakes its work. These are clear outcomes that demonstrate the action of the ANC in decisively tackling corruption and crime in our society.

The ANC does not stand for corruption, but fights corruption. Numbers don't lie. The ANC lives, the ANC leads! We are making

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an unequivocal call that all those who prey on public funds
... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Order!

Ms N A GCALEKA-MAZIBUKO: ... their days are numbered,
including ...

IsiXhosa:

... naba bahleli ngapha ngasekhohlo kum.

English:

They are going to be arrested. They have ... [Interjections.]
[Inaudible.] ... with the courts.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member?

Ms N A GCALEKA-MAZIBUKO: It is for this reason that we support
the ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mazibuko, please take your seat.

Hon Skosana, what is your point of order?

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IsiNdebele:

Num G J SKOSANA: Sekela likaSomlomo, ngesikhathi isikhulumi sikhuluma ngokobana i-ANC ayizwani nekohlakalo, uSosibebhe omkhulu we-DA uhleke into erarako. Kwanjesi into le iyangirara ngombana bengithi basebenza boke. Lokhu kutjho kobana akayikholwa into ekhulunywa sikhulumi. Ngiyakuthokoza.

English:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Hon Skosana, that is not a point of order.

Please continue, hon Mazibuko.

Ms N A GCALEKA-MAZIBUKO: It is for this reason that we support the focus to strengthen the police service and the defence force ...

IsiXhosa:

... ukuze kubanjwe aba bangasekhohlo kum bazimeleyo kuba bengafuni ukubanjwa.

English:

The ANC has prioritised strengthening law enforcement agencies through increasing the number of police recruited, with over

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20 000 new recruits in the service, and an additional 5500 will be recruited in 2026 ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, order! Hon Mazibuko, please take your seat. Yes, hon member?

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: They are drowning the speaker that side ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just repeat because it is so loud, I can't hear.

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: I am saying the noise from that corner is drowning the speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, the noise from both sides is very high. The volume is too high. So, please, hon members on all sides.

Hon member, you don't have to reply to any provocation.

Please, let us allow the speaker to speak without drowning out the speaker.

Hon Mazibuko, please continue.

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Ms N A GCALEKA-MAZIBUKO: With an additional 4000 detectives, this has improved investigations and prosecution and ...

IsiXhosa:

... baseza kubanjwa ...

English:

In the upcoming three financial years, government will recruit a further 22 000 police officers to accelerate the fight against gang violence, drugs and high murder rates in the Western Cape, Gauteng and Eastern Cape. The President has deployed the South African National Defence Force, SANDF, to support the South African Police Service, SAPS.

Illegal mining negatively impacts the economy and communities. Operation Vala Umgodi is tackling illegal mining and related crimes in the Western Cape, Gauteng, Eastern Cape, North West and Free State.

The declaration of gender-based violence and femicide, GBVF, as a national disaster is a major shift since the 2018 GBV summit, which was a turning point. An amount of R1,6 billion has been set aside for activities related to the fight against GBVF in the police. Today, official statistics reflect an

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improving trend in the crime trend, which has decreased by 4,3% in 2024-25, a 0,8% increase in 2023-24. This is positive indicator, but much is required, hon Madiba. This is an ANC in action and fruits of our actions are starting to bear fruit.

A capable developmental state must also be a secure state. South Africa cannot achieve inclusive growth while criminal networks undermine public institutions, facilitate illegal migration, engage in illicit trade, steal infrastructure and undermine public confidence. The increased support for law enforcement institution and the plan to appoint 10 000 labour inspectors must be supported.

Labour exploitation and the appointment of illegal immigrants remain a reality in many sectors of the economy. Labour inspectors play an important role in protecting workers' rights, enforcing labour legislation and ensuring that vulnerable workers are protected – not just to stand here and speak about workers. We support the proposed measure to increase consequences for employers employing illegal migrants.

As I take my seat, like I said, the objectives of a democratic state must be protected. South Africa is a home for building

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an ethical, capable and developmental state that can deliver services, protect communities and drive inclusive development. It is this House that creates the home we so desire. The ANC once more supports this Appropriation Bill. It is for transformation.

IsiZulu:

Ngiyabonga.

Setswana:

Ke a leboga.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon Chairperson, let me start by thanking the chairpersons of appropriation and finance for a job well done. In an environment of a multiparty such as this one, to produce a report of this nature reflect some patience of a different kind.

Let me start by the public finance education I normally do when I stand up here. The budget we tabled on 25 February was R2,3 trillion. What we are debating today is a portion of that because that budget is divided as section 214 of the Constitution requires us vertically and horizontally between the spheres of government. Now, through the Division of

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Revenue Act, or Bill, we dealt with R1,1 trillion of this budget. It is there in the different spheres. They have tabled their budgets as part of that. Now, we are dealing with the remaining R1 trillion, which affects national departments. A problem when I listen to the speakers, they do not distinguish between these two debates. That is why unemployed doctors would not be part of this discussion. Precisely, we have allocated money for unemployed doctors, and that money is with the Division of Revenue Act. Now, if they are not employed, It is not because this budget has not made allocation, it is because those who are supposed to be doing so have redirected funds, those that should be made to account for that.

We are meeting in an environment when we are commemorating and celebrating three events, seventy years of the Women's March; 50 years of the 1976 student uprising; and 30 years of democracy. Instead of shouting at me, we should be reflecting as a nation: What do these events signify for us? To what extent have we achieved gender equality? To what extent are we dealing with the youth challenge? How are we beginning to realize the socioeconomic rights which our Constitution enjoins us to do? I will come back to that in a moment.

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People say this budget does not talk to somebody in Khayelitsha and ... [Inaudible.] ... The biggest portion of this R1 trillion, R302,4 billion goes to the Department of Social Development, supporting 26,5 million beneficiaries. They can be found in all parts of the country. To say that the only part of this country there are people ... [Inaudible.] ... is misleading. Even if we are going to an election, we must not twist facts. Twenty-six point five million are covered by this budget, and they are scattered across the length and breadth of this country. One hundred and twenty-seven billion of this budget goes to the police. So, we will be paying about 188 000 policemen and women. Whether they, I mean ... I am not supervising the police, but I am trying to say the bulk of Budget Vote 2 being tabled here. This budget, which we have not ... let me touch on the division of revenue because we are referring to some of these things in your speech. In the division of revenue, we make provision in local government for free basic services to 11,2 million South Africans. That is a fact, not fiction. So, it was important that when we make these discussions, we distinguish between fact and fiction. When we tabled the budget, we said we are allocating R1 trillion for infrastructure, changing the composition over the medium-term. Close to R449 billion of that is going to be spent in this financial year. The policy

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choices we are making when we make this thing. Hon Adams makes the point - and I agree with him for the first time - that sometimes we complain about money, but we do not complain about its effective spending. And he said the problem is not money, the problem ... I do not want to use the word to use, I am not sure ... I can verify. I agree with him to the fact that the problem is not money. The problem is the effective use of that money. That is what we should be talking about.

We introduced what is called a targeted responsible spending, because we realized that one of the key things we can improve services is not higher taxes, is to begin to shift and prioritize those programmes in government which are inefficient in order to derive service savings and those savings to be re-channelled towards the priorities government wants to achieve. Those are the policy choices we are making. And because of that, we are beginning to shift the composition of expenditure towards infrastructure investment. I agree with hon Bateman that if we do not improve gross capital formation, we are going to have a problem in investment. We are still sitting at about 14,8% of the gross domestic product, GDP, as investment, as against the target we had of 30% in the National Development Plan, NDP. And that is a critical challenge we should all be focusing on in government. That

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should be a critical challenge that faces all of us in government - changing that composition of expenditure. The key question before us is how, as a nation, we can progressively realize the socioeconomic rights guaranteed by our Constitution. That is what these hon members must do as part of their oversight. Ask us these critical questions: To what extent are we dealing with health, education, housing, and social protection? That is what the legislative arm of the state must be doing. We table a budget. Members of Parliament should be ... every Minister ... not when we do the appropriation ... and people use the appropriations as a form of oversight. Instead of when you do the oversight in departments, you should be asking the relevant Ministers, to what extent are we spending? Are you using the money allocated to your department? I know ... sure ... they normally do. People say, no, we are underfunded by Treasury, instead of saying, yes, we understand that, but you have money in your Vote. How are we going to use this amount we are given? Forget about the fact that have been underfunded. You have been given a specific amount. How are you using it? Everybody, for instance, complains about municipalities. We must increase, and I agree. Part of what we should be doing is to shift that composition of expenditure, not only towards specific priorities, but even vertically. That vertical split must be

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changed. In doing so, we must hold people to account. No, not all of comrades. You know, the problem is, because you want to tarnish the ANC ... I look at these policemen that are coming up in the Madlanga Commission. Most of those people were special branch officers that were chasing us, us in the East Rand. And then you call them ANC ... [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Appropriation Bill be read a first time?

Bill read a first time (uMkhonto weSizwe Party and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Agreed to.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Reddy, on what point are you rising?

Mr V G REDDY: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Appropriation Bill is the single most important oversight debate before this House. I rise in terms of Rule 26 ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Reddy, hon members ...

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Mr V G REDDY: No, maybe if you listen, spend more time listening ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, to my right. I am listening to hon Reddy. Please do not shout and drown out the speaker. Hon Reddy, please state your point of order, not a speech.

Mr V G REDDY: I rise in terms of Rule 26, hon Deputy Speaker, because in this debate, of the 200 minutes, only 20 minutes is allocated to opposition parties. What this effectively means is that the government and the Government of National Unity, GNU, will praise itself on ... [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, hon members.

Mr V G REDDY: ... time and opposition will not be able to hold the executive accountable. I seek your ruling, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Reddy, Rule 26 does not refer to that, and this is a matter that has been dealt with in the Chief Whips Forum by the Whips, and the allocated time has been decided on. This is not now the place to discuss this, and I am now ruling you out of order. We will now proceed. Hon members, hon Letsie, hon Reddy. I am naming you. I wish to

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thank the parties for advising the staff on which votes they will be making declarations, and on which they will record their objections, and on which they intend to divide. This information will greatly assist the process today. I will put each vote and ask parties for declarations of vote, as they have indicated. Members may make declarations of vote from the floor or the podium. After this, I will put in a vote for the decision. Now, hon members, you are reminded that in terms of Rule 1085, a global time for declarations of vote has been agreed upon, and parties will be allowed to make declarations as per the agreed time allocation. Once a party has exhausted its allotted time, it will no longer be recognised to make further declarations. For divisions, bells will be rung for five minutes and thereafter for 15 seconds as the presiding officer may direct. For the first division, after the break, the bells will again be rung for five minutes and thereafter for 15 seconds for further divisions.

Now, having said the above and once again referring to the Schedule that we have and the parties indicating on which matters they will declare, object and/or divide, we now proceed.

Vote No 1 - The Presidency - put.

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Declarations of vote

Mr M V DANIELS: Deputy Speaker, hon members, fellow South Africans, the PA rises in support of the Appropriation Bill, particularly the Budget Vote for the Presidency. We support this allocation because a capable Presidency is essential for a government that works. The Presidency must be the engine that drives co-ordination, accountability and delivery across all departments. Without strong leadership at the centre, even the best policies will fail our people.

This budget strengthens the ability of the Presidency to plan effectively, monitor performance and ensure that government commitments translate into real results on the ground. South Africans are not asking for promises; they are asking for delivery. The vote enables oversight systems that track whether departments are actually meeting those expectations. The PA believes in accountability and decisive leadership.

Through institutions like Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, the Presidency can identify failures, correct inefficiencies and ensure value for money. Every rand must count and every programme must deliver impact. This allocation also supports better co-ordination between national, provincial and local government. Too often, service delivery fails because of poor

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alignment. Strengthening the Presidency helps to close these gaps and ensures a united approach to challenges problems such as unemployment, poverty and infrastructure backlogs.

Our support for this budget is not blind. It is based on the expectation of performance. We expect the Presidency to lead with urgency, transparency and results. South Africans deserve a government that not only plans but also executes. In conclusion, the PA supports this vote as an investment in stronger governance, better oversight and improved service delivery. I thank you.

Mr S M GANA: No declaration. We will support, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Dr M A MAIMANE: Deputy Speaker, South Africans are not suffering from a shortage of plans; they are suffering from a shortage of delivery. Every year, government announces new priorities and new commitments, but it still has not shifted the needle as far as unemployment is concerned. That is going up. Our Gross Domestic Product, GDP, is not matching the ability for us to create jobs. So, today's debate cannot just simply be about whether we have plans or not; it ought to be

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about whether we have capacity and ability to hold the centre and implement.

Ultimately, as the Appropriations committee has identified, capability and efficiency is one of the factors that deal with this budget. Therefore, I want to call upon the Presidency in this regard to say that the discussion around status quo and the Minister and the Presidency cannot be left behind. We are facing R2,2 billion funding shortfall and a vacancy rate of about 21%.

Whilst we support this budget, I want to urge that the Minister and the Presidency act with urgency to engage the Minister of Finance. Let us fund the shortfall at Statistic SA and ensure that we have reliable data that speaks to unemployment, the GDP growth, health and mortality rates, so that we can guide the nature of how government works. I support. Thank you very much.

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Deputy Speaker, this is not merely a vote on the Presidency; it is a vote on leadership, accountability and the example set by the highest office in the land and the Cabinet. Two years ago, South Africans were promised a Government of National Unity, GNU, that would put the country

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first. Instead, they got a record-sized government of national underperformance.

Today, South Africa has 32 Ministers and 43 Deputy Ministers, one of the largest executive structures in the democratic world, at a time when more than 12 million South Africans are unemployed; when taxpayers are funding a bloated executive that costs billions of rand every year in salaries, support staff, travel, accommodation and VIP protection, yet accountability remains absent.

No performance contracts, no lifestyle audits; it's a free-for-all. Ministers that are embroiled in scandal, remain in office; Ministers who mislead Parliament, face few consequences. Instead, they come here and pontificate about how well they are doing. The Presidency sets the tone for government, but unfortunately, that tone is one of avoiding accountability rather than embracing it.

Official travel is used to facilitate family holidays and jet-setting jaunts across the globe, with little or no value for our country. South Africans have not forgotten the Nkandla and Phala Phala scandals; they have not forgotten our Parliament's 1689 process that was frustrated before the truth could be

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fully tested; they have not forgotten that when serious questions were raised about the conduct of the President, political protection took precedence over accountability.

They see even now that there is prevarication when the Constitutional Court has pointed us in the right direction. They have not forgotten that this Cabinet and Parliament is packed with miscreant Ministers fingered in the Zondo and Madlanga commissions, and that the President took months to apply his mind to the matter of the VBS corruption-accused Minister, and moved her from justice to housing; nor have they forgotten that Senzo Mchunu remains on leave, while every single day the police is exposed in the Madlanga commission for the rotten corruption there.

South Africa deserves a Presidency that leads by example, places ethical leadership above political convenience, and holds itself to the same standards it demands. Action SA will not approve this budget until the yardstick becomes a reality. Thank you.

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Presidency receives R816,8 million this year, an increase of 7,1%, which is a lot, and tells us its mission is to build a capable, ethical and

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developmental state. But South Africans do not judge government by plans and promises anymore. They judge government by outcomes. For the past eight years, the Presidency has been good at making plans, marketing, media fundraising and selling buffaloes in the middle of the night, but not good at delivering tangible outcomes for the people on the ground.

The Presidency is responsible for co-ordination, monitoring and accountability across the state. Therefore, when unemployment remains above 32%; when youth unemployment remains above 45%; when municipalities collapse; when infrastructure projects stall, and when corruption continues to erode public trust, responsibility cannot simply be shifted to departments and municipalities. It falls on the head of the President. The question is simple. What has all this co-ordination achieved by the Presidency?

After more than 30 years of democracy, government has still not met its own land reform targets, which is the most important thing. This President has focused on Foreign Direct Investment, FDI, but for who? For white monopoly capital, not for the regional owners of the land, the black, landless majority. Economic growth remains too weak to absorb the

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unemployed; municipal finances continue to deteriorate, despite countless interventions by this Presidency, and plans and summits held by this Presidency. Nothing has happened.

There is another issue that cannot be ignored. The Office of the President must be beyond reproach. Yet years after the Phala Phala scandal first emerged, many South Africans still do not feel they have received answers that satisfy the seriousness of the allegations and the questions that followed. Whether one believes the President is guilty or innocent, is not the point. The point is trust, and this President, we cannot trust.

A nation cannot be led effectively when a cloud of doubt hangs over the highest office in the land, to the point where the President himself, will be called to account by the Constitutional Court ruling and by subsequent impeachment processes. This is the first in the history of South Africa. The Presidency must not only be lawful, but it must also be seen to be honourable, transparent and accountable. He is the sitting President, and therefore, holds the very highest office in the land as our first citizen.

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The Presidency speaks of a capable state, yet communities experience failing services; it speaks of accountability, yet corruption remains endemic; it speaks of economic transformation, yet ownership of assets remains concentrated, while poverty and inequality persist. The Presidency must be judged by the condition of the nation, and not by the quality of its plans.

For too many South Africans, their lived reality is that government has become better at managing decline than developing and giving transformation. For these reasons, the MKP cannot support this budget.

IsiZulu:

Gwaza Mkhonto!

English:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Trollip, what is your point of order?

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Madam Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, the timer is not working. The political parties are given a very tight framework to speak. If we do not have the timer working, how do we control the time we have to speak?

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We rely on the assistance of your Chief Whip as well. We have now seen that hon Manyi was indicating to hon Douglas that his time is now expiring, but I will request that the timer be ... [Interjections.]

Mr R A P TROLLIP: No, I beg your pardon, Madam Deputy Speaker. We as speakers rely on the screen on what is going on there. We rely on the screen, and without the screen, we cannot measure how much time we are using. One of the table staff said to me afterwards, do not worry, we saw how much time you used. That is not the point. We need to manage our time, and we need the screen to be working. It is not my Chief Whip's responsibility.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, I will look into the matter. Hon members, I have been informed that this has always been the convention in the House that the timer does not show. It is the parties that are managing their own time, and that is for parties to do their own preparation of how long your declaration will be. We will now proceed. The ANC.

Mrs D E MPAPANE: Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC supports Budget Vote 1 of the Presidency as a critical co-ordinating office that provides strategic guidance to the executive, advances

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our national interests and measures to create decent jobs. Another issue is that the Presidency is not a line function department, but it is the centre of co-ordination of government. All the issues that are being raised here about the Phala Phalas and everything don't belong to this committee. Phala Phala belongs to this House. There is a committee that is established to deal with the Phala Phala matter.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as the ANC, we support Budget Vote 1, the Presidency, to continue co-ordinating governance and giving guidance to all the departments of this South African government. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, order! Hon Litchfield-Tshabalala, you are out of order. Hon members, those were the only requests for declarations that we have received. I'm now going to ask for any objections. The objections we have received are that of the ACDP, the UAT, EFF, and MK. Then we have had a request from the MKP for a division. Is that still the case, Hon Manyi? The division having been called, the bells will be rung for five minutes.

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Hon members, the Speaker has determined that in accordance with the rules, a manual voting procedure will be used for this division. Firstly, to establish a quorum, I would request the Table to confirm that we have the requisite number of members physically present in the Chamber and on the virtual platform to take this decision. Party Whips will then be given an opportunity to confirm the number of their members present and indicate if they vote for or against the question. A member who wishes to abstain or vote against the party vote may do so by informing the Chair.

Hon members! Having confirmed that we have the requisite quorum, we will now proceed. The question before the House is that Vote 1, the Presidency, be agreed to. Voting will now commence. The doors to the Chamber will be locked and members will not be allowed to enter the virtual platform until voting is concluded. Whips, could you confirm the number of your members present in the Chamber and on the virtual platform and indicate if they vote for or against the question? Are Party Whips ready to record the votes of the members who are present? Hon members, hon members, we cannot hear the votes.

Hon members, could I please request that you're making it extremely difficult for the Table to hear the votes. This is

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very important. Please stop interrupting as well as when a vote has been cast. Do not share and make comments to the extent that we cannot proceed.

Hon members, the result of the division is as follows: the AYES, 250. The NOES, 79. No abstention. Therefore, Vote 1, the Presidency is agreed to. Hon members, I will now start to name you. If I must do it again, I will ask you to leave the Chamber so that we can continue with the business. I am talking to you specifically, member, now shouting yes. I now put Vote 2, Parliament. Declarations of Vote have been requested, and I call upon the ACDP.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

AYES – 250 (ANC – 144; DA – 74; IFP – 14; PA – 7; FF Plus – 5; UDM – 1; Rise Mzansi – 1; BOSA – 2; Al Jama-ah – 1; Good -1).

NOES – 79: (MKP – 45; EFF – 24; ActionSA – 6; ACDP – 2; NCC – 1; UAT – 1).

Question agreed to.

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Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 2 - Parliament - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr S N SWART: Madam Deputy Speaker on 8 May the Constitutional Court found in the Phala Phala matter that Parliament had failed in its constitutional duty of holding the President to account. It instructed Parliament to continue with an impeachment enquiry emphasising the National Assembly's oversight role over the President lies at the heart of our constitutional scheme.

It bears noting that costs were also ordered against Parliament amongst other respondents and that is to be noted. The President then took that the order of the panel on review and brought an urgent application to interdict Parliament from continuing its work.

On 15 June the ACDP wrote a letter to the Speaker and the chairperson urging that that interim interdict that would prevent Parliament from doing its work should be opposed. We said it is inconceivable that Parliament would not oppose this application which could result in Parliament being interdicted

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from carrying out its oversight duty over the President as mandated by the court.

In this context the IC's compliance with the Constitutional Court was pointed out by senior advocates that this is a legal and constitutional imperative. The committee cannot suspend its work pending the outcome of litigation. It must proceed with its work. Against this background and in view of the Constitutional Court judgment, the ACDP would have expected the Speaker to do an utmost to protect the institution of Parliament and the foundational role of holding the President accountable. We would have expected her to stand side-by-side with the hon Chairperson of the committee, the hon Gana in opposing this ill considerate urgent application to stop Parliament doing its duty. Instead, what we see is in our view rather a limp-wristed response to abide the outcome and filed an affidavit in response to seemingly the political pressure. This the ACDP finds deeply disappointing. I thank you.

Mr C M DUGMORE: Hon Deputy Speaker, it is unfortunate that the hon Swart has chosen to use his three minutes not to talk about the budget but to cast aspersions around the Speaker of the National Assembly. We have full confidence in the Speaker of the National Assembly. This is Budget Vote No 2 Parliament,

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that we are dealing with in the way that she has led this House

The inclusivity, the manner in which she has listened to all the views. She has been an example of how a Speaker, should actually operate. Her decision which she has justified in terms of the motion to abide and if you had read the papers, who clearly outline her position as the Speaker in relation to the Impeachment Committee.

The Impeachment Committee took a resolution. There is the chairperson. I do not know where he is sitting now. That chairperson is following the mandate of the Impeachment Committee as he was asked to do. Some of you I would remind you doubted the hon Gana. You doubted him. However, he is implementing the mandate, and the Speaker is following her decision to abide with an explanatory memorandum which maintains her impartiality in terms of this whole process. No one is stopping the process from going on.

We have a people's Parliament. We have committees operating and working in terms of Vote No 2. I want to remind this House that there are certain parties here when it comes to finance, who have not given Parliament despite Parliament asking for

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details of your constituency offices not given the details at all. What are you doing? I want to ask with the money that Parliament has allocated to you to set up constituency offices? Where is that money going to? That is what we need accountability for and that is where we need an Impeachment Committee to actually look at the way you are spending your money. And I refer to the MKP, the DA and refer here as well to the EFF which has over 40 Members of Parliament but with only six offices. Now you want to come here and talk about the budget for Parliament, and you are abusing your own funds! We support this budget.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, please take your seat.

Hon Dugmore, I have been trying to get your attention! I wanted you to take your seat for a point of order!

Hon Skosana, what is your point of order?

IsiNdebele:

Nom D M SKOSANA: Sihlalo, uyabona umuntu nakaleya amala, into engasiyo ...

English:

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... he is misleading this House.

IsiNdebele:

Ukhuluma indaba angazaziko.

English:

You know, this is Parliament Budget Vote here and he is talking about constituency offices. I told him the last time that we have constituency offices!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Skosana, hon Skosana, you are out of order! You are now entering a debate.

Hon Dugmore, you may take your seat.

IsiXhosa:

Mr C M DUGMORE: Ngiyaphinda, ndithi, Viva, Somlomo, Viva!

English:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, hon members!

Hon Skosana, please switch off your microphone.

Agreed to.

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Vote No 3 - Co-Operative Governance - put.

Declarations of vote:

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Deputy Speaker, the country will hold local government elections in November with perhaps the worst-functioning municipalities since the dawn of democracy. The Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality has not resolved the water crisis in Hammanskraal. For 20 years, the people of that township have endured one water supply disaster after another. Residents of eThekweni Metropolitan in KwaZulu-Natal have faced recurring billing inaccuracies, and their complaints have largely gone unheard by the municipality, this department, and all relevant authorities.

The Lower Zingcuka residents and Amahlati Local Municipality in the Eastern Cape had to stage a prolonged protest to access water from a dam within their community, whose water is used to supply urban areas, leaving locals without water. The municipality has not responded to their cries to this day, and the department has not provided an answer to a question we sent them in this regard months ago.

Almost 55 villages in the Greater Giyani Local Municipality are still without water, despite billions of rands being

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invested on water in that area. We highlight this to demonstrate just how neglected our community are, by a successive liberal and right -winger relationship since 1994 ... [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mkhaliphi, will you please take a seat? Hon member, what is your point of order?

Mr S L DITHEBE: The member is talking about budget Vote 41, which is Water and Sanitation. Could she kindly be relevant?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mkhaliphi, please proceed.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: ... Water is provided by municipalities. If you are confused, do not involve us. The ... [Inaudible.] ... class currently in power through the IFP is not this department. The class in power in municipalities through the DA and its counterpart, the ANC, which appears very confused here next to me, is not helping or serving our communities. Therefore, we will not support this budget Vote. Wake up and smell the coffee, as always.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Deputy Speaker, for millions of South Africans, government is not experienced through policies, it

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is experienced through whether the taps run, it is experienced through whether refuse is collected ... [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies, hon Hlazo-Webster. Hon members on the virtual platform, please make sure that your microphones are muted. You are interrupting proceedings. Please proceed, hon member.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: ... The challenge facing many local municipalities is not necessarily financial, but it is capacity, its professionalism, and its accountability. We want to emphasise that municipal failure is not only solved by allocating more money and by avoiding the harder conversation about competence. South Africa's government crisis is increasingly not a crisis of money, but rather of implementation. While we support, we want to say that implementation has got to be what is prioritised. Thank you.

Ms F HASSAN: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. The African National Congress supports budget Vote 3 on Co-operative Governance as has been tabled. We believe the budget will improve support for municipalities, accelerate service delivery provisions and transform local economies. Thank you.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, the MKP has indicated that they would like to call for a division, is that still the case? A division having been called, the bells will be rung for 15 seconds.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I am waiting to proceed with the voting. First of all, I need to ascertain whether we do have a quorum. We will therefore proceed.

Question put.

Voting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order, hon Letsie?

Mr W T LETSIE: Deputy Speaker, I know that counting is not MKP's strong point. They said they are fourteen, but when you look at them, there are thirteen, with Hon Reddy being outside.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will check. Thank you. Hon Selepe, I am now going to remove you from the platform.

AYES - 250: (ANC - 139; DA - 77; IFP - 14; PA - 8; FF Plus - 5; UDM -1; Rise Mzansi - 1; BOSA - 2; Al Jamaha - 1; PAC - 1; Good - 1).

NOES - 77: (MKP - 44; EFF - 24; Action SA - 5; ACDP - 2; NCC 1; UAT

Agreed to.

Vote No 4 - Government Communications and Information Systems - put.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no request for declarations. Yes, hon Mkhalipi.

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Please note the objection of the EFF.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mkhalipi, I have not yet reached that point.

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Ms H O MKHALIPI: What are you saying? Please move fast, Deputy Speaker, we don't have time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is very important, MkhaliPhi. There are no declarations. Hon members of the ANC, you are now disrupting proceedings. Objections were received from the EFF, the UAT and the MK Party. There was no request for a division, and the Vote is accordingly agreed to.

Agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 5 - Home Affairs - put

Declarations of Vote:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Requests for declarations have been received from the following. The MK party. The MK Party ... Home Affairs. [Inaudible.] Hon members, I will now proceed if you don't have a declaration.

Mr W M DOUGLAS: We have no declaration. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The EFF.

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Mrs L F TITO: Deputy Speaker, greetings to the commander-in-chief, the commissars, the fighters and the people of South Africa. The EFF once again rejects Budget Vote 5 on Home Affairs. This department has wholly failed to ensure that preparations for elections do in the main, focus on registering the large number of unregistered voters in the country. Democratic participation is the cornerstone of a constitutional democracy and that every eligible citizen must be afforded a fair opportunity to exercise the right to vote.

However, the current voter registration system continues to place unnecessary barriers between citizens ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, may you please take your seat. Hon Dithebe, what is your point of order?

Mr S L DITHEBE: The member has an earbud in her right ear. She cannot hear us. May she kindly remove it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, you are now starting to make frivolous points of order. I am now naming you and you do know that the next is that I will ask you to please leave the Chamber.

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IsiZulu:

Nk MsS KHAWULA: Kanti yena usewuSositswebhu yini? Wase uyasiphaphela kangaka.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed, hon member. Hon member on the podium, you may proceed.

Mr N MADUNA: Mam'uKhawula [Mrs Khawula.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Maduna, that is your second warning. I will now remove you from the platform. Could the Table please remove the hon Maduna?

Mrs L F TITO: However, the current voter registration system continues to place unnecessary barriers between citizens and their democratic right.

Despite advance in technology and the existence of a comprehensive National Population Register, over 10 million eligible voters remain unregistered. The burden is unfairly placed on citizens, particularly young people and rural communities, to take additional steps merely to qualify to vote. This creates an avoidable obstacle that

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disproportionately excludes vulnerable and marginalised groups from democratic participation.

The EFF believes the responsibility for voter registration should not rest solely on citizens when the state already possesses the information required to identify eligible voters. We therefore call for the introduction of an automatic voter registration system for all South African citizens who become eligible to vote. Upon reaching the age of 16 and possessing a valid identity document, every citizen should automatically be placed on the voters' roll using information already held by the state.

This reform could eliminate unnecessary administrative barriers, increase voter participation, reduce costs associated with repeated registration campaigns, and strengthen the legitimacy of electoral outcomes. Furthermore, the EFF calls on the Electoral Commission to improve voter education, modernise electoral systems, and ensure that all eligible citizens can easily verify and update their voting details. Democracy is strongest when participation is maximised.

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Automatic voter registration is a practical, efficient, and democratic reform that will ensure no South African is denied a voice because of bureaucratic obstacles. The EFF remains committed to build an inclusive democracy in which every eligible citizen is empowered to participate fully in shaping the future of our country. We reject this Budget Vote. Thank you.

Ms B E MACHI: Deputy Speaker, the IFP maintains its position that border management and lawful migration represent some of South Africa's most pressing issues. In light of this, we welcome the department's fiscal commitment to strengthening the country's border security. We are particularly encouraged by the recent announcement of a R12,5 billion partnership between the public and private sectors to rebuild our six busiest ports of entry.

This is essential to maintaining safe legal immigration processes that protect the dignity of both foreign nationals and South African citizens. Additionally, we welcome the department's shift towards digital administration through the Home Affairs @ home programme. However, we reaffirm our call to ensure that rural underresourced citizens are not excluded by this transformation.

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Consequently, the IFP emphasises its commitment to support the department in making sure that rural South Africans are not sidelined by the increased digitisation. We will continue working closely with the department to take practical measures and ensure that Home Affairs remains accessible to our country's most vulnerable citizens. I thank you.

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Hhayi, niyasiphazamisa niyakhuluma nje.

Ms M L MATHOPA: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Appropriation Bill is a critical instrument through which Parliament authorizes government spending for the of 2026-27 financial year. It is our responsibility to ensure that every cent allocated delivers value, accountability and meaningful outcomes for the people of South Africa.

A key area of concern is Vote 5. Home Affairs' significant resources have been allocated to immigration services, border management and the modernisation of identity systems, yet challenges such as illegal immigration, porous borders and weak enforcement continue to place pressure on public services

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and compromise national security. South Africa deserves a government that delivers services efficiently and responsibly.

The PA believes these funds must be used effectively to strengthen border control, improve biometric verification systems and ensure the consistent enforcement of immigration laws. The state must demonstrate its ability to manage lawful entry into the Republic and act decisively against those who remain in the country unlawfully.

This is not about xenophobia, it is about upholding the rule of law, protecting our sovereignty and maintaining order. Across all departments we expect improved audit outcomes, reduced irregular expenditure and measurable service delivery. These budgets must be implemented with integrity, urgency and accountability.

The PA therefore supports the Consideration of the Votes and Schedules and calls on all departments to ensure that these allocations translate into real results for the people of South Africa. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Ms L M NGOBENI: Hon, Deputy Speaker, every nation has a right to decide who enters, who remains and under what conditions.

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Without that authority, sovereignty becomes little more than a flag and an anthem. That principle lies at the heart of this debate. A country does not lose control all at once, it loses it gradually.

One undocumented illegal crossing, one fraudulent permit, one trafficking route, one ignored law at a time. When those failures accumulate, it is ordinary South Africans who bear the consequences. The first duty of any state is to know who is within its borders, under what conditions they entered and whether they have the legal right to remain.

Yet South Africa's immigration system continues to be undermined by weak enforcement, administrative dysfunction and a widening gap between what the law requires and what government delivers. The result is therefore predictable. Criminal syndicates exploit the system, human traffickers exploit vulnerable people, fraud flourishes and public confidence in the rule of law erodes.

ActionSA welcomes recent enforcement operations and law deportations of undocumented foreign nationals. But the measure of success is not found in occasional operations. It is found in the consistent enforcement of the law. As the

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citizens' movement 30 June deadline approaches, government faces a simple test, does it still possess the capacity and the will to enforce its own laws? Those who qualify to remain should be processed fairly and efficiently. Those who do not should be dealt with in accordance with the law.

This is not a question of controversy but a state of capacity within our government. It is the minimum standard of a functioning state. Therefore, ActionSA supports this Vote because Home Affairs is central to the protection of our sovereignty. And so as we do, let us remember, compassion without order is chaos. Order without compassion is tyranny. A capable state understands the difference between the two. ActionSA supports. I thank you.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ...

English:

Let me repeat the question that I asked during the debate. Why do we never ask white people whether they are South African? Why do we never ask white people whether they are South African? Now, with only a week to this supposed 30 June deadline, this question is more important than ever.

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We know that our immigration system is, to put it lightly, broken to its core, our borders are physically unsecured, application processes are delayed and corruption is rampant, both at our physical border posts, but also with the issuance of South African travel documents. We know that the broken system is a key reason that our Education, Health and basic service infrastructure cannot keep up.

South Africans rightfully feel abandoned by the state, but we must refrain from blaming those who are also suffering from our government's failure to enforce its laws. We must be honest. We never question the right of white people, citizens or tourists to be in our country. We never question their contribution to our economy and whether they are here legally. We only do so for black people, our African brothers and sisters. We must ask: Who benefits from us turning against one another and from becoming violent with one another?

Minister, I hope that the current situation is keeping you and your entire department up at night. I hope that you are working tirelessly to address these systematic issues.

Corruption must be rooted out entirely and officials who have betrayed their fellow citizens for a quick buck must face the full might of the law.

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Hon members, it is an election year. It is easy to score cheap political points now, but there is a difference between calling on government to fix our broken immigration system and violating our fellow Africans' human rights by assaulting, harassing and even murdering them. It is the responsibility of every political party to denounce and condemn violence at every opportunity.

I close by asking once again, why do we never ask whether white people are South African?

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

Dr M A MAIMANE: Hon members, at this point in time, when a nation is gripped by profound lawlessness, the abahambe brigade running throughout our streets telling fellow Africans to go, there are a few things that we must think carefully about that we agree on. The first is we agree. Everyone who is in South Africa must do so legally and abide by South African laws.

How do we achieve that particular point, though? How does an ordinary citizen achieve legality? This is the point that I

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think this vote then becomes important. On the first instance, we must appreciate that there are only five asylum centres in the country. How do people gain access to those asylum centres so that they can legalise themselves? The second question we must put on the table, and this was a personal experience, hon Speaker, I went through immigration and met a border management official.

When I asked the border management official, they said to me, they've been on a stipend for now six months. Now, you tell me, if I had other intentions, is that person not vulnerable to being bribed and being asked to allow for illegal transit of goods, people, etc? Thirdly, the Minister of Home Affairs came here and asked that we need to fund R2,2 billion. We have underfunded that and as a net result, we haven't been able to move the 4 000 police from policing into Border Management Authority.

We haven't been able to fund the thermal scanners, and we need to be able to increase the amount that we use as far as digital and drones are concerned. So, let us stop popularising and going on the streets and inciting violence, but rather, allocate the finances so that our borders are secure and we can ensure that everyone who is in this country does so

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legally. I support and I ask for more budget allocation for Border Management Authority. Thank you.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Deputy Speaker, I greet you in the name of peace. Al Jama-ah calls on the Minister to issue all undocumented people, only those without a criminal record, including Zionist supporters seeking refuge in South Africa, with a permit for four years as we have failed to exercise administrative justice. We must acknowledge that the government has not carried out its constitutional responsibility when it comes to administrative justice and neither did the African Peer Review Mechanism do proper oversight on the status of refugees.

South Africa is always proud to be good humanitarians. The issue of permits to undocumented people without criminal records is a position taken by Al Jama-ah at the recent United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, World Refugee Day commemoration of 75th Refugee Convention which was held in Pretoria on Friday 19 June 2026.

The policy on immigration must be revised. The White Paper has mainly caused the current mayhem in this country. For the past 32 years, many of the refugees have not received

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administrative justice. Al-Jamar-ah's position is that the undocumented refugees be given a four-year permit in terms of the Refugee Convention.

Mass deportation destroys South Africa's image, and as a country that embraces Ubuntu, the King of the Zulus has stated that South Africa does not look good in Africa. The vast majority of South Africans are concerned about the blot on the country that is xenophobic despite government denials.

Al Jama-ah condemns xenophobia and vigilantism but also recognises the need that South Africa must enforce its borders to prevent undocumented migration. Attacking African migrants does not solve South Africa's systemic socioeconomic issues.

The party is of the firm belief that Africans should not be treated as foreigners in South Africa or other African countries. We cannot sign a convention in 1951 and another in 1969 without having these structures in place to ensure that the country adheres to the responsibilities of refugees. If there was administrative justice, most people would have received their documents or replies to their status, but they have not received replies and their documents are floating around.

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We know the reasons why there are these delays, because it is a money-making scheme. Al Jama-ah further calls on government to act against those spreading hate speech against refugees. We question as to who is really behind the xenophobic attacks and hate speech against refugees. We have one of the most robust legal frameworks in the world for protecting human dignity and the Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, but it excludes any incitement that causes harm.

Al Jama-ah calls on the country's security cluster to prepare for a response to counter the first steps of regime change in South Africa and not to be fooled. We welcome the launch of the acting police Minister to counter the anti-immigration unrest leading to 30 June. These are nothing but efforts to destabilise our country.

The SA Police Service and National Prosecuting Authority must enforce the laws, as xenophobia is a crime. Al Jama-ah supports the budget. I thank you. Malibongwe!

Mr V ZUNGULA: Deputy Speaker, we have an illegal immigration crisis because of the failures of this department.

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It is a failure of this department to manage legal movement of people into our country. It is a failure of this department that has led to the government to spend over R600 million to silence people instead of dealing with the frustrations of the people. Equally concerning, is the fact that the Minister does not want to answer how many Members of Cabinet and how many Members of Parliament are naturalised citizens and hold dual citizenship.

This is very important for transparency, for the electorate to know the loyalties of the people that preside over their affairs, the people that make laws for them in Parliament and the people with executive power that sit in Cabinet. The lack of action against the so-called digital nomads, especially here in Cape Town, that inflate prices in some areas, is of great concern. Home Affairs is fearful of addressing the illegal immigration by Europeans, Asians and Americans.

You do not suppress people's genuine concerns on the lack of immigration concerns by deploying R600 million. Yet when South Africans are under attack from fake foods, illegal mining and car spikes, the state does not have this political will. It is clear that the challenge that we have is that we've got the Department of Home Affairs, we've the South African government

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that is anti the people of South Africa, black people in particular. Thank you.

Mr J S NGUBANE: Hon Deputy Speaker, first and foremost, the MK Party would like to congratulate especially the people of KZN for coming out in numbers on the voter registration of the 21st to the 22nd. They all came up in numbers and they lead it in terms of people who have registered for this voter registration.

So, they are really showing leadership that they are prepared to vote this government out on the local government that is coming, so that we take all the municipalities and clean up the mess that we have been put in by the ANC. Then, we note that during the voter registration, there were some of the ANC members who don't understand that they are not party agents. They were coming with breads and all the food. They were coming to the voter registration. They think that they are the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC. They're still confused that they are no longer in government and their numbers are dwindling.

So, they must desist. They must desist from interfering on the IEC registration. Again, on Home Affairs, we'd like to

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highlight on the Border Management Authority, BMA, that the BMA again is losing an opportunity. There's over 10 000 Malawians that are illegal in the country, waiting patiently to be taken back home. Malawian government can't afford to pass them out because of the permit of the buses that must go out on the borders. However, BMA is a no-show. There are no ways to assist those Malawians to go home. Home Affairs doesn't assist on anything on deportation. People want to go home voluntarily and our Home Affairs is a no-show.

The chaos that Home Affairs has created us with immigration laws is corruption number one. Number two is that, we have people who have been given permits wrongly. We have people who have stayed in this country for 20 years on visitor's permit.

We have people who have stayed here on many other years. They have wrongly been given study permits. The person is not studying, but he's been here for 20 years on study permit. Some of the people, all foreigners are not employed, but they're here on employment permits.

We congratulate the March on March to assist this Home Affairs that is failing to do its job. They fail our people. March on March is not xenophobic and is not doing anything wrong or

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illegal. They just are helping this Home Affairs in its failure for doing the deportation and doing its work properly. The MK Party does not support the failures of the Home Affairs, does not support the failures of the BMA and does not support the failures of the IEC as well in handling this election correctly. We do not support this Budget Vote. Thank you.

Mr A C ROOS: Hon Deputy Speaker, the 2022 Lubisi Report showed widespread fraud, identity theft and Home Affairs staff operating a visa fraud syndicate with poor information technology, IT, controls enabling this corruption. However, it was only when Minister Leon Schreiber took office that the dismissals and arrests took off. This is because where we govern, the DA works tirelessly to catch and convict ... and clean up a system that has sold our national security to the highest bidder.

The additional allocation of R989 million to the Border Management Authority, BMA, will strengthen border security, immigration enforcement and anticorruption efforts. A digital identity and visa system with biometric verification will eliminate fraudulent visas and strengthen immigration enforcement.

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By closing loopholes that allow endless repeat asylum applications and improving enforcement capability, these reforms help ensure that those who break our laws face lawful consequences, with over 600 000 deportations since the formation of the Government of National Unity, GNU, and over 10 000 internal enforcement operations in the last year alone.

At the same time, the dismissal, arrest and prosecution of corrupt officials sends a clear message that we are beginning to clean up institutions that for too long enabled criminality instead of preventing it.

The DA condemns xenophobia, vigilantism, intimidation and any actions that force people to flee their communities out of fear. Immigration enforcement is the responsibility of local or lawful authorities and this budget moves us closer to restoring the rule of law.

Mr S T D LOUW: Deputy Speaker, we are dealing with a critically important matter that has ensured that South Africans address these issues at all times. I'm raising this because if you look at the current situation, each and every South African does not need anyone using this platform to campaign, but they want us to enhance and acknowledge that the

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President has established a ministerial task team that is dealing with the migration ... and to co-ordinate the progressive migration management border team.

While the DA Minister is absent, is not here ... is not responding to issues, we must applaud the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, utata Njabulo Nzuza, who has always been on the ground responding to the issues of our people.

This Budget Vote comes at a time where it demonstrates a measure of progress in improving and strengthening service-delivery issues, more so in terms of border management and in modernising government services.

Over the past five years, the department has issued a record ID smart accounts and it has also expanded the ID smart service to more than 160 participating banks. Hon Minister, utata Godongwana, we wish that you ... continue allocating more funds to the BMA so that we deal further with the issue of illegal immigration.

As the ANC, we won't grandstand on the matter. We are not shocked that some political parties want us to open the borders to all, while we must co-ordinate and ensure that our

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country is safe. We will continue to enhance and support the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, and we call on the portfolio committee and the ANC's study group on Home Affairs to call on the Minister to come to the portfolio committee. I thank you.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

Voting

[Take in from Minutes]

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Business suspended at 13:23 and resumed at 14:30.

Vote No 6 - International Relations - put.

Declarations of vote:

Ms P MARAIS: Chairperson, as we did during the main debate of this Budget Vote, we stand here to reiterate our position on

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this budget. The Department of International Relations is limping from one foreign affairs policy disaster to the next, and the centre seems not to be holding. The most recent crisis has been brought by xenophobic groups to our international standing, and more especially to our relations with our sister African countries.

The department has not been able to proactively communicate one language, reaffirming South Africa's stance on inter-African migration. At worst, we are only being reactive, and the reaction has largely been on social media, which is the least diplomatic way of handling relations. Chairperson, we also know that the mustering of these xenophobic groupings is funded by the genocide regime of Israel as a way of destabilizing the country, post our legal challenge at the International Court of Justice for the genocide in Palestine, which has now been joined by many progressive countries supporting South Africa. It is no surprise that the Zionist funders have funded campaigns by xenophobic groups like March and March to Dudula, ActionSA, and IFP to launch a scathing attack on Africans in South Africa to tarnish the name of Brand South Africa and question our standing against injustice when our people are in the forefront of demonizing to chasing Africans like dogs. The hypocrisy of all this is that these

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xenophobic attacks are always championed on the eve of elections to garner votes of South Africans ... [Inaudible.] ... We now see parties lying to elaborate that they want to govern municipalities to deal with immigration, which is solely a competence of the Home Affairs. There is no municipality that will deal with immigration. All parties campaigning for the 2026 Local Government Elections are simply lying and using the wave of xenophobia to garner votes nervously ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Marais, just take your seat for a moment. Hon Trollip, why do you want to be recognized?

Mr R A P TROLIP: I would like to know if the hon member would take a question.

Ms P MARAIS: No, thank you. They are all xenophobic. The department should have been able to communicate ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Marais, please take your seat. I have a hand. Yes, hon Ngobení.

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Ms L M NGOBENI: Hon House Chair, I need the member to please remind the House whether she said that we are xenophobic or we are a vigilante group. I need her to place it on record. We need to know that again.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No, that is not the whole thing. You either raise a point of order or a point of privilege. Hon Marais, did you ... [Interjections.]

Ms L M NGOBENI: I have raised it because she is casting aspersions on our party. I need to know what she said.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No, no ... [Interjections.]

Ms L M NGOBENI: Hon House Chair, she said, ActionSA. We are here. We have ears. They are not cloaked. We heard everything that she said. I need her to tell us again whether she said that we are a vigilante group. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Please just hold your horses for now. Hon Trollip, is it on the same issue?

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Absolutely. In declining my request for a question, she said, no, they are all xenophobic.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you.

Mr R A P TROLLIP: You did say that.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. You did hear my ruling ... [Interjections.]

Ms L M NGOBENI: Please consult the Hansard, Chair. Thank you ... [Interjections.]

Ms P MARAIS: I said, they are all xenophobic. I didn't say ActionSA is xenophobic ... [Interjections.]

Ms L M NGOBENI: You did say ActionSA is xenophobic ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Marais ... [Interjections.] ... Order.

Ms L M NGOBENI: Chair, please rule on that. Please go to Hansard and rule.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): I am going to caution you and the hon Marais now. The next time you start speaking to

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one another, and do not wait to be recognised by the Chair, I am going to rule you out of order and disorderly. Hon Makhalipi, before I make my ruling.

Ms H O MKALIPHI: Yes, Chair, please protect our member on the podium. There are Rules of this House.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yeah.

Ms H O MKALIPHI: So, no one must just barge in and say whatever they want to say. Thanks, Chair. [Interjections.]

Ms L M NGOBENI: Hon MkhaliPhi must take her own advice ... [Interjections.] ... all the time.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon NgobenI, you have now again unmuted and started speaking without being recognised. The next time you do that, I am going to ask you to leave the House. Hon Marais.

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: House Chair, how many next times ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order! Hon Marais ... [Interjections.] ... Hon members, we have a lot of work to do.

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Can I please have order? Hon Marais, it was clear that in response to the point of order raised by the hon Trollip, you referred to at least him as xenophobic. Please withdraw that remark.

Ms P MARAIS: I did not say ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Marais, I have made my ruling.

Ms P MARAIS: I did not say that. He asked if I could take a question, and I said ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Marais, I am going to give you one more opportunity to withdraw the remark where you said they are all xenophobic after the hon Trollip raised a point of order. It was a clear reference to him. Withdraw the remark, or you will leave the House.

Ms P MARAIS: Okay, I withdraw.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Please, proceed ...

[Interjections.] ... Hon Marais, just hold on. Hon Ngobeni, why do you now want to be recognized?

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Ms L M NGOBENI: No, because it is not about hon Trollip, it is about ActionSA.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No.

Ms L M NGOBENI: She did not say hon Trollip ...
[Interjections.] ... we are not a one-man party. We need to hear from the Hansard. She said ActionSA, and they are all xenophobic organisations. She did not say hon Trollip ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Ngobeni, I have heard you.

Ms L M NGOBENI: I need it to be recorded properly, please.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. I have heard you. It is a well-established principle that one cannot insult outside of the Rules, a political party, or a caucus. I am satisfied that the remark, even though the words that were used, were directed to the hon Trollip. I have made my ruling. If you are not happy with it, you know how to follow the Rules. Hon Marais, please proceed.

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Ms P MARAIS: Thank you, Chairperson. The department should have been able to properly communicate this amongst our African counterparts. The failure to have a coherent engagement strategy with the continent is going to be catastrophic to us. We reject this Budget Vote. Thank you, Chairperson.

Ms Z KHANYASE: Hon Chairperson, the ANC rises in support of Budget Vote 6 for the Department of International Relations and Co-operation. We support the allocation of R7,2 billion for the 2026-27 financial year, which enables the department to advance our foreign policy objectives amid growing geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, and shifts in the global order.

Our foreign policy remains guided by our Constitution and focused on inclusive economic growth, job creation, and building a capable developmental state. Through economic diplomacy, we continue to pursue investment, expand export markets, strengthen trade relations, and deepen co-operation through platforms such as BRICS, the African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA, and South-South Co-operation. We commend the department's work in advancing the African agenda,

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supporting peace and security, and strengthening Africa's voice ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, take your seat for a moment. Hon Reddy, why do you want to be recognized?

Mr V G REDDY: Hon Chair, is this a maiden speech? I have never seen ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Reddy, you can inquire from the chief whip offline. Do not interrupt with frivolous points of order ... [Interjections.]

Mr V G REDDY: No, it is not from ... she is beautiful. I do not know whether she is ...

Ms Z KHANYASE: Hon Reddy, and we will not have reflections on the looks and the dress of other members ... [Interjections.]

Mr V G REDDY: I withdraw the reflection.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Please, continue, hon member.

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Ms Z KHANYASE: South Africa's international role must remain principled, strategic, and committed to peace, justice, development, and a fairer global order. The ANC therefore supports Vote 6 of International Relations and Co-operation. Thank you.

Question put: That Budget Vote 6 of International Relations be agreed to.

Division demanded.

The House divided.

The House Chairperson (Mr W Horn) announced that the Speaker had determined that, in accordance with the Rules, a manual voting procedure would be used and that the whips would conduct a headcount of members in the Chamber and on the virtual platform for the purpose of ascertaining quorum and voting.

A quorum being present in terms of Rule 98(1), voting commenced.

[TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

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Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

DRAFT RULING BY THE HOUSE CHAIRPERSON W HORN ON THE WORD
'LACKEY' BY HON REDDY IN TERMS OF RULE 85

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members, during the debate on Budget Vote 1 - The Presidency, on 2 June 2026, the hon Dugmore rose on a point of order requesting a ruling on whether hon Reddy's description of members of the House as 'lackeys' was parliamentary.

I undertook to study the Hansard and revert to the House with a considered ruling.

Hon Reddy said, and I quote:

In 2022 the ANC used its majority and suppressed this report. Now, in 2026, they are doing the same thing, but they do not have the majority, they are using those Government of National Unity, GNU, partners to do it. If you look at the Impeachment Committee, it is packed with GNU

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lackeys. These are parties that all received Cabinet positions from none other than Mr. Ramaphosa himself.

Hon members, the Hansard also shows that hon Reddy went on to say, 'you are a lackey,' when hon Dugmore raised his point of order, referring specifically to the hon Dugmore.

The Advanced Oxford Dictionary defines the word 'lackey' as referring to someone who is a servant. It can be used to show disapproval when someone is treated like a servant or behaves like a servant. It further states that someone who refers to another as a lackey is critical of them because they are following someone's orders without questioning it.

Rule 85 provides that no member may impute improper motives to another member or cast personal reflections upon a member's integrity or dignity or verbally abuse a member in any other way.

Hon Reddy's reference to members of the impeachment committee as being 'lackeys' is out of order as it implies that they will not be fulfilling their role as members of this House but will simply be following orders. This statement is derogatory and reflects on the integrity of members serving on that

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committee, who are members of this House and it is easily identifiable as their names have been ATC'd.

Rule 87 further provides that no member may reflect in a disrespectful manner upon the House or its forums and committees or upon their proceedings and decisions.

Hon Reddy, therefore, I am requesting you to withdraw the statement, the impeachment committee is packed with GNU lackeys, as well as your reference to the hon Dugmore as a 'lackey'.

Mr V G REDDY: Hon Speaker, I officially withdraw and apologise to you, hon Dugmore, for the remark I made that you are a 'lackey'. My apologies.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Lastly, I am still on the floor. Lastly, hon Reddy, I wish to express my disappointment in the way you ignored my request on the day for you to remain in the Chamber whilst members of your party left the House. The specific reason I called you to remain was so that this ruling could be given at the time. Whilst your right and the right of any other member to withdraw from proceedings of this House as a sign of protest is respected, it is also to be

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remembered that for as long as a member is present in the House, they are subjected to the authority of the Chair. Therefore, you are cautioned to not repeat behavior which may illustrate a willful disregard for the authority of the Chair.

Mr V G REDDY: I accept the caution and I apologise profusely. I withdraw unconditionally.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): You can take your seat.

Mr V G REDDY: Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Dugmore, do you want to be recognised.

Mr C M DUGMORE: No. House Chair, thanks very much. I just wanted to ask for clarity because my understanding was that you had asked the hon member to apologise not just to me but generally for the youth ... [Inaudible.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No, he had withdrawn. So, the apology was an additional initiative on his part.

Mr C M DUGMORE: So, he has withdrawn against everyone?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes.

Mr C M DUGMORE Okay.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, I now ... Yes, hon member?

Mr S L DITHEBE: Chair, on record, hon Reddy said he officially apologises to hon Dugmore that he called him a 'lackey'. He did not include the rest of the other members.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No. But I did not ask him to apologise to the other members. I did not ask him to apologise at all. He had to withdraw. Let us proceed, hon members.

Vote No 7 - National School of Government - agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 8 - National Treasury - put.

Declaration of Vote:

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Dr M J BURKE: Mr Chair, much like a one-minute time allocation for a whole National Treasury Budget, this Vote contains contradictions. The National Treasury speaks about reducing inefficient spending, yet it suffers from the reality that its own public procurement regulations will add a premium to the government product expenditure.

The National Treasury speaks about accountability, and it has an enviable culture of accountability, but the ANC Deputy Minister of Finance presides over a Public Investment Corporation, PIC, that squanders pensioners' investments one dodgy, unlisted deal after another. As the Danish physicist Neils Bohr said, how wonderful that we are confronted with a paradox. Now we have some hope of making progress.

As the DA, we will support this Vote. We will support this Vote, Mr Chairperson, but we do not subscribe to the myth of this institution's exceptionalism. Its paradoxes must be confronted. Thank you.

Mr S C SEKOATI: The ANC support Budget Vote No. 8 and the National Treasury has actually proven not to be reckless, but to be responsible and to ensure that as government and as the ANC, we are able to continue with the commitment to fixing

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local government. The National Treasury has been focused on its approach to support municipalities in financial distress and to support infrastructure development. Furthermore, Operation Vulindlela is also stimulating economic recovery.

We believe that the Treasury has continuously shown that commitment, not only on paper, but in action. I thank you.

Division demanded.

[TAKE IN FROM THE MINUTES.]

Question agreed to.

Vote accordingly agreed to.

Vote No 9 - Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation - put.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 10 - Electricity and Energy - put.

Declarations of vote:

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Mr K J MILEHAM: House Chairperson, the DA supports this budget because South Africa needs a Department of Electricity and Energy that works. But support isn't surrender, it's oversight. The Electricity Commission, Eskom, cannot stand before the National Energy Regulator of SA, NERSA, pleading poverty, demanding higher tariffs from households, and then reward itself like a private bonus club.

In 2025, Eskom paid R5,4 billion in bonuses, averaging more than R128,000 per employee, while achieving only 67% of its key performance indicators, KPIs.

If Eskom misses a third of its targets, bonuses should not be automatic. That's not performance management. It is taxpayer-funded, self-congratulation.

Every increase lands on the kitchen table. Fewer prepaid units, colder homes, smaller grocery baskets, and small businesses under pressure.

Minister Ramokgopa, back reform, yes, back reliability, yes. But end waste, end vanity projects, and end unjustified rewards. Consumers cannot be Eskom's Automated Teller Machine, ATM, forever.

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Mr W M THRING: Hon House Chairperson, the ACDP believes that the R6,06 billion energy budget, must do more to address affordability, reliability, and investor confidence.

The ACDP remains concerned that Eskom's use of the modern equivalent asset value model, inflates tariffs, placing undue pressure on consumers and businesses. The budget also inadequately addresses government's failures, maintenance backlogs and grid constraints.

The ACDP calls for the adopting of a real asset value tariff methodology, to be included in the draft pricing policy, while simultaneously accelerating good investment, strengthening Eskom oversight and improving transparency in tariff setting.

As kingdom builders, until we see a people-centred energy reform, stronger regulation, accountability, and a balanced approach to affordability and sustainability, the ACDP will not support this vote.

I thank you.

Ms F HASSAN: House Chair, on behalf of the ANC, I hereby declare our support for budget Vote No 10 for the Department

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of Electricity and Energy. It has been over a year without load shedding, R10 billion has been saved in diesel.

The Eskom's credit rating has been upgraded for the first time in over a decade, and this is an energy system that has been rebuilt, not-for-profit, but for the people.

This budget moves us forward towards universal access, affordable electricity, and energy justice for the working class.

The ANC supports Budget Vote 10. I thank you.

Question put.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, African Christian Democratic Party, National Coloured Congress and United, Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 11 - Public Administration - put.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

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Vote No 12: Public Service Commission - put.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 13 - Public Works and Infrastructure - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr B S MADIKIZELA: House Chair, I commend Minister McPherson for introducing several reforms to address corruption within the Expanded Public Works Programme. For too long, the EPWP has been used as a vehicle for political patronage and corruption, particularly during elections.

Under Minister McPherson, efforts to combat corruption have received greater attention, and the Construction Industry Development Board, CIDP's blacklisting of underperforming contractors is a clear example of this. Fifty-two contractors have been blacklisted since June 2024 for fraud and non-performance. By contrast, only two contractors were blacklisted for similar offenses between 2002 and 2024.

Lastly, I commend Minister McPherson for his approach to the leasing scandal. Each month, millions are spent on leases

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without adequate oversight. The DA is closely monitoring this issue.

I thank you, House Chair.

Ms M P KOBE: Hon House Chair, we reject those budgets, simply because this department is held together by spin with a Minister who's marred in controversy and absolutely no accountability.

Firstly, the Minister has repeatedly tried to sell South Africans that he's turning South Africa into a construction site. Instead, since taking office, what we have seen is a contraction in the construction sector every single quarter. In quarter one of 2026 alone, 114,000 construction jobs were lost. That's a third of all jobs in the country that were lost. That means effectively 10,000 South African construction workers went home with no work every week between January and March.

Secondly, the Minister is now under investigation by the Public Service Commission for improper hiring practices, where he took his buddy in the DA and put him right up as a chief director with no qualifications and no post-matric education.

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If you thought that ANC's cadre deployment was bad, welcome to the DA.

Thirdly, just this month, Parliament's Ethics Committee found Minister McPherson guilty of discrimination because he called one of our activists "amaphara", now his party, the DA, voted against this report. This must tell you what his party says about discrimination.

Fourthly, Minister McPherson was caught taking his partner on a vacation in the United Kingdom, UK, and Brazil on your taxpayers' money. Worse still, he took his entire family now, to Spain. And what did he get? He got shielded by the DA, the very DA that had a policy against traveling on taxpayers' funds.

Now, it is clear that the Minister has failed economically, and he stands condemned ethically, and he's too compromised to be entrusted with accountability for this budget.

Worse still, with the looming reshuffle, his recent party leader, Geordin Hill-Lewis, has shown that he will continue to shield him from accountability.

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Mr President, with all the powers that are vested in you, please, for the love of the Republic, with your powers to appoint and remove Ministers, remove Minister Dean McPherson.

I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members. There's a next speaker at the podium, order!

Mr W M THIRING: Hon House Chair, it's actually quite warm at this particular podium right now. The ACDP believes the department's R8,1 billion allocation must deliver jobs, functional infrastructure, and public confidence.

While we welcome the blacklisting of corrupt and non-performing contractors, accountability must become the norm.

A major concern of the ACDP has been the absence of a credible asset register, and this undermines planning and economic value creation. Neglected maintenance, underutilised state properties, ghost workers, Independent Development Trust, IDT, inefficiencies, and project delays demand urgent action.

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As kingdom builders, the ACDP calls for a verified digital asset register, strategic asset management, prioritise maintenance, and stronger oversight to ensure ethical stewardship and effective service delivery.

The ACDP will not support this budget vote. Thank you.

Mr M DLELANGA: House Chair, as the ANC, we fully support the budget. And we call for proper utilisation of this budget, so that it can make this country to be indeed a construction country. That's the first issue.

The second issue, in supporting this budget, we want EPWP to be well managed and to benefit the people on the ground.

Thirdly, we support this budget. We want more offices for all government departments to be done and to be completed.

Fourthly, we support this budget. We want the proper management from the executive to implement all the programmes that have been reported to the portfolio committee, as they appear in the annual performance plan, APP.

The ANC indeed support. Thank you very much.

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Voting.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, African Christian Democratic Party, Action SA, National Coloured Congress and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 14 - Statistics South Africa - put.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): I now put Vote 14: Statistics South Africa. There was no request for a declaration of vote, and the following objections were received beforehand, that of the UAT, the EFF and the MKP. Are there any further objections?

Yes, hon member, we're busy with a vote, so unless the point of order is about the vote, I cannot entertain it at this point.

IsiZulu:

Mnu T I GAMEDE: Kulungile, Mhlali ngaphambili, ephuzwini lokukhalima okuphambukayo: Ungadinwa. Mina ngikhuliswe kahle. Ungqongqoshe uneminyaka ethi ayibe eyamkhulu wami.

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Ngiyamcelela ukuthi ayokuphumula ngaphandle ngoba sikhuluma ngodaba oluthinta imali.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes. No, thank you, hon member, that's not a point of order about the vote.

Vote No 14 - Statistics South Africa - put and agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 15 - Traditional Affairs - put.

Declaration of vote:

Ms I M MBIYO: House Chairperson, the ANC supports this budget. Traditional and Khoisan leaders play an important role in our democracy. This funding will help to strengthen their work and improve their abilities in communities across the country. Thank you.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 16 - Basic Education - put.

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Declarations of vote:

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: House Chair, education remains the single largest area of government expenditure and accounts for 23% of spending. Yet, despite this investment, outcomes remain deeply troubling.

Today, around 81% of Grade 4 learners cannot read for meaning, too many schools still lack adequate facilities and too many learners leave school without the skills needed to succeed in life. This raises a very uncomfortable question. If we're spending so much, why are we achieving so little? The challenge is increasingly not one of funding but of accountability. National government sets policy, provinces spend the money and when outcomes deteriorate, each blames the other while learners are left behind.

While we support this budget, we cannot continue measuring success by budgets allocated. Success has to be measured by the outcomes achieved, and South Africa's children deserve results and not excuses. Thank you.

Afrikaans:

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Mev D VAN DER WALT: Huisvoorsitter, basiese onderwys is die belangrikste belegging wat 'n land kan maak. Dit is waar ongelykheid begin afneem en waar armoede se einde begin.

English:

Despite difficult fiscal conditions, this budget protects the reforms that matter most: expanding quality early childhood development, strengthening literacy and numeracy, supporting teachers and ensuring greater accountability across the education system. The focus is not only on increasing the matric pass rate but on improving the quality of learning throughout a child's school career, because stronger foundations build stronger futures.

There are those who choose to be breakers, focused on political theatre and division. The Democratic Alliance chooses to be builders, focused on the reform, accountability and giving every child the opportunity to succeed. South Africa's future will be built in classrooms. That is why the DA proudly supports Budget Vote 16.

Mr S T D LOUW: House Chair, the ANC indeed supports Budget Vote 16, but we must raise it to the South Africans. In the Western Cape, there are 3 500 learners who are still excluded

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because of the colour of their skin; they are black and coloured people.

I'm saying all of this because the person who's presiding over the department is the Minister, who has allowed the Western Cape Education Department to become an island of South Africa. We're sitting in a portfolio committee meeting where parents were saying even today, during the month of June, that black and coloured learners are not part of the schooling in the Western Cape. The system has become inhuman in the Western Cape, where learners are excluded through pictures, tests and their results. It's so surprising that it's only Quintile 1 and Quintile 3 schools that are being excluded and those who are from Nyanga or Langa and Khayelitsha.

When you look at the DA's behaviour through its conduct of the MECs, they call each other Ministers or the Minister of Education. Hence today, the DA department of the Western Cape has become racist and chased away department officials from verifying admissions of learners in the Western Cape, in South Africa. I don't know why we're part of the Government of National Unity, GNU, because the DA is racist. It's racist in such a way that our learners have no access to school

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education in Quintiles 4 and 5. As a result, the Minister is defending the ... [Inaudible.] ... of education.

For the DA to enhance or advance Quintile 1 and 3 schools, they must be taken to court. By who? We cannot take you to court. We don't have money like yourselves. You stole our land. You stole our schools. You stole everything, and then we must also go to court while our people are poor. It can never be that "it's normal as usual" in the Western Cape.

We're going to fight up until Quintile 1 and 3 learners are going to have access to Quintile 4 and 5 schools. We're going to run a campaign. By January, we'll take our learners to Quintile 4 schools by hand. If you don't accept them, we'll accept them because section 33 of the Constitution, the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, PAJA, and section 28 is quite clear what should happen. There should never be administrative flaws or administrative discrimination that should take place while learners are left outside. We must make sure that we practise section 28 and we're going to practise it on the DA. The Minister of the DA must start playing and presiding over the Western Cape department. It must come here. The Minister must come and expose its own department. Thank you. [Interjections.]

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Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, African Christian Democratic Party, National Coloured Congress and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 17 - Higher Education and Training - put.

Declaration of vote:

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: House Chair, the greatest betrayal of South African youth is that the government continues to claim we do not have enough money to support students while billions of rand meant for skills development and education remains underutilised and mismanaged. Every year, thousands of deserving young people are excluded from post-secondary education because they cannot afford the registration fees, tuition, accommodation, transport and learning materials. Others are burdened by student debt and denied the opportunity to continue their studies. At the same time, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, continues to be plagued by administrative failures, delayed payments and corruption that leaves students uncertain about their future.

House Chair, this crisis exists alongside another contradiction. Employers across the country contribute

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billions of rand through the Skills Development Levy. These funds are administered through the Sector Education and Training Authorities, Setas. The Setas are for the explicit purposes of development, developing skills funding, training opportunities, supporting and preparing young people for employment. Yet, South Africa remains confronted by one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world. How can it be that Setas exist to fund skills development while millions of young people remain unemployed, under skilled or unable to assess opportunities? We, therefore, reject this budget.

Mr G D KGABO: House Chair, the ANC stands before this House to declare its unconditional support for Budget Vote 17. We do so because this budget serves as a direct vehicle for the radical expansion of access to institutions of higher learning and training across the length and breadth of our country. For decades, higher education was a privilege preserved for the few. Under the ANC-led government, it has become a fundamental right accessible to the masses of our people.

Through Vote 17, we are actively dismantling the geographical and financial barriers that historically excluded the poor and the working class. Furthermore, the ANC welcomes the deliberate budget increase, including the restructuring of the

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Setas. This strategic financial boost is aimed at directly and aggressively expanding the technical artisan skills base across South Africa.

We must be honest, the challenges confronting our people on the ground - our local government sphere - require an immediate and sustainable injection of specialised capacity. By empowering Setas with more resources, we are deliberately funding the training of water engineers, electrical technicians, town planners and financial managers.

This budget increase also speaks of massifying skills training on the ground. However, as the ANC, our support for this budget is coupled with a strict mandate for heightened accountability, rigorous oversight and financial discipline. We cannot pour billions into expanding skills training without ensuring that every single sign reaches intended beneficiaries.

Consequently, we emphasise the urgent need to review departmental mandate, tighten the internal controls of Setas through the overall spending patterns of the National Skills Fund. The NSF and Setas hold the financial keys to our country's economic restructuring.

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We support this budget through this combined deliberate intervention, balancing infrastructure growth with uncompromising consequence management. Budget Vote 17 proves that the ANC-led government remains deeply responsive to both the needs of the young people and the capacity constraints of the state. I thank you.

Question put.

Division called.

The House divided.

BELLS RUNG FOR 15 SECONDS.

House Chairperson Mr W Horn announced that the Speaker had determined that, in accordance with the Rules, a manual voting procedure would be used and that the whips would conduct a headcount of members in the chamber and on the virtual platform for the purpose of ascertaining quorum and voting.

A quorum being present in terms of Rule 98(1), voting commenced.

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Voting:

AYES - 255: (ANC - 139; DA - 77; IFP - 16; PA - 7; FF Plus - 5; ACDP - 3; UDM - 1; Rise Mzansi - 2; BOSA - 2; Al Jama-ha - 2; Good - 1).

NOES - 71: (MKP - 46; EFF - 15; ActionSA - 6; ATM - 2; NCC - 1; UAT - 1)

Question agreed to.

Vote 17 accordingly agreed to.

Vote NO 18 - Health - put.

Vote No 17 - Higher Education and Training

Vote NO 18 - Health - put.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Reddy, why do you want to be recognised?

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Mr V G REDDY: Hon Chairperson, I note that the Amahlubi traditional leadership is in the House. Could we recognise their presence here, please?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): All guests are always welcome. As a transparent and inclusive House, we welcome all guests in the public gallery, as always. Thank you.

AN HON MEMBER: They were sitting nicely until he spoke. Now they have left.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): I don't know whether we must conclude something from that, but let us proceed, hon members. We are busy with Vote No 18 - Health.

Question put.

Vote 18 - Health - agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, African Christian Democratic Party, National Coloured Congress and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 19 - Social Development - put.

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Declarations of Vote 19:

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Chair, Al Jama-ah welcomes the allocation to Vote 19 Social Development and recognises the critical role the department plays in protecting the most vulnerable members of our society.

In a country facing high levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality, social assistance remains a vital lifeline for millions of households. Al Jama-ah further emphasises the importance of strengthening community-based organisations, faith-based organisations, and non-profit organisations that provide essential services at the grassroots level.

These organisations often reach communities where government support is limited and deserve meaningful partnership and support. As we consider this vote, we must remain God-conscious in our responsibility to care for the poor, the vulnerable and those in distress. A compassionate society is measured not by how it treats the powerful, but by how it protects the most in need.

Al-Jamah-ah votes in support of Vote 19, and our closing principles are to protect the vulnerable, restore dignity, and build hope: Dignity for every citizen; hope for every family;

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no one left behind; and no community forgotten. Protect the vulnerable, empower our nation. A caring society is a strong society, restoring dignity and rebuilding lives. I thank you.

IsiZulu:

Malibongwe!

Ms D E JAMES: Hon Chairperson, just yesterday we rescued five children in Mitchell's Plain, children being raised in drug dens, exposed to sexual molestation, getting hooked at the age of six, dealing at the age of 12 in the so-called well-run city. Clearly, ...

Afrikaans:

... nie vie almal nie! [... not for all!]

English:

The department is not adequately protecting children, nor is it strengthening families in any meaningful way. Early intervention is weak, inconsistent, entirely absent or for far too many communities. As a result, vulnerable children are left exposed to gangs, drugs, and violence with no effective safety net, no war from this DA-led government.

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Mitchell's Plain is bursting with the need for children to be placed into safe spaces, yet there is nowhere for them to go, and still the department claims that it fulfils its mandate to protect the vulnerable.

Afrikaans:

So kan dit nie aangaan nie. [It cannot continue like this.]

English:

So, we cannot normalise a situation where prevention is underfunded, rehabilitation is fragmented and community-based support structures are left to collapse under pressure. Social Development must be more than a reactive department. It must be the front line of prevention, protection and restoration. The DA, your days of majority rule are coming to an end. Take note, 4 November 2026 is nearing.

Afrikaans:

So kan dit nie aangaan nie. [It cannot continue like this.]

Afrikaans:

Me P MARAIS: Voorsitter, die EFF kan nie hierdie begrotingspos aanvaar nie. Meer as 200 000 mense het nie hul pensioen gekry deur die verifikasieproses nie. Hierdie mense moet elke dag

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teruggaan na die departement toe en in lang rye gaan staan, en dan word hulle teruggestuur. Hierdie probleem wat ons het met die oumense wat nie hul salarisse kry nie moet uitsorteer word. Ons sê nee vir hierdie begrotingspos. Baie dankie, Voorsetter.

English:

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: House Chair, the ANC supports this budget. There are people we have been waiting for, but they were too cowardly to come.

The ANC supports Budget Vote No 19 of Social Development. Shut up, man.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member!

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: For millions of South Africans ...

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: On a point of order, Chair ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes, I ... Thank you.

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: Shut up! [Interjections.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member! I need you to withdraw the "shut up" and not repeat it again.

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: I withdraw it. I will never repeat it again.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Withdraw the "shut up". Gender-based violence, GBV! GBV! It's GBV!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members!

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Chair, I am not protected in this House from this man. It's GBV in Parliament.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon ... Hon ...

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: He's still admitting, Chair. He is still admitting even now. He is a danger to society.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Dangerous!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order! Hon MkhaliPhi, you know better than that. Please don't do that again. Hon member,

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please continue with your declaration and focus on the substance.

An HON MEMBER: There is no GBV here.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Please continue.

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: Thank you very much, Chair. I know you can chase me out.

The ANC supports Budget Vote No 19. Social Development is not a line item. It is a lifeline on its own. For millions of South Africans, the Department of Social Development is the most direct expression of a democratic state that sees them, reaches them, and stands with them. Under ANC-led governance, we have built one of the largest social protection systems on the African continent, with over 28 million grant beneficiaries, a child support grant that has kept hunger from the door of generations of children, and SA Social Services infrastructure that, despite its challenges, continues to deliver.

We are not here to celebrate all of that. We are here to account. The ANC calls on the department to accelerate the

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integration of social protection with active labour market pathways. Grants must be a floor, not a ceiling. We must move people from dependency to dignity. That requires co-ordination with Basic Education and Employment and Labour together with the National Youth Development Agency.

We also reaffirm our commitment to the most vulnerable.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon members!

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: You are not saying anything.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No. Please don't now challenge this member to repeat the unparliamentary words again.

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: Yes, please. I am avoiding saying shut up. We also reaffirm our commitment to the most vulnerable children in need of care, survivors of gender-based violence – real ones – older persons, and persons with disabilities. No Budget Vote matters ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members.

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Mr N T TSHOTETSI: ... more to those that have the least. The ANC supports this Vote because we govern for the people, not for the fools.

Setswana:

Ke a leboga. [Thank you.]

English:

Chairperson, thank you very much.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and National Coloured Congress dissenting).

Vote No 20 – Women Youth and Persons with Disabilities – put.

No declarations of vote were made.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 21 – Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service – put and agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, United Africans Transformation and National Coloured Congress dissenting).

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Vote No 22 - Correctional Services - put

Declaration of Vote:

Mr J ENGELBRICHT: Hon Chairperson, South Africans care about one thing: if their families are safe. The DA supports this budget because we are in the GNU to fix, but our support does not endorse the status quo.

Currently, 79% is spent on locking people up, only 4% on social reintegration. With overcrowding, prisons have become revolving doors of universities of crime. We can only track how many inmates finish a course, but we ignore whether they actually get a job or return to crime.

We demand change. We need electronic monitoring for low-risk offenders, outcome-based reporting, and a reversal of the cut to victim support. We support this budget to ensure officials are paid and inmates are fed. But the correctional system must start prioritising the public's safety. Thank you.

Declaration of vote made on behalf of the Democratic Alliance.

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Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, ActionSA, United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote Agreed to.

Vote No 23 - Defence - put.

Declaration of Vote:

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: Budget Vote No 23 is about more than uniforms and equipment. It is also about the dignity and care of those military personnel who protect and serve our country. The IFP rises to support this vote, but this debate cannot be separated from the crisis at One Military Hospital.

This is a project which has extended over R800 million more than its initially estimated cost. More than a billion rand has been spent on the hospital's refurbishment with little to show for it. An amount of R1 billion on a project that started in 2006 and still leaves an entire section of the hospital unusable and not repaired. This is outrageous.

We are further concerned about the absence of consequence management in this project, given the allegations of

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corruption, tender inaccuracies, and wasteful expenditure. There is now consideration of investing in a new military hospital.

However, South Africans cannot be asked to bankroll another grand solution before the state has accounted for the last one. We cannot afford to have repeat failures at this scale and cost. It is and continues to be a profound injustice to those who have already paid the highest sacrifice for South Africa. Thank you.

Mr C HATTINGH: Hon Chair, this budget will not arrest the SANDF's years of decline, neither restore the loss of critical capabilities, rebuild maritime surveillance and patrol capacity, or recover the operational readiness South Africa desperately needs. The last approved plan was a 2015 defence review. It was never funded or implemented.

Today, there is still no approved funded plan to arrest their decline. The Minister and the SANDF leadership should focus on what the SANDF and South Africa need, not what they want. We need aircraft that can fly, ships that can sail, equipment that works, soldiers who are properly trained, equipped and

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deployable, not a top-heavy organisation, an unaffordable salary bill and bloated headquarters.

The SANDF needs more than funding. It needs responsible and responsive leadership, structural reform, clear priorities, and unwavering accountability. I thank you.

Mr W T LETSIE: Thank you very much. As the ANC, I rise to support Vote No 23.

Mrs H O MKHALIPHI: Oh, no what is happening? What is happening, Chief Whip? You can't co-ordinate yourself, guys.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members! Hon Mkhali, you know, sometimes I do need assistance, but I will call on you. Hon member, please proceed.

Mr T B MUNYAI: The African National Congress rises to support Vote No 23 on the Defence and Military Veterans with the allocation that is over 57 billion for the 2026-27 financial year. This allocation has been made under the constrained fiscal environment. Therefore, it provides essential resources required for the SA National Defence Force to continue to fulfil its constitutional mandate of defending the Republic,

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protecting our sovereignty and territorial integrity, and therefore contributing to peace, security, and stability, both nationally and on the African continent.

The ANC recognises that the emergence of artificial intelligence and the lethal weapon system that represent one of the defining defence and security policy challenges within the 21st century. As the military technologies evolve at unprecedented speed and precision, artificial intelligence will increasingly shape the strategic decision-making, force preparedness, operational effectiveness, and character of cyber and electronic warfare.

The ANC therefore maintains that the applications of the artificial intelligence in defence environment must always be governed by meaningful human judgement, accountability and oversight. No algorithm, regardless of its computational power and the sophistication, should ever be permitted to make autonomous decisions over the matters of life and death.

The authority to employ the lethal force must remain inherently a human responsibility, subject to legal accountability, ethical scrutiny and democratic control. We know the needs of our soldiers. We remain committed to

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supporting our soldiers, first by ensuring they receive proper training, adequate equipment, improved conditions of service and necessary support that carry out duties with dignity and professionalism.

In the same breath, we reaffirm our wavering dedication to the welfare and the recognition and dignified treatment of SA Military Veterans whose sacrifices in the struggle for liberation and in the defence of our hard-won democracy continue to ensure that this enduring moral debt and leaving a legacy for our national heritage. In this context, we welcome the commitment by the hon Minister of Defence and Military Veterans' proactive, giant step forward to respond to the needs of the military veterans. This fact has been demonstrated through the appointment of the Transversal Ministerial Task Team led by His Excellency, the former ambassador hon Mseleku who has taken a practical and urgent step to resolve the outstanding issues of the military veterans within the shortest period of time.

We welcome the fact that the verification process has been concluded in almost seven provinces. We are now left with KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape because in the final analysis we must have a credible process. In that way, we will

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produce a credible, consolidated list for military veterans to meet the expectations and satisfaction. I thank you, House Chairperson.

Declaration of votes made on behalf of the Inkatha Freedom Party, Democratic Alliance and African National Congress.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, African Christian Democratic Party, ActionSA, United Africans Transformation and National Coloured Congress dissenting).

Vote No 24 - Independent Police Investigative Directorate - put and agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, ActionSA, United Africans Transformation and National Coloured Congress dissenting).

Vote No 25 - Justice and Constitutional Development - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon Chair, Al Jama-ah welcomes the allocation to Vote 25 - Justice and Constitutional Development. A strong democracy depends on a justice system that is accessible, fair and trusted by the people. The fight

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against corruption, fraud, and abuse of public resources must remain a priority. Al Jama-ah supports Vote No 25 and calls for effective implementation. Believes in equal justice, equal dignity and equal opportunity. I thank you. Malibongwe!

Mr J B MTOLO: House Chairperson, the MK Party cannot discuss the state of justice in South Africa without confronting the elephant in the room. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, just hold on. Hon members of the virtual platform, specifically the hon Alexander, please remain muted until you are recognized. My apologies, hon member.

Mr J B MTOLO: Hon Chairperson, the MK Party cannot discuss the state of justice in South Africa without confronting the elephant in the room. The growing public believes that our justice system has become exceptionally agile when protecting the powerful and painfully slow when serving ordinary citizens. The portfolio committee correctly points to funding constraints, court backlogs, ICT failures and capacity shortages. These are real challenges, but resources alone cannot explain the crisis of confidence confronting our justice institutions.

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The Phala Phala scandal became a defining test of whether the law applies equally to all. It involved allegations touching on undeclared foreign currency, possible breaches of exchange control regulations, questions about tax compliance.

AN HON MEMBER: House Chair, I wanted to ask whether the hon member will be prepared to take a question.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): I will inquire. Hon member, are you prepared to take a question?

Mr J B MTOLO: Afterwards Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Afterward. Thank you. Please continue.

Mr J B MTOLO: Yet, years later, South Africans are still left asking simple questions. If any ordinary citizen had been found with millions of dollars concealed on a private farm, would the wheels of justice have turned with such caution, hesitation and restraint? The perception created is devastating. Every ... [Inaudible.] ... delay, every jurisdictional dispute, every technical defence and every institutional contradiction deepen the belief that there are

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two justice systems in South Africa. One of the political connected and another for everyone else. The tragedy is that this perception does not merely damage the reputation of one President. It damages the credibility of the Constitution itself.

How can government demand respect for the rule of law when unresolved questions continue to hang over one of the most serious scandals associated with the office of the President? How can anti-corruption campaigns be taken seriously when accountability appears to depend on who occupies the high office? How can citizens have faith in institutions when every avenue of investigation seems to end in a dead end, a technicality or a closed file? The MK Party therefore submits that the crisis facing the justice sector is not merely financial; it is a crisis of public confidence.

South African needs prosecutors who fear no politician, investigators who fear no office bearer, a cause that inspire confidence, and institutions that pursue truth without regard for political consequences. The rule of law cannot survive on selective accountability until every question surrounding Phala Phala is answered transparently and decisively. The

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shadow of unequal justice will continue to hang over our democracy.

The MK Party will continue to insist that no one is above the law; not a municipal clerk, not a Minister, and even more importantly, not the President. I thank you.

Mr D D KLOPPER: Chairperson, the DA supports this vote with serious reservations. South Africans have lost faith in the justice system's ability to deal with crime. The National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, doesn't have the resources to fill vacant prosecutor's positions. It is dependent on the meagre handouts by the department. Give the NPA its own budget and the independence it needs to prosecute criminals.

Minister Kubayi, are you aware of the dire state of the criminal justice system and do you realize that it is South Africans that are suffering? And do you even care? If you do care, treat this crisis with the seriousness it deserves. Give the NPA its independence, send criminals to jail, and put citizens first. Thank you.

Mr X NQOLA: House Chair, the ANC fully support Vote No 25 - Justice and Constitutional Development. We strongly disagree

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that the justice system of South Africa is two-faced. Even at the time when we make an example about the popular Phala Phala matter, it is the Constitutional Court that set its foot down against the process that was followed by this Parliament because it is in line with the spirit of the Constitution that everyone is equal before the law. That's section 9 of the Constitution - equality clause. So, to suggest that there can be a two-faced justice system is a pure ... it's factually incompetent. So, we support Budget Vote 25 as the ANC - strongly - and we are saying, let justice be done though the heavens fall. Thank you very much.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, ActionSA, United Africans Transformation, African Transformation Movement and National Coloured Congress dissenting).

Vote No 26 - Military Veterans - put and agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, ActionSA, African Transformation Movement and National Coloured Congress dissenting)

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Vote No 27 - Office of the Chief Justice - put and agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 28 - Police - put.

Declarations of vote:

Ms D E JAMES: Hon Chairperson, the SA Police Service, SAPS, is in crisis. We all know it. Yet today, we are asked to support a budget while senior police officials wage public wars against one another. The institution entrusted with protecting South Africans descends deeper into chaos.

We see officers accused of sexual harassment back in uniform within weeks of being suspended. We watch with horror as many as more than five councillors and political candidates were murdered over the voter registration weekend and still South Africans are told to trust a system that is clearly failing them. This is not an indictment on the brave men and women in blue who put their lives on the line every day. It is an indictment on the cabal at the top who have turned the Police Service into a playground for corruption, factionalism and self-enrichment. Enough is enough. The rot in SAPS must be uprooted. Those responsible must face the full might of the

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law and the people of South Africa must once again have a Police Service that protects communities instead of protecting the politically connected. Thank you. [Time expired.] Thank you.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu...

English:

... it is almost a year since the lieutenant general held a press conference on the alleged capture of the Police by the criminal syndicates. It caused a shakeup across our criminal justice system, and we are still seeing new findings emerge every day. Yet, we must be very honest. This was neither the first nor will it be the last time that we hear about and see the fallout from police infighting. There is an internal war waging on in our criminal justice system and ordinary South Africans are its casualties. The ongoing war between the SA Police Service and the Investigating Directorate Against Corruption, Idac, is a cause for concern and the commander-in-chief, who is the President, must call everyone to order.

Every day, we hear from South Africans how they are not safe and how they do not trust the police to address the crime they

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face every day. The image of the police badge has been tarnished by men and women who chose to serve criminal networks rather than protect South Africans.

During his state of the nation address in February, the President announced that all senior officials in the Police will be vetted. We have heard nothing of these vetting since. Instead, we hear of the SAPS working for criminals and allegedly working for foreign governments.

We celebrate the courageous work done by individual police officers who risk their lives to protect South Africans, especially amidst the infighting that is going on in the police. These are the people that we must promote, the people we must support and fill our entire criminal justice system with. The road to recovery is clear. Arrest criminals regardless of whether they wear a badge or not, restore our criminal intelligence capacity and every single official must undergo a new vetting process and lifestyle audit.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

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Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: House Chair. As South Africans, we face a new generation of crime, and that's organised crime. That has become sophisticated, well-financed and it is deeply networked. It is infiltrating our courts, businesses, hijack buildings and it fuels illegal mining. Yet the state continues to fight these criminal enterprises as though they are isolated incidents.

As Bosa, we really believe that organised crime is one of the greatest threats to South Africa's economy and to our democracy. This requires an intelligence-led state that treats organised crime as a national security threat that it has become, a capacitated department.

While the Appropriations Committee notes that over 80% of the budget is spent on employees, we need to be capacitating that department better in order for government to always be one step ahead of criminals and not constantly trying to catch up. Thank you. Thank you.

Rev K R J MESHOE: Chairperson, the nation has been profoundly shaken by the findings of the Madlanga Commission, which revealed corruption at the highest levels of SAPs. Senior officers, including the most senior, entrusted with protecting

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our citizens, have been implicated in organised crime, drug syndicates and fraudulent contracts gravely eroding public trust. Some immediate actions, like suspensions and investigations, have been put in place, but the bulk of the reform agenda is still plans afoot rather than reforms implemented.

We recognise that the police need all the funds they can to get to fight crime, yet we are loathe to approve a Vote that is dishonest and criminals to be among the police will syphon off leaving resources wasted and communities unprotected.

Until integrity is seen to be restored and accountability enforced, like the protection of investigators and witnesses in high profile corruption cases and the restoration of specialised crime fighting units, this budget risks perpetuating failure rather than securing safety. The ACDP will not support this Vote. Thank you.

IsiZulu:

Nk H O MKHALIPHI: Sihlalo, abantu baseNingizimu Afrika bazizwa bengaphephile noma amaphoyisa ekhona. Kodwa njengoba ngimi la ngimele abantu baseNanda eMawoti bathi babulawa yizigebengu ezibizwa ngokuthi yi-West. Bahlalela ovalweni njalo. Ngakho ke

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bathi mangizobamela lapha ngisho ukuthi abakwazi ukuyesekela le bhajethi. Njengomuntu omele abantu baseNanda ngithi asiyesekeli le bhajethi kuze kube amaphoyisa azazi ukuthi enzani ukuvikela abantu baseNanda. Ngiyabonga.

IsiNdebele:

Num D M SKOSANA: SiHlalo weNdlu, ngiyayibona imizuzu emibili lapha. Asivumelani naso isabelo seemali lesi. Isizathu sethu sokuthoma sililo sabantu beSewula Afrika abalila ngokobana kunoNgqongqotjhe ohlezi ekhaya odla amatjhatjha ehlise nangejusi. Abantu sele bamkhohliwe uNgqongqotjhe uSenzo Mchunu. Yinto enjani enje? Aninanhloni ngokuthi kunomuntu orhola ahlezi ekhaya, begodu uzokurhola bekuphele isikhathi sikarhulumende lo ngombana niyamvikela. Kwanjesi isitjhaba sithi akhe nibe neenhloni ngalokhu, nithome nitjheje abantu.

Siyazi kobana uyasaba umnikazi wePhala Phala ukutjhidisa indoda le. Konomjaphethe okhona esikhundleni sakhe. Nikhumbule kobana ubhadelwa ngithi ababhadeli bomthelo. Simbhadelela kobana ahlale ekhaya? Awa, akhe nijame. Akeze naye athewukele azokusebenza lapha.

Ngalokho-ke, abantu bathi nginitjele bonyana uMongameli akaphakame asuse uSenzo Mchunu njengabanye. Abomma ubasusile.

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UDorh. omunye nangu wamsusa, nomunye uTolashe akekho. Kubayini abomma basuswa lula kangaka? Abomma babasuswa lula. Ngiyathokoza.

English:

We reject the budget.

Mr I CAMERON: House Chair, when we debate this Bill, we must stop pretending that the crisis in the SA Police Service is simply a question of how much money is allocated. The real question is how that money is managed, prioritised and spent.

Over the last few weeks, we've conducted oversight visits across many police facilities, and what we found was a serious shortage or nonexistence of management accountability. When Sergeant Tusani from Nyanga SAPS was sadly gunned down in Lingulethu West on Saturday, you must ask the hard question: Will his murder force some kind of urgent reform or was it in vain because the system simply carries on with business as usual? You must ask the same about Sino, a DA activist and candidate who was assassinated in Danoon after helping residents register to vote. We honour both Sergeant Tusani and Sino, we honour public representatives and other candidates from other parties who also lost their lives over the weekend.

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Statistics show that over 56% of police stations in South Africa do not answer their phones. That's more than half of the people who call the police in an emergency won't have any help. We found that at the Cape Town Flying Squad, almost 59% of vehicles are not available or nonoperational.

There are police stations and units without rape kits. How can we claim to stand with victims of gender-based violence, GBV, when the most basic tools needed to investigate these crimes are simply not available? And if we had properly learned the lessons of July 2021 with the unrest then, SAPS would not now need to spend more than R600 million on a special 30 June operation.

Preparedness is cheaper than panic. Intelligence-led policing is cheaper than emergency mobilisation. Against the backdrop of an unprecedented integrity crisis in SAPS, the budget shortage excuse is no longer enough. Before asking South Africans for more money SAPS leadership must prove that it can be trusted as custodians of the money, resources and power that it already has. Until that happens, no budget increase will fix a system that is failing at the most basic level. I thank you.

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Ms M O SEATE: Chairperson, the ANC is in full support of the SA Police Service Budget Vote 28. This budget demonstrates government's unwavering commitment to protecting the safety, dignity and security of the people of South Africa. It reflects a clear determination to strengthen law enforcement, combat crimes and rebuild public confidence in the criminal justice system.

The ANC recognises that crime cannot be defended or defeated by policing alone, as it is informed by cross-cutting socioeconomic issues. We therefore welcome the continued implementation of the integrated crime and violence prevention strategy, which promotes a full whole government and whole of society approach to building a faster and more resilient communities in deterring crimes.

We support the intensified fight against organised crime, gang violence, extortion syndicates, illicit economic activities. The allocation of additional resources to the Hawks, the Crime Intelligence and the Antigang Unit goes a long way in targeting operations that are aimed at strengthening the state's capacity to disrupt and dismantle the criminal networks.

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The ANC further welcomes the continued operationalisation of the fight against gender-based violence and femicide, the strengthening of the family violence, child protection and sexual offences units together with the maintenance of the victim-friendly facilities across the country. This demonstrates again government's commitment to protecting women and children and supporting survivors of violence.

The ANC supports this Police Budget Vote as it supports the commitment made in the Sona to strengthen the law enforcement and improve the community safety of South Africans. It advances our commitment to building more safer communities and strengthening the fight against crime, gender-based violence and organised crime activities. The ANC supports this Budget Vote. I thank you.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, African Christian Democratic Party, United Africans Transformation and National Coloured Congress dissenting).

Vote No 29 - Agriculture - put

Declarations of Vote

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Mr C F B SMIT: The DA supports Budget Vote 29 for the Department of Agriculture as an investment in food security, rural jobs and economic growth. Agriculture remains a leading sector in South Africa, but the current Foot-and-Mouth Disease, FMD, crisis constrains its growth. Therefore, we must succeed in our fight against FMD.

The success of the industry is currently also under threat from failing infrastructure, crime and poor support from ANC-controlled provincial and local governments, as well as ANC-controlled departments like Police.

We welcome the reform agenda initiated under Minister John Steenhuisen, especially efforts to expand markets, strengthen biosecurity and support emerging farmers. The DA will continue to insist on accountability, clean governance and practical support for producers. A growing agricultural sector means more exports, more jobs and greater hope for rural communities across South Africa.

Thank you.

Ms S W DAVIDS: House Chairperson, the ANC supports Budget Vote 29 as it advances the movement's long-standing commitment to

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food security, rural development, economic transformation and agricultural growth.

This budget strengthens biosecurity, supports emerging farmers and contributes to building an inclusive and sustainable agricultural sector that benefits all South Africans.

I thank you.

Question put.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, African Christian Democratic Party and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 30 – Communications and Digital Technologies – put

Declarations of Vote:

Sesotho:

Mof T K BODLANI: Modulasetulo ...

English:

... the DA inherited a Post Office on the verge of bankruptcy. Today, SA Post Office, Sapo, is refreshed and will exit

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business rescue. The department was without legislative reform for two decades. Today, the Electronic Communications Amendment Bill is before Parliament.

The DA said no to the disastrous SA Broadcast Corporation, SABC Bill, which would have ruined our public broadcaster. Today, a funding model has been presented to Parliament. We said no to triple Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment, BBBEE. Equity equivalent investment programmes are the future.

House Chairperson, allowing government department. to shop outside of Sector Educational Training Authority, Seta, has liberated government entities and we agree that there will no more be system offline. Chairperson, what the DA will do in the next financial year is the rationalisation of overlapping entities in the department to streamline resources and outputs. We will fast-track the delivery of high-speed internet across our schools, clinics, hospitals, and police stations. The DA delivers while others make a noise.

Sesotho:

Ke a leboha.

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Mr O M MATHAFA: House Chair, the ANC rises to support Budget Vote 30 on Communications and Digital Technologies. We do so with a deep appreciation of the role that the department plays in shaping the digital future of our country, in transforming our economy, and in ensuring that no South African is left behind in the unfolding digital revolution.

Hon Chair, the work being done by the department speaks directly to the developmental aspirations of the ANC. It is the work of building connected, inclusive, and a digital-empowered nation, a nation in which the benefits of digital transformation reach the rural community as much as they reach the boardrooms of Sandton. There is a lot of work that still needs to be done by this department.

However, this is the kind of inclusive growth that the ANC has consistently championed, and it is the kind of growth that gives meaning to economic freedom in our lifetime. The Freedom Charter reminds us that the doors of learning and culture shall be opened. In our time, those doors are increasingly digital. The work captured in this Budget Vote ensures that they remain open at all times. The ANC supports this Budget Vote.

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Thank you, House Chair.

Question put.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, ActionSA, United Africans Transformation and National Coloured Congress dissenting).

Vote No 31 - Employment and Labour - put

Declarations of vote:

Mr V ZUNGULA: Chair, the high levels of unemployment and the lack of enforcement of labour laws lies with this department. Companies are not complying with the employment targets set for people living with disabilities. There's a set percentage set and these companies know they will not be held accountable. Hence, they do not comply with the laws.

We can't support a budget that perpetuates the exclusion of people living with disabilities in the workplace because they know the labour inspectors and the department will do nothing to correct that.

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The same happens with employment equity. Companies get away with underpaying black workers, yet they are more qualified and experienced than white workers. It is worse with immigration laws, where companies flout immigration laws by employing workers that are not legally in the country in order to underpay and exploit them.

There have not been any repercussions for such companies. Hence, they are the ones at the forefront paying the media, nongovernmental organisations, NGOs, and other players to advocate for illegal immigration under the guise of humanitarian support. They do this precisely because they want to have unchecked slave labour. Hence, in some farms, workers are paid with food and alcohol. In some restaurants, they are paid with tips.

Without the department addressing this lawlessness, these problems continue to persist, and it is clear that the department has no political will to address these crises. Also, with the department not having a director-general, DG, there is no official that can be held accountable for all the mess that is happening in Employment and Labor. As the ATM, we reject.

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Thank you.

Ms F HASSAN (ANC): House Chair, as the ANC, it is important to note that we support this particular Budget Vote 31.

Thank you.

Question put.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, ActionSA, United Africans Transformation, African Transformation Movement and National Coloured Congress dissenting).

Vote No 32 - Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment - put

Declarations of Vote:

Mr W D PEACH: House Chair, I would like to thank the outgoing Minister, Willie Aucamp, for his leadership and disproportionate impact during Kruger's extreme climate disasters, as well as the resolution of the prolonged land claims and the centenary renewal of Kruger.

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The DA rises in support of this budget, a budget that reaffirms the department's commitment to section 24 of the Constitution to ensure a healthy environment for all South Africans. This budget is committed to addressing climate change, not due to hysteria, but as a challenge towards the mitigation by embracing green technologies and developing new jobs.

This budget commits to growing the biodiversity economy through a well-regulated, sustainable utilisation as an alternative business case for consumer conservation. This budget is also committed to protecting the South African exclusive economic zone, to ultimately protect not only endangered fish stocks, but also local livelihoods and jobs.

I thank you.

Mr O M MATHAFA (ANC): The ANC supports, Chair.

Thank you.

Mr M P MOTUBATSE: We just want to understand if the ANC supports, they say that there is going to be a change of the outgoing member.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No, hon member, that is not part of voting. Thank you.

Question put.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, ActionSA, African Transformation Movement, United Africans Transformation and National Coloured Congress dissenting).

Vote No 33 - Human Settlements - put.

Declarations of Vote 33.

Mr A K NGOBESE: Hon Chair, while the IFP welcomes the R7 billion allocation towards informal settlement upgrades, as well as support for housing finance, funding alone will not address the country's housing challenges. This budget must reflect not only financial commitments but deliberate commitments to implementation that expand access to dignified housing and deliver measurable outcomes for vulnerable communities.

Concerns remain regarding the absence of measurable progress in the informal settlement upgrade. Support for the gap market

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must be strengthened, while greater private-sector participation, including innovative pathways to affordable home ownership, must be unlocked.

Affordable housing must become a measurable national priority, and a human settlement policy must move beyond commitments on paper to deliver tangible, dignified and housing outcomes for all South Africans. The IFP supports this budget, hon Chair. Thank you.

IsiZulu:

Nk H O MKHALIPHI: Sihlalo abantu baseNingizimu abanazo izindlu futhi alukho uhlelo oluvela kulo Mnyango. Ngakho-ke kusenabantu futhi abakhahlanyezwe izikhukhula ngonyaka wezi-2022.

English:

The department does not update them.

IsiZulu:

Babafaka koLindela. OLindela abanganayo ingqalasizinda kanye nokuthuthwa kwendle. Bathi abantu ...

English:

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... they can't support this kind of budget. I thank you.

Mr L MPHITHI: House Chairperson, the right to adequate housing as promised in our Constitution remains unfulfilled for millions of South Africans. The housing waiting list has ballooned up to 4 million households with nearly 600 000 households having been waiting for housing for more than 20 years, as the average South African household consists of three to four people.

However, we are happy that in this particular financial year, we have been able to table the Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land Amendment Act that the DA has put forward to stop land invasions that have affected South Africans. We are glad that the Minister has taken this on board on behalf of the fights that the DA has been fighting since 2023.

However, challenges still continue in the Department of Human Settlements. There are effectively houses not being delivered. Title deeds have not been delivered. There are issues that are not related to funding but to capacity and competence. We hope that there will be a further understanding of our Constitution

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and that South Africans will be shouted in this country. Thank you.

Ms F HASSAN (ANC): Thank you very much, House Chair. No declaration, but we are in support of this particular Budget Vote for Human Settlements. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. Hon Meshoe, I see that you are now with us. I will give you a little grace.

Rev K R J MESHOE: Thank you for your grace, sir. The ACDP cannot support this Budget Vote. While R26,97 billion has been allocated, the portfolio committee report again highlighted slow delivery, blocked title deeds and unsafe informal settlements. Evidence shows that municipal upgrade funds have been misused on a massive scale, with the Special Investigating Unit uncovering irregular expenditure and corruption amounting to tens of billions of rands, which have not reached intended beneficiaries.

We again raised the critical issue of the Special Needs Housing Policy that the government has not implemented. This is not only maladministration, but it is injustice. This budget fails to guarantee oversight, accountability or

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urgency. Supporting it would mean endorsing waste and broken promises. For these reasons, the ACDP rejects this Budget Vote. Thank you, Chairperson.

Question put.

Vote 33 is agreed to.

Vote No 34 - Mineral Resources and Energy - agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, ActionSA and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 35 - Science and Innovation - agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, ActionSA, African Transformation Movement, United Africans Transformation and African Christian Democratic Party dissenting).

Vote 36 - Small Business Development - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Afrikaans:

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Mnr H C C KRÜGER: Voorsitter, voor ons oor begrotingstoedelings kan gesels, moet ons eers oor rompslomp gesels.

Die hersiene Wetsontwerp op Sakeliseniëring is 'n duidelike aanduiding van die Minister se teleurstellende benadering tot entrepreneurskap. Artikel 22 van die Grondwet behoort die vertrekpunt van die Departement van Kleinsakeontwikkeling te wees. Die Wetsontwerp op Sakeliseniëring daarenteen bepaal dat daar eers toestemming van die staat verkry moet word voordat handel gedryf kan word. Wanneer 'n spazawinkeleienaar of 'n kleindorpie sake-eienaar geforseer word om meer tyd te spandeer aan rompslomp nakoming as aan om klante te bedien, moet ons herbesin.

Dit is duidelik dat Adjunkminister Jane Sithole entrepreneurs en kleinhandelaars se beste belange nastreef. Die pad na ekonomiese groei is nie meer regulasies, maar 'n sakevriendelike ekosisteem. Dankie.

Ms M L MMOLOTSANE: The ANC supports Budget Vote 36 on Small Business Development because small businesses are the engine of jobs where people live. In rural and urban areas across

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South Africa, our MSMEs and co-operatives do not ask for handouts; they ask for opportunity.

This budget puts money where it matters. Funding for township and rural enterprises' access to markets, compliance support and reducing red tape so that a spaza shop or a welder can grow without drowning in paperwork. Jobs and opportunities start here, not in boardrooms. The ANC supports this Budget Vote 36. Thank you, Chair.

Question put.

Vote 36 is agreed to.

Vote No 37 - Sport, Arts and Culture - put.

Declarations of vote:

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Al Jama-ah welcomes the allocation to Vote 37: Sports, Arts and Culture. Sports, arts and culture are powerful tools for nation-building, social cohesion and youth development. They help bridge divides, celebrate our diversity, and create opportunities for young people to develop their talents and contribute positively to society.

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We encourage greater investment in community sports facilities, support for emerging athletes and artists, and the preservation of our rich cultural and historical heritage. Particular attention must be given to underserved communities where access to sporting and cultural opportunities remains limited. Sports, arts and culture have the ability to inspire hope, promote healthy lifestyles, and foster unity among South Africans from all walks of life.

As we consider this Vote, let us ensure that these resources are used effectively to nurture talent, strengthen communities, and preserve the values and heritage that define our nation. Al Jama-ah subscribes to the belief that sport unites, arts inspire, and culture defines us.

We must invest in talent, build our nation, and believe that strong communities are built through sports, arts and culture, preserving heritage, and empowering future generations – one nation, many cultures, a shared destiny. To conclude, when we invest in sports, arts and culture, we invest in the soul of our nation. Malibongwe. Thank you,

Mr M V DANIELS: House Chairperson, sports, arts and culture are genuinely not luxuries. They are powerful drivers of

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unity, opportunity and hope. This budget enables the development of talent at grassroot level, ensuring that no child is left behind, no matter where you come from. It supports athletes and creatives who proudly represent South Africa and contribute to building a strong national identity. A child in sport is indeed a child out of court.

The Patriotic Alliance also recognises the economic value of this particular sector. The creative industry and sport create jobs, support small businesses and stimulate local economies. Investing here is investing in growth. This budget Vote must be supported because it is clear that this budget does not abuse taxpayers' money.

To demonstrate this, consider the super fans who attended the FIFA World Cup 2026, whose expenses were covered by sponsors approached by Ministers Gayton McKenzie. These sponsors responded positively, enabling our supporters to travel abroad to watch the football. The final legends have also been taken abroad, which is a source of national pride, as these individuals represent our team and our nation. It is commendable that the Minister has chosen to honour them while they are still with us. Let us acknowledge and appreciate them. It was a very good gesture by the Minister to take them

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abroad to play against Mexico as the legends of Bafana Bafana. The Patriotic Alliance wishes to state unequivocally that, although not everyone may agree with the approach, South Africa needs this, Minister. The Patriotic Alliance supports this vote. We support this vote as an investment in opportunity, unity, and national pride. Thank you.

Ms M L MMOLOTSANE: Chairperson, the ANC supports budget Vote 37: Sports, arts and culture play a vital role in strengthening South Africa's social fabric, and directing these funds towards community-level impact is exactly what is needed. Grassroots infrastructure is especially important as the country prepares for major global events such as the 2027 ICC Cricket World Cup, with upgrades already planned for iconic venues such as Wanderers, Newlands and Kingsmead. Only truly succeeds if school sports and township facilities get same level of care, transforming the creative economy and protecting heritage ensures that the cultural landscape is not just preserved but actively thrives.

Speaking of major sporting moments, the timing could not be more intense for our boys - Bafana Bafana, who are in Mexico right now for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, and their final Group A clash against South Korea on Thursday is a literal do-or-die

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match. After that hard-fought one-all draw against the Czech Republic, they need a win to keep the dream alive and secure a spot in the round of 32. The country is definitely standing behind them. Let us hope they bring that relentless energy to the pitch. ANC supports budget Vote 37. Thank you, Chair.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, Action SA and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 38 - Tourism - agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 39 - Trade and Industry and Competition - put.

Declaration of vote:

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: House Chair, a budget is more than numbers. It is a statement of what government believes will grow the economy. As Build One South Africa, we believe that economic growth is the most powerful social justice programme a country can have. Without growth, there is no sustainable jobs, no rising incomes, and ultimately, there is no revenue to fund the public services South Africans rely on. That is

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why this budget Vote matters, because the question is not simply how much money we allocate to Trade and Industry and Competition, DTIC.

The question is whether every rand spent makes it easier for South Africans to invest, to build businesses, and create jobs. The real divide in South African politics is no longer left versus right. It is between those who believe opportunity is created by citizens and those who believe it is created by the states. Bosa believes that government's role is to remove barriers to growth, back entrepreneurs, and create the conditions in which prosperity can flourish. Because when the economy grows, South Africans do not just earn more, they live with greater dignity. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Is the Royce declaring on this budget vote? If not, I welcome the ACDP.

Mr W M THRING: Chairperson, the ACDP believes that this DTIC budget must be judged by its ability to drive industrialisation, economic growth, and job creation. South Africa must move beyond exporting raw materials and prioritise beneficiation through measurable targets using a beneficiation index called for by the ACDP over the last six to seven years.

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Effective, deliberate and extensive beneficiation will ensure that our mineral wealth supports local manufacturing, green technologies and value chain development. Additionally, greater support is also needed for small, medium, and micro enterprises, SMMEs, township enterprises and youth owned businesses.

To unlock opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA, the department, together with government, must address logistical constraints and strengthen export competitiveness. As kingdom builders, the ACDP understands that South Africa's future prosperity depends on production, manufacturing and innovation. We do not support this budget Vote. Thank you.

Question put.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, Action SA, African Christian Democratic Party and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 40 - Transport - put.

Declarations of vote:

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Mr V ZUNGULA: Hon House Chairperson, the E-Hailing space is the one that is endangering the lives of many passengers. Recently there was a woman who as gone to social media indicating she was robbed and raped by the uber driver. This is enabled by the failures of the Transport Department to play an effective oversight role over the sector and ensure the safety of passengers. It is a well-known fact that drivers rent their profiles which poses a danger to the passengers.

The companies in the E-Hailing space undermine the plight of South Africans. They regard workers in other countries in Europe as workers and they are given pension and unemployment benefits. Yet, here in South Africa, the drivers are not given the same status, yet it is the same company.

Why is uber in the United Kingdom, UK, treating a driver as a worker and pays them well but in South Africa a driver is not regarded as an employee. The same companies in the E-Hailing space whether it is uber or Checkers Sixty60 has a lot of drivers that do not have valid working permits.

The Department of Transport together with the Department of Employment and Labour are not doing anything to address this crisis. This weakness and failure have enabled the sidelining

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of South Africans. Black South Africans, in particular in the sector, as it is difficult for any food delivery driver anywhere in the country to be South African. The failure of these departments has led to the mess we see in our streets today because the citizens are excluded by companies operating in South Africa and the Department of Transport is failing to hold those companies accountable. As the ATM we reject this Budget Vote. Thank you.

Ms P MARAIS: Hon House Chairperson, the Department of Transport is in a critical condition. For at the moment all the transport on the roads is having problems. Potholes everywhere, no infrastructure, no proper roads for owners of this transport. The owners of this transport, the taxis are suffering because of the problem we are having with the Department of Transport.

We need to have proper infrastructure and build proper roads for these people to make business because all these people are small businesses, black owners struggling to make a living. We need a department to come to the party. Thank you, hon House Chairperson.

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Mr M P MOTUBATSE: Hon House Chairperson, the Ministry of Transport has become the *de facto* privatisation agency of government. This is the *ultime séduction* of an initiative-tired nation. The Republic is being quietly exchanged for a management product through Operation Vulindlela.

Through it pay back for the Cyril Ramaphosa Campaign, CRC, donations are slowly being redeemed for white monopolists who are determined which state assets are to be a concession for private sector. They instruct the executive on which assets are to be hyped off.

Democratic oversight is sacrificed at the altar of private sector proxies who make state-decisions behind closed doors. A shadow of architecture of task teams and executive proxies rule the roost. The refrain of maintain that such assets are still owned by the state. What is not told is that control is being transferred to the private sector. In this scenario the private sector proxy retains the profit and decision-making, while the state retains the debt and operational responsibility for maintenance costs. We therefore as the MK party rejects this daylight robbery and thuggery by the Government of National Unity, GNU, government. Thank you.

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Ms F HASSAN: Hon House Chairperson, we stand or rather we support Budget Vote No 40 - Transport precisely because transport is dignity in motion. In rural and township areas across South Africa our people spend hours and money that they do not have just to get to work, school and clinics.

Safer and united communities' starts with safe roads, reliable buses and trains that run on time. Scholar transport that protects our children. This budget puts money where our people feel it. Particularly in fixing potholes, maintaining rural roads, upgrading public transport and enforcing road safety so that no mother has to bury a child due to preventable crashes.

Quality services means that taxi rank with lights, a train that arrive on time and roads that connect people to jobs and opportunities. When transport works, the economy works. As the ANC we support this Budget Vote. Thank you.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, ActionSA, African Transformation Movement and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 41 - Water and Sanitation - put.

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Declarations of vote:

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Hon House Chairperson, I am here sent by the community of Eskebheni in Ward 108 which is under eThekweni but is in the rural area. There is Inanda Dam that is supposed to help the community to provide water. However, the community is suffering. There is no water provided to that particular community.

It is one of the many crises faced by South Africans in terms of water crises. One of the reasons is the aging infrastructure which government is failing to provide because they know all along that they will be an aging infrastructure.

Secondly, it is corruption. Now the intervention happening is through the water tinkering. Water tinkering is for the elite which they want to milk millions from South Africans.

Therefore, the issue of water is a crisis, and it remains a crisis in South Africa. We cannot support this budget because even the Minister of this department is not serious to address the issue of water. So, therefore, we reject this budget again [Futhi]. Thank you.

Mr V G REDDY: The MK party rejects this budget because we refuse to lie to South Africans. We refuse to sellout for ANC

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Cabinet positions. We chose the people over power. This budget will not bring a single drop of safe water into your taps. Hence, treatment plants are collapsing! Sewerage is flowing into our rivers and communities are left without water for weeks and months!

The people who broke the system cannot fix the system. The parties that are supporting this budget will soon be knocking on your door asking for your vote again. Give them the boot. Tell them you will not vote who support for failed governments and empty promises.

The MK party mark the beginning of the end for the ANC. President Zuma has already reduced the ANC to a begging party in Parliament. On November 4, we will finish the job in local government. So, we say to you: Vote MK party, let us put the people first and once we come into power; Pemmy, Cyril and the rest of this Government of National Unity, GNU, must be kicked out of government in this country if you want to restore dignity to our people. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majosi): Hon Reddy, please take your sit. Hon Skosana, what is your point of order.

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Mr G J SKOSANA: Hon House Chairperson, I am rising on Rule 82, the hon member has referred to the President and the Minister of Water and Sanitation by their first names only: Cyril and Pemmy. Thanks, hon House Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Reddy.

Mr V G REDDY: Sorry, I was not talking about the President or the Minister. I was talking about a citizen Cyril and a citizen Pemmy. There is a difference between the two. You want me to say the President and the Minister must go. I will do that. Alright!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Reddy, hon Reddy. Please we know that there are no citizen Pemmy and citizen Cyril. Because there cannot be any Reddy citizen as well. Can we please refer to each other in an honourable manner. It is either you say Mr or Ms or hon member.

Mr V G REDDY: Thank you.

Ms Pemmy and Mr Ramaphosa must go! Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): The DA.

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Before they come in, please note that the MK party has depleted their minutes as well.

Mr S J MOORE: Hon House Chairperson, water and sanitation is not just another item in the national budget, it is a constitutional obligation, a public health necessity and a basic test of whether government is working. Across South Africa residents are facing dry taps, sewerage spills, collapsing wastewater works and failing municipal infrastructure.

These failures do not begin with the lack of speeches, they begin with weak maintenance, poor planning, nonpayments, water loses and too little accountability. That is why from a water and sanitation perspective this Appropriation Bill must be judged not by only what it allocates but by what it delivers. The funding must follow the crisis. Repairing pipes, reducing nonrevenue water, protecting bulk infrastructure, stabilising water boards and ensuring that wastewater treatment works function.

South Africans do not need promises of plans at some point in the future while taps remain dry today. I thank you.

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Mr S L DITHEBE: Hon House Chairperson, the ANC proudly supports Budget Vote No 41 - Water and Sanitation. In our march towards universal access the department has unlocked critical achievements, successfully executing mega bulk infrastructure projects like the Babanana Bulk Water Pipeline costing R736 million in Limpopo, fully expanding local infrastructure grants and expanding rural borehole programme.

Nonetheless, we face used challenges with regards to debt to several water boards to the tune of R27 million. The department and the portfolio committee work together to ensure that these particular water boards are able to carry out their legal and constitutional obligation. And that all the wastewater treatment plants that the department supports are fully functional. The ANC therefore supports this and can notice progress that the department has recorded so far. Thank you.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Hon House Chairperson, my hand was up to please do a declaration.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majosi): Hon member, your hand was up?

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Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Yes, it was. I have witnesses. I still have a minute, and I want to use it.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Alright. Let us afford you an opportunity. You have one minute remaining.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Hon House Chairperson, thank you.

Water security is economic security and there is no economy that can grow, there is no investor that will invest and there is no community that will prosper without a reliable supply of water. Every factory, farm and every small business depend on it.

So, Bosa believes that a budget must do more than fund an infrastructure and actually secure the future. This Budget Vote, our support for it is that it must strengthen water security, it must protect our national water resources, support municipalities to reduce water losses and it must ensure that every rand invested delivers reliable water services. Water is not simply another line item, it is the foundation of public health, economic growth and human dignity. If we are serious about growing our economy, we must

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first secure the resource on which every economy depends and secure the dignity of South Africans. Thank you.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, African Christian Democratic Party, African Transformation Movement and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Vote No 42 - Land Reform and Rural Development - put.

Declarations of vote:

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Chair, the EFF can't support this department's Budget Vote until they have expropriation of land without compensation for equal distribution ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon MkhaliPhi, are you declaring?

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Yes.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Oh, okay. You didn't say that because we didn't receive any request.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Okay, must I start again?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): No, don't start again. Continue. No, I thought you were raising a point of order. So now, I'm hearing you declaring, that's why I asked.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Thank you, Chair.

We can't support this budget until this department expropriates land without compensation for equal distribution. Currently, 84% of South African land is owned by white people who came here and killed our forefathers. Until such is addressed, we cannot support this budget.

Now, however, we don't have any reason to support this budget because without land, there is no water. Without land, there is no housing. Without land, there's no clinics that are built. Therefore, let us expropriate land without compensation. The Minister of Police ... [Time expired.] ... must have the conscience to expropriate land without compensation.

Please vote EFF. I vote against.

Mr V ZUNGULA: The issue of land in our country is very important, particularly here in the Western Cape, where black

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South Africans cannot afford to pay for property prices. This is enabled by weak legislation that allows foreign nationals from America or Europe, using their strong pounds and dollars to buy property in South Africa and inflate the prices to an extent whereby local South Africans, black South Africans in particular, cannot own land, especially in the Western Cape.

We cannot support this particular budget up until the legislation is amended, so that land in South Africa is only owned by South Africans and foreign nationals are only allowed to lease land as it is done in other countries. We reject as the ATM. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majazi): Hon Trollip, is it an objection?

Mr R A P TROLLIP: It's not an objection; it's a point of order. Is it permissible to talk on a telephone in Parliament?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majazi): No, hon member. Who have you seen talking on the phone?

Mr R A P TROLLIP: There's somebody sitting on that side talking on their phone in Parliament.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majosi): Okay. Hon members, we know the Rules of the House. If you need to take a call, please go outside to take that call. Can we please abide by the Rules.

Question put.

Question agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, African Transformation Movement, National Coloured Congress and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Schedule as a whole: Question put.

Schedules - agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters, African Transformation Movement and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

APPROPRIATION BILL [B 4 - 2026]

(Second reading debate)

There was no debate.

Question put: That the Bill be read a second time.

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Bill read a second time (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): The Bill will be sent to the National Council of Provinces for concurrence.

**CONSIDERATION OF FIFTH REPORT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RULES
COMMITTEE OF SEVENTH PARLIAMENT ON RULES CONCERNING SECTION 89**

ENQUIRIES.

Mrs D E MPAPANE: Hon House Chairperson, my apologies. I'm trying to open my gadgets here.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Are you winning, hon Mpapane?

Ms H O MKHALIPI: House Chair, while you are still fixing the problem of the ANC, can you continue? We are ready. We are in this crisis because of the ANC. Now we have to wait for the gadgets to be fixed. We are ready. Can we continue?

An HON MEMBER: What's the problem now?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Mkhali, I will wait for hon Mpapane to introduce the report.

Mrs D E MPAPANE: Hon House Chairperson, the Fifth Report of the National Assembly Rules Committee for the 7th Parliament concerns amendments of the rules regarding regulating the different stages of Section 89 Inquiries. The amendments arose following the order of the Constitutional Court on 8 May 2026 in an application brought by the Economic Freedom Fighters and the African Transformation Movement regarding the report by the Independent Panel established to assess the evidence in a motion submitted in terms of section 89 of the Constitution.

The Court determined the National Assembly Rule 129(I) was inconsistent with the Constitution and invalid. The Court found that a limited severance coupled with a read-in was necessary to correct the rule and that this would remain in effect until the Assembly corrected the defects in the Rules. It was for this reason that the Speaker tasked the Rules Committee with reviewing the Rules to align them with the spirit and letter of the judgement.

Hon House Chairperson, amending Parliament's Rules can be a challenging task because all political parties have their own

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interests and views. It is therefore important that the Rules Committee carefully consider the details of any amendments to ensure they can be commonly understood and applied. In the present case, the Rules Committee on the advice of the Subcommittee on Rules and the Parliament's legal team considered two categories of the procedure. Amendments to the general rules contained in the Assembly Rule 129(a)-129(q) and detailed procedures concerning proceedings in the Impeachment Committee. In terms of the letter, it was agreed that the detailed procedures should be conveyed to the Impeachment Committee as this committee was best placed to determine how within the context of law and rules they ought to conduct their inquiry.

It is my responsibility to draw attention to some of the changes to the general rules. Firstly, the Rules Committee endorsed the red ink clause from the Court. Additionally, the Committee agreed to extend the deadline for an independent panel to report to 90 days. Furthermore, the proposed Rules clarify the role of the Assembly in relation to the Impeachment Committee. That is which matters can or must finally be determined by the House.

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It is also important to note that the amendments to the general rules will not apply retrospectively. Hon Chairperson, the most difficult issue before the Rules Committee involved the proposal that members appointed to the Impeachment Committee must be fit and proper. In this regard, all parties agreed that members must have the necessary capacity and character to perform their respective parliamentary duties. Indeed, this is essential if this House is to achieve its ambition to meet the expectations of the people.

However, this is a difficult concept to apply within the parliamentary context. To give an example, how should the House address a dispute concerning a member's participation in a particular parliamentary forum? What is the appropriate recourse? Some members referred to the possibility of legal reform and the submission of a Private Member's Bill to address these concerns.

Hon Chairperson, it was because of these concerns that the inclusion of such a condition should be explored further, and that this should be done in an expedient manner. I should restate that our procedures must be both principled and not have questions for those responsible for their implementation. I believe that notwithstanding some divergent views, the Rules

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presented today serve to ensure that Section 89 of the Constitution can be implemented in a manner envisaged.

Lastly, on behalf of the Rules Committee, I should extend our appreciation to the legal team for their support and guidance. Hon House Chairperson, I hereby table the report of the Rules Committee for the consideration of this House. I thank you.

Declarations of vote:

Mr M MANYI: House Chairperson, let me foreground my submission with this ...

IsiZulu:

... ngoba asidlali la.

English:

In almost two months since the Constitutional Court decision, the Impeachment Committee has still not commenced the implementation of the Constitutional Court order. It has only met to elect a chairperson and to consider his position on the misguided interdict application. It has a planned meeting still pending to discuss the appointment of the evidence leader. Two meetings, none of them an inquiry.

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There is no sense of urgency. It bears noting that the Impeachment Committee is chaired by a fellow traveller of the so-called GNU. Whether by coincidence or by design, the result is simply that two months later, there has been no inquiry whatsoever.

The objective is clear, to string this process along in the hope that the High Court will undermine the Constitutional Court order and achieve what an unlawful vote of this House already failed to achieve. The people of South Africa are being played. The Speaker misdirected herself and elected not to defend the implementation of a Constitutional Court order. That is not a neutral position. It is a political choice with the practical effect of frustrating Court Order No 7 of the Constitutional Court, which directed that the Impeachment Committee proceed with its work.

A Speaker who fails to defend the implementation of a Constitutional Court order has chosen a side, and it is not the side of constitutional accountability. It is the side of Mr Ramaphosa and the ANC. What an indictment.

Turning to the sideshow before us today, the report itself, let the monkey tricks be exposed. The work of the Rules

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Committee was never, from day one, a conditioned precedent to the work of the Impeachment Committee. The Constitutional Court provided a read-in, and that read-in took immediate effect upon the handing down of the Court Order.

It was not contingent on the sitting of this House or the Rules Committee deliberations, no. Rule 129(I), as read in by the Constitutional Court, has been operative since 8 May 2026, yet the inquiry has still not begun. A serious Impeachment Committee seized with the report and committed to implementing the Court Order could by now have done at least the following things.

One met within days of 8 May to begin substantively engaging with the report referred to it. They have not done this. Adopted terms of reference and a clear programme for the inquiry in a reasonable timeframe in accordance with Rule 129(M) - not done. Scheduled the appearance of Mr Ramaphosa before the Committee - not done. Instead, nearly two months later, there is still no timetable, no appearance date for Mr Ramaphosa, and no engagement with the merits of the matter.

Turning to the Committee's recommendations, one, on retrospectivity, the MK agrees. On the interpretation of Rule

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129A(1C), the MK Party agrees that giving instruction to another person, whether General Royde, a farm manager, or Mr Chauke, etc, falls within the scope of the Rule where the instruction itself constitutes serious violation of the Constitution or the law.

A President cannot outsource a constitutional violation and then claim personal immunity from accountability. The MK Party agrees. On fit and proper, the proposal itself is inconsistent with Section 9 and Section 19 and Section 47 of the Constitution. The MK Party vehemently rejects it. The irony is that the MK Party now finds itself defending the Constitution against those who routinely claim themselves to be the foremost guardians. As I conclude: Why is Parliament delaying this inquiry? When will Mr Ramaphosa appear? I submit.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: House Chair, the task of this committee was to review the Rules of the National Assembly following the Constitutional Court's judgment on Parliament's handling of the Phala Phala matter, particularly the court's declaration that the Rule 129I was unconstitutional and invalid. The court also invalidated the vote of December 2022. A vote that sought to shield the President from accountability and suppress the findings of the Independent Panel. The court directed that the

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report be referred to the Impeachment Committee established by the Rules of the National Assembly, reaffirming Parliament's constitutional duty to hold the executive accountable.

While the EFF support most of the amendments before this House, there are certain proposals that we reject outright. The first one is the DA's proposal to introduce a so-called fit-and-proper requirement for members serving on the Impeachment Committee through an amendment to Rule 129K. The DA wants Parliaments to adopt a standard that they themselves cannot define. They speak of fit-and-proper yet cannot explain what it means. Who determines it or how it will be applied. This House must reject these standards set by the DA. Rules must be clear, consistent, and predictable. They cannot be based on subjective political opinion masquerading as legal principles.

The danger of this DA's proposal is that it creates a weapon that can be turned against political opponents. Today it may be directed to EFF or MK Party, tomorrow it may be used against any party whose views are inconvenient to those in power. Parliaments cannot create Rules that invite arbitrary interpretation. We are lawmakers, not fortune-tellers. Members

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must know that the Rules require not to speculate about what someone may later decide what fit-and-proper means.

The legal opinion obtained by Parliament confirms that the DA's proposal raises serious constitutional concerns because section 47 of the Constitution already prescribes the qualifications and disqualifications for members of the National Assembly. If the DA wishes to create new qualifications for Members of Parliament, it must amend the Constitution. It cannot smuggle constitutional amendments through the backdoor of parliamentary Rules.

The DA also sought a retrospective application on this proposal, which is equally unacceptable. Rules cannot be written today to target individuals who were lawfully appointed yesterday. Such an approach offends legality, fairness, and legal certainty. As responsible lawmakers, bound by the Constitution and the oath we have taken before the people of South Africa, we agree that this proposal is reckless, unconstitutional, and open to abuse. We therefore reject it in its entirety.

Other functions of the legal representatives of the President, Rule 129M(3), provides that the President may be assisted by

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legal practitioners ... [Time expired.] Thanks Chair, but we reject these amendments.

Mr N M HADEBE: House Chairperson, sound governance means that we should not make Rules for a single political moment in time, but rather Rules that will stay alive beyond their immediate need. Rules which strengthen the standing of this House and increase public confidence. In this critical moment of uncertainty at the highest levels of the executive, where Parliament seeks to go further than ever before in holding a President accountable, it is incumbent upon - not only the Impeachment Committee - but every member of the National Assembly to personify the moral authority of this House.

If Parliament is to ask the country to trust its impeachment process, then Parliament itself must be worthy of that trust or else we risk a complete loss of public trust in both Parliament and potentially the executive. We must show South Africa that we demand of ourselves the same constitutional duty of care that we hold the executive accountable to.

A standard of fit-and-proper for only members of the Impeachment Committee should be cautiously approached. Instead, the IFP holds that all members of the House should be

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upstanding citizens. We therefore support the amendments of the National Assembly Rules as they stand. I thank you.

Mr E HENDRICKS: Hon House Chair, hon members. Let me just take this time to bid farewell to Mr Plaatjies. Go well, sir.

Afrikaans:

Loop mooi. [Go well.]

English:

The PA rise in support of this Appropriation Bill, specifically the allocation relating to the Rules of this House. We support this Vote because strong, clear and well-resourced parliamentary processes are essential for a functioning democracy. The Rules are not just procedures, they are the foundation that ensure this House operate efficiently, transparently and in the best interest of our people.

Hon members, this allocation enables Parliament to carry out its core responsibility, robust debate, effective oversight in law making that responds to the needs of South Africans.

Without proper support for committees, legislative coordination and administrative processes, accountability weakens in service delivery suffers.

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The PA believes that Parliament must remain a place where the voices of the people are heard and where the executive is held to account. Strengthening the system that governs our work ensures that we can perform this duty with integrity and efficiency. At the same time, we emphasize that these resources must be used responsibly. The public expect value, discipline and professionalism from this institution.

In conclusion, the PA supports this Vote as an investment in a credible, effective and accountable Parliament. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you, hon member. Though we are dealing with a report now, not a Vote ...

AN HON MEMBER: It's a report. It's not a Vote.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): ... but we take your declaration. The FF Plus? ... [Interjections.] ... Hon Khumalo on the virtual platform, you are disturbing the proceedings. Can you please mute? Thank you. Hon Wessels, please switch on.

Mr W W WESSELS: I apologise. Hon House Chairperson, the removal of a President in terms of section 89, where a President is placed in a state of accusation, thus impeached,

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is a radical situation. It's not something in the normal course. A President can cease to be a President if he resigns - we have had that. We have had two Presidents since 1994 that resigned. One more recently. And then a President can also be removed by a motion of no confidence that can pass with a simple majority of the House. We have had many attempts to remove that same President that resigned with motions of no confidence in the recent past. A section 89 removal requires a two-thirds majority, and that's how serious the Constitution views removal of a President through impeachment. That means that the Rules should also be beyond reproach.

The FF Plus supports these amendments, and we also call on a process that is transparent; a process that allows all sides to be heard. That the accusations be ventilated, but that the President also deserves the right to be heard in such a procedure. There are many misconceptions with regards to impeachment. There are many misconceptions out there, but we need to have this process beyond reproach and restore the trust of the public in our Parliament when we have such a radical process such as impeachment. And that is why we support these Rules. We would also support a Rule that has not been included in these amendments that calls on a fit-and-

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proper prerequisite because of the radical nature of this process. I thank you.

Ms L M NGOBENI: House Chair, section 89 inquiry represents one of the most important constitutional powers entrusted to Parliament. They exist for one reason, to ensure that no President is above accountability. ActionSA supports the strengthening of this process because South Africans have seen what happens when Parliament places political convenience ahead of constitutional duty.

Too often accountability has been delayed, diluted or frustrated when it mattered most. The lessons of Nkandla remain impossible to ignore. The fact that the Constitutional Court had to remind Parliament of its constitutional obligations should remain a source of embarrassment for this institution. It was a stark reminder that Parliament serves the Constitution first and political interests second.

South Africans must question the Speaker's decision not to oppose Parliament's attempts to interdict the work of the section 89 committee. When Parliament's constitutional authority is challenged, its leadership must be at the forefront of defending the institution and its oversight

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mandate. Anything less weakens Parliament's institutional independence and erodes public confidence in its willingness to hold the executive accountable.

It should not be lost on Parliament, therefore, that we cannot demand a higher standard from those who enforce the law than from those who make it. If integrity is a prerequisite for law enforcement, it must surely be a prerequisite for those entrusted with determining whether a President has violated the Constitution. Those entrusted with such a consequential responsibility must therefore be beyond reproach.

Integrity requirements must be clear, objective and constitutionally defensible. Therefore, the question before us is not whether we have learned from our failures, but whether we will now place accountability of our Constitution above political expediency. ActionSA will support measures that strengthen credibility, integrity and effectiveness of section 89 inquiries and ensure that no President is ever shielded from constitutional scrutiny. I thank you.

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, the ACDP has studied these amended rules and we support them, bearing in mind that to impeach a sitting President is one of the most extraordinarily weighty

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constitutional acts that this Parliament can undertake. It is a process that must transcend political factionalism and stand as a flawless, transparent pillar of justice and accountability.

This weighty duty was confirmed by the Constitutional Court when it said that accountability is one of the foundational values of our Constitution. The National Assembly bears the responsibility to ensure that the President is held accountable. It emphasised the issues are of tremendous importance. So, these rules will assist us, but it is so important to emphasise what the court said, that these are in a sense, jurisdictional facts that require an investigation and an inquiry that is adjudicative in nature, involving the application of law to facts on an objective basis and which is capable of being subjected to objective scrutiny.

In other words, determining whether any of the section 89 one grounds exist is not a democratic exercise, but predominantly an inquisitorial, factual, objective and legal exercise. The ACDP agrees with these submissions and firmly want to thank the Sub-Rules Committee and the Rules Committee for setting out these general Rules that will assist us and we look forward to engaging in embarking on the detailed rules that

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will help us with this objective legal exercise. I thank you, Chairperson.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ...

English:

As Rise Mzansi, we support the report of the Rules Committee. One will resist the temptation to respond to what hon Manyi said. I think he's yearning to be part of the committee. He can talk to the Leader of the Opposition if he wants to be in the committee. Those that are in the committee knows the work that's happening. So, we will not respond to what he just said today. So, the work is continuing, Chairperson. The work of the committee is continuing.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: House Chair, section 89 is one of Parliament's most important constitutional responsibilities. It exists because in a constitutional democracy, no one, not even the President, is above accountability and scrutiny. For too long, South Africans have watched Parliament place party

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loyalty ahead of constitutional duty and of the rights and the interests of South Africans. That has damaged public trust in this institution.

As Bosa, we therefore support strengthening the section 89 process, because accountability should never depend on who occupies the Union Buildings or which party commands a majority in the House. We've long argued that parliament must never become a shield for the executive and that it must remain the independent guardian of the Constitution. At the same time, accountability must always be exercised fairly. An impeachment process must be credible, transparent and rooted in due process. If it is seen as politically motivated, it does lose legitimacy. If it's impossible to use, it loses purpose.

The question before us then is quite simple. It's whether these rules will strengthen Parliament's ability to hold a president accountable while protecting the integrity of the process? This sets a precedence, as Bosa we believe they should, because our democracy is strongest when our institutions are stronger than the individuals who lead them. Thank you, Chairperson.

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Mr V ZUNGULA: Chairperson, the ATM approaches this debate from a unique position. Together with the EFF, we approached the Constitutional Court to challenge the constitutionality of Rule 129(I) and the unlawful process that followed the consideration of the independent panel report.

It is, therefore, significant that the Rules Committee has endorsed two principles that form the cornerstone of our case. Firstly, the committee correctly concluded that the proposed amendments should operate retrospectively. This accords with the rule of law, legal certainty and fairness. The current inquiry must proceed under the framework established by the Constitutional Court and cannot be altered midway through the process by subsequent amendments.

Secondly, the committee has adopted a sensible interpretation of Rule 129(a)(1)(c) concerning the conduct performed by the President in person. The committee has recognised that a President cannot escape accountability simply because unlawful conduct is executed through another person.

Where a President instructs, authorises or directs conduct that amounts to a serious violation of the constitutional law, the responsibility still remains with the President. On the

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unresolved proposal that members of the impeachment committee must be fit and proper, we note that the Rules Committee has once again referred the matter back for further consideration.

The ATM rejects a vague qualification based on inert jurisprudence in contrast with the provisions of the Constitution in both section 19 and 47. That inquiry must now proceed with urgency and the seriousness that the Constitution demands. We note the report as the ATM but we are disappointed in the Speaker for not defending Parliament. Thank you.

Sesotho:

... kgotso, Maafrica.

English:

Chairperson, the UAT rejects any attempt to distort the section 89 impeachment process through vague, selective and political convenient rules.

The issue before the House is not that the Parliament should adopt procedural rules for section 89 inquiry. The real issue is whether Parliament is an institutional accountability or whether its intent, once again, to protect the President through procedural manipulations. The UAT rejects the proposal

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for so-called fit and proper requirement for member serving in section 89 inquiry. That proposal is irrational, unnecessary and constitutionally suspicious.

The UAT must also state that the handling of this process has reinforced the public perception that the Speaker of Parliament has chosen her political party over the Constitution. The Office of the Speaker is not an ANC office or a GNU and it is not a shield for the President. It is a constitutional office.

It must protect the integrity of Parliament and ensure that oversight mechanisms are not manipulated to serve executive power. The Constitutional Court has already found that Parliament acted irrationally and unlawfully when it failed to deal properly with section 89 process arising from Phala Phala matter.

Instead of correcting that failure with clean, objective and constitutional compliance rules, the GNU now wants to insert vague standards that can be weaponised against opposition members and used to sanitise an impeachment process before it even begun.

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Xitsonga:

Khanimambo!

Adv G BREYTENBACH: Hon Chair, ours is an emerging democracy.

Much of our legislation, legal precedence and parliamentary procedures have not yet been tested and retested as in all the democracies. It follows that from time to time our laws and rules are tested by the court and that some do not survive. This is how our legal system develops and improves.

In the instance of the Constitutional Court's judgment on 8 May, it was again a Rule of the National Assembly that did not survive the court's scrutiny. This judgment was especially seismic as it saw the judiciary instruct the legislature in how it should deal with the President, a matter that pitted all three arms of the state against each other. This is no trivial matter.

The court's remedy was serious, and the rule of law requires that we follow it to a T. One of the court's instructions was that the National Assembly Rules be amended to bring them in line with the judgment. This was not a simple task, and I

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would like to commend the parliamentary legal services for its expertise and assistance to the committee in its work.

Hon members, this report reflects the Rules Committee's work accurately in compliance with the court's ruling. The report clearly sets out the process that the committee followed in amending the Rules. The amendments are fair, certain and in line with the Constitution. Members had ample opportunity to engage and debate.

The DA proposal on the inclusion of a fit and proper requirement for members to serve on an Impeachment Committee was rejected. An impeachment investigation is a serious matter and therefore requires equally serious consideration on who ought to participate in it.

This consideration necessitates a higher standard for members who serve on the committee as we are entrusted by the citizens of South Africa to serve them with integrity and uncompromised ethical principles.

The principle of fit and proper has been thoroughly thrashed out in the courts and contrary to the hon Mkhali's view, the meaning in law is in fact quite clear. Impeachment is a

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serious business and the individual serving on such a committee should meet a higher requirement of integrity and ethics. It is unfortunate that this requirement was not included, also for future such committees.

The process of removing a President undoubtedly draws extensive media attention and elicits strong opinions from politicians. Irrespective of what side of the argument you stand, we must at all times respect the Rules of this House, the laws of our country and the judgments of our court.

Respecting the rule of law also means that where a President is found to have broken the law, he should be held accountable for the contraventions. We trust that the Rules contained in this report will empower the Impeachment Committee to conduct a thorough investigation into the events that transpired. We hope that its work will shed light on the matter as many questions remain unanswered at present.

The Impeachment Committee must conduct its work timeously, transparently and in line with these Rules. The committee must continue with its work and only halt or delay its processes if instructed to do so by a court. Our country is gripped by

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crime and violence. Millions of South Africans are frustrated and losing trust in democracy.

South Africans do need to see Parliament doing its job effectively. We need to see fearless investigation by the Impeachment Committee and more importantly we need to see the law and the Rules applied equally to all because accountability starts at the top. The DA supports the adoption of the report.

I thank you.

Ms L S MAKHUBELA: House Chairperson, the ANC views the recent Constitutional Court judgment not as a setback but as a moment of constitutional growth and a democratic maturity. It is through such moments that our constitutional democracy is strengthened and the vision for a united democratic and accountable South Africa is envisaged in the Freedom Charter of 1955 is progressively realised.

The ANC has always respected the authority of our courts and the binding nature of their judgments. Every judgment of our court contributes to the ongoing development of our constitutional jurisprudence and democratic institutions.

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The ANC stands firm behind this constitutional path and will continue to do so. It is important that we communicate clearly to the people of South Africa what the Constitutional Court did and equally what it did not do.

The court did not find the President guilty of any misconduct. It did not direct that the President must be removed from office nor did it endorse the findings of the Independent Panel established in terms of section 89. As articulated by the Justice Majiedt in the third of the three judgments, the matter before the court concerned the procedural conduct of the National Assembly and the constitutional validity of the Rules under which it acted.

The judgment was not a determinant on the substantive merits of the allegations themselves. The court declared that Rule 129I of the National Assembly Rules constitutionally invalid and consequently set aside the resolution adopted by the National Assembly on 13 December 2022.

To avoid a regulatory vacuum, the court read interim provisions pending the adoption of the permanent amendments by Parliament. Furthermore, the court declared that the Independent Panel report be referred to the Impeachment

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Committee for consideration in accordance with the constitutionality compliant procedures.

In response to this judgment, the subcommittee on the review of the Rules of the National Assembly undertook the necessary work to drafting the amendments of Rule 129I and related provisions to ensure compliance with the Constitutional Court order.

These amendments were ... [Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon member, can you please take your seat. Hon Manyi, what is the point of order?

Mr M MANYI: House Chair, I am rising on Rule 92, just to check if the member on the podium can take a question of why the President is stopping the impeachment?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Manyi, don't ask the question. You must ask if the member is willing to take the question. Are you willing to take the question?

Ms L S MAKHUBELA: No, hon House Chair, I'm not willing to take a question because the hon Manyi sits in the Rules and we are

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discussing the Rules which need to be adopted by the House this afternoon. You had an opportunity to debate before this podium in this House.

Hon members, the ANC supports these amendments as a necessary and responsible response to the constitutional judgment. These Rules of Parliament are not merely administrative instruments. They are fundamental mechanisms through which Parliament gives practical effect to the constitutional principles of accountability, fairness, transparency, and the due processes.

The report before this Parliament's committee responds to the Rules as directed by the Constitutional Courts. We wish to acknowledge the leadership of the speaker, and the diligent work of both the subcommittee on Rules and the Rules Committee in ensuring that this matter received the urgency and the attention it required by the Constitutional Court.

The ANC further supports in principle the objectives of maintaining the highest standards of integrity, credibility, and the composition of the section 89 structures. In this regard, we support the continual consideration of the fit and proper requirements for members serving in this Impeachment Committee.

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However, we are equally mindful that any such criteria must be carefully crafted in line with the Constitution. The ANC remains firmly committed to the principle of justice, jurisprudence, fairness, and constitutional accountability.

We note that the Rules have further referred detailed procedural provisions to the Impeachment Committee, which will assist the development of its terms of reference and guide its work in a manner consistent with the constitutional requirements.

Importantly, hon members, the Constitutional Court has reaffirmed the rights of all persons, including the President and other interested parties to approach the courts for appropriate relief. The ANC therefore fully supports this right for the President like any other South African.

Hon members, the report before us presented to Parliament is a commitment to constitutional compliance, institutional integrity, and strengthening of constitutional accountability.

Hon members, the ANC therefore supports the adoption of the Fifth Report of the National Assembly Rules Committee.

We thank you.

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The CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: House
Chairperson, I move that the report be adopted.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH
AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ON SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR
FILLING OF VACANCIES IN COMMISSION FOR GENDER EQUALITY**

Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: Bless you! Chairperson, hon members,
South Africans at large, good evening to you all. I rise this
evening to present to this House the report of the Portfolio
Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities on the
filling of vacancies for the Commission for Gender Equality,
CGE. On 31 July 2025, the Constitutional Court in *Corruption
Watch v Speaker of the National Assembly and Others* held that
Parliament had failed in its constitutional obligation to
facilitate reasonable public involvement in recommending
persons for appointment to the Commission for Gender Equality.
The court declared the appointment of five commissioners with

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effect from 1 March 2023 as invalid but suspended the declaration of invalidity for 12 months to enable the Speaker to conduct an appointment process and for the President to make the appointments.

In compliance with the Constitutional Court judgment, the portfolio committee undertook this very important task. The committee met on 21 October 2025 and received legal briefings regarding the judgment. On the day, the committee formulated and adopted a programme, advertisement, and an online application form. On 10 April 2026, the committee developed and adopted a shortlisting criterion, which was formally adopted, and we also started the shortlisting process. From a total of 111 applicants and nominations, the committee unanimously agreed on 14 candidates to be interviewed. The committee was satisfied that the shortlisting process was fair and just. A shortlist of candidates and their redacted curricula vitae were published on Parliament's website from 13 April to 26 May 2026, a period that equated to 30 working days.

To ensure further transparency and public involvement, and mindful of the public interest on gender equality issues, the committee provided a platform for civil society and the public

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to comment on all our candidates. The committee received an overwhelming response. A total of 249 comments were received. The committee conducted interviews of the fourteen shortlisted candidates between 3 and 5 June 2026. The committee ensured that the interview process was open and transparent. Parliament's Human Resources verified candidates' qualifications, and the State Security Agency undertook the required screening processes. The committee convened to deliberate on 9 and 19 June 2026. And having considered all the interviews, the supporting documentation, the verification, security screening, and having considered the National Assembly's request that the committee nominate and recommend candidates for appointment as commissioners for the CGE, the committee unanimously recommended the following candidates, and they are in order of rank and preference; Ms Leonashia Leigh-Ann van der Merwe, Ms Sixolile Delight Ngcobo, Ms Chriscentia Caroline Blouws, Prof Corné Davis-Buitendag, Ms Mamohapi Claurina Diseko, Advocate Thando Gumede, Mr Alfred Ofentse Macheke, Advocate Nthabiseng Sepanya Mogale and Mr Xolisa Yekani.

Moreover, the committee recommended Ms Leonashia Leigh-Ann van der Merwe to be considered for the position of chairperson. However, the committee also noted the ANC's objection to this

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proposal, asserting that it should be left to the President of the Republic to make this determination. Finally, the committee noted the leadership and governance challenges within the institution, and to this end, the committee will engage the Speaker on how to formally proceed with an investigation into these matters, the outcome of which should strengthen the institution. My gratitude goes to the hon members of the portfolio committee for their dedication and long hours to fulfil the committee's mandate. The committee also thanks all candidates for their willingness to serve our nation. I also wish to, on behalf of the committee, express our deep gratitude to our support staff, parliamentary legal services, and the Office of the Institution Supporting Democracy, whose contributions ensured the committee's work was a success. I hereby table this report to this House for your consideration and support. I thank you.

Declaration(s) of vote:

IsiZulu:

Nk G MCHUNU: Sihlalo ohloniphekile, muzi wonke waseNingizimu Afrika, iqembu le-MK Party liyaweseka lo mbiko kanye nenqubo elandelwe yikomiti ekuhloleni nasekukhetheni abantu abafanele ukuqokelwa kwiKhomishana yokuLingana ngoBulili. Kuyiqiniso, Sihlalo, asikubeke kucace ukuthi abantu baseNingizimu Afrika,

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ikakhulukazi abesifazane, abasemakhaya, ezindaweni ezingathuthukile nasemalokishini abanandaba nalama gama aqokiwe. Abakufunayo nje kukodwa, ukubona ushintsho, impilo zabo ziguquka ziba ngcono, futhi bafuna ukubona amalungelo abo evikelwa, ubulungiswa benzeka.

Lapha eNingizimu Afrika, abesifazane basaqhubeka nokubhekana nodlame olubhekiswe kubo ngenxa yobulili babo, ukuhlukunyezwa, ukucwaswa, ukungasebenzi, ukungalingani emaholweni, ukweswela kanye nokungafinyeleli emathubeni omnotho. Njengeqembu le-MK Party sifuna iKhomishana yokuLingana ngoBulili isebenze ngokuzikhandla nokuzinikela okukhulu nesibindi futhi ikhiqize imiphumela ebonakalayo. Abantu baseNingizimu Afrika bafanelwe yikhomishana ebonakalayo emiphakathini yabo isebenza. Sifuna ukubona izinhlelo eziningi ezifinyelela le emakhaya. Sifuna ungenelelo olunamandla emacaleni okucwaswa kanye nodlame olubhekiswa kwabesifazane. Ikhomishana kumele ibe izwi lalabo abangakwazi ukuzikhulumela ngosizi ababhekene nalo. Ikhomishana kumele ikwazi ukuvikela isithunzi sowesifazane okubazekile, owesifazane osekhumile kanye namantombazanyana amalungelo awo aphulwa zonke izinsuku.

Kumele bame, baqine, balwe nemikhuba efihlwa ngaphansi kwegama lesiko kube kuphulwa amalungelo abantu. Ukuthwalwa kwezingane,

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ukuziganisa ngenkani kanye nokudlwengulwa amakhehla nje akusilo isiko lelo. Kuwubugebengu obukhulu futhi icala elikhulu elibomvu. Sihlalo, isimilo nesithunzi somphakathi sibonakala ngendlela ophatha ngayo abesifazane nezingane. Isizwe esihlonipha omama baso siyachuma. Kanti esibavumela ukuba baphile ngaphansi kokwesaba nokuhlukunyezwa, siyazilimaza sona nekusasa laso.

Ayikho inkululeko ephelele uma abesifazane besahlala ngaphansi kwengcindezi. Akukho ntuthuko yangempela uma izingane zamantombazane zisaphucwa amathuba azo ngenxa yobumpofu, ukwesaba noma amasiko ayingozi. Abesifazane baseNingizimu Afrika sebelinde ubulungiswa esikhathi eside kakhulu njengamanje. Iqembu le-MK Party lithi, selifuna ukwakha iNingizimu Afrika lapho wonke umuntu wesifazane ekwazi ukuhamba ngokukhululeka, asebenze ngokulingana, aphile ngesithunzi futhi avikelwe umthetho. Lokho kuyoba yifa elihle esingalishiyela izizukulwane nezikulwane ezizayo. Votela iqembu le-MK Party ngomhlaka-4 November, uzoyisholo wena. I-MK Party iza mawala, ugalelekile, [uthelekile] uzovinjwa ulwandle kuphela. Phakama Mkhonto weSizwe, phakama! [Ubuwelewele.]

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Hhayi, suka! Niphakama niyaphi? Akukho kwalapho eniphakamela ukuya khona!

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Ms L F TITO: Hon House Chair, South Africa does not suffer from a shortage of commissions; South Africa suffers from a shortage of consequences. Every year we receive reports; we receive statistics, and we hear commitments. Yet women continue to disappear, be abused, earn less and continue to bear the burden of poverty and unpaid care work. For millions of women, especially working class and rural women, equality remains a constitutional promise that has not yet become a liberty reality.

Far too often, the state responds with statements instead of action. The EFF supports the adoption of this report and the recommendations arising from the process undertaken by the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. This House should not forget why this process became necessary. We are here because the Constitutional Court found that Parliament has failed to properly facilitate public participation in the appointment of commissioners.

That finding should remind us how that constitutional obligations are not optional and that public participation cannot be reduced to a box speaking exercise. When Parliament fails to listen to the people, it weakens the very democratic institution it is constitutionally mandated to protect. The

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committee responded appropriately to that judgement by conducting a transparent and credible process, public comments were considered, candidates were interviewed openly and members, deliberately before arriving at these recommendations.

The question before us is, whether the committee conducted a fair process, and whether the recommendations emerged from a credible assessment of candidates? The EFF believes that it did. The Commission for Gender is not merely another state institution; it is a Chapter 9 institution established to strengthen constitutional democracy and advance the struggle for gender equality in South Africa, and rights that cannot be defendant in practice before promises that exist only in legislation.

For that reason, its independency, credibility, and effectiveness are matters of constitutional importance. The Commission cannot be weakened by political interference, factional considerations or attempts to convert it into an into an extension of party political interest. The EFF has consistently opposed appointments based on political loyalty rather than competence, because the South Africans have

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witnessed the damage such practices inflicted on public institutions.

Real empowerment requires more than commitments; it requires institution capability of defending and holding power accountable. The EFF, therefore, will support the submission of the report. Thank you, House Chairperson. [Time expired.]

Ms B E MACHI: House Chairperson, the Commission for Gender Equality is one of the institutions trusted with safeguarding our constitutional democracy. We wish to place on record, our appreciation for the exemplary leadership displayed by the chairperson of the portfolio committee, hon Liezl Van Der Merwe. Under her leadership, a process that could easily have been overshadowed by external controversies and internal tensions, was conducted in a manner that was independent, transparent, credible and beyond reproach.

We noted with concern the regrettable and unwarranted personal attacks directed at the chairperson by one of the recommended candidates. Such conduct undermines not only the dignity of members, but the integrity of Parliament itself. We commend hon Van Der Merwe and the members of the committee for refusing to allow these matters to compromise the integrity of

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the process. Importantly, the committee recommended candidates in a clear order of rank and preference.

We therefore urge the President to appoint the top five ranked candidates as recommended. We support the recommendations made by the committee, aimed at strengthening discipline and accountability within the commission itself. Chapter 9 institutions must remain independent, but independence must always be accompanied by professionalism, ethical respect, and democratic institution. The IFP support the report. I thank you.

Ms S M PETERS: Hon Chair, on behalf of the PA, I rise in support of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities on the recommendations of the Commission on Gender Equality, CGE. The CGE plays a critical role in advancing gender equality, protecting the rights of women and ensuring that our democracy delivers for all, especially those who remain vulnerable and marginalised.

This report is important because it does not simply reflect the findings; it calls for action, it highlights gaps in policy implementation, persistent inequalities, and the urgent need for departments to take gender transformation seriously,

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not just in words, but in measurable outcomes. For the PA, equality must be felt in communities, not just written in reports. Women continue to face gender-based violence, GBV, economic exclusion and limited access to opportunities.

Young people and persons with disabilities also remain on the margins of our economy and society. These are realities we cannot ignore. We therefore welcome the committee's emphasis on stronger accountability, better co-ordination across government and the implementation of CGE recommendations. Government departments must not treat these recommendations as optional; they must be acted upon with urgency and commitment.

At the same time, hon members, we must ensure that the institutions like the CGE are properly supported and resourced to fulfil their mandate effectively. Without capacity, even the best recommendations will fail to translate into real change. The PA believes that empowering women, youth, and persons with disabilities is not only a constitutional obligation, but also an essential for economic growth and social stability.

When these groups succeed, the country succeeds. We will support this report because it pushes government to do better,

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act faster and to deliver real change where it matters, on the ground, in our communities. I thank you.

Mr W W WESSELS: Hon House Chairperson, we support the report. No declaration.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: House Chair, I would just like to remind the House that 70 years ago, women rejected negative equality when the government of the day wanted them to carry passes like their husbands. So, the fact that we want things equal, we must be mindful about whether it is a positive aspect of equality. What this commission needs to understand is that gender equality is not about at the expense of any gender; it is to ensure that there is equality between men and women. Not to neglect the need for reorientation and re-education of young men, so that they should treat women as equals.

So, we need to ensure that the work is done both ways, and it has not just done one way. This is the most important commission we have, but it is underfunded. So, I just want to remind us, as members, that the Constitution says, the Chapter 9 institutions are independent and subject only to the Constitution and the law, and they must be impartial and must

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exercise their powers and perform their functions without fear, favour, or prejudice.

One of the ways we are disabling them, is by not funding them properly; and one of the ways we are disabling them, is for them coming to us for funds, when we are an arm of the state. They should be able to go directly to Treasury to ask for the resources that they need, so that they can be independent. They can be subjected to a ministry to do their function, and I think, it is up to us to understand our Constitution properly.

These institutions account and report to the National Assembly, but they do not work for us. They must be independent and properly resourced. We support it. It is woefully inadequate, and it needs to be expanded. Thank you, House Chairperson.

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu...

English:

RISEMZANZI rises to support the work of the committee and commend them in the choice of the individuals to serve in this

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commission. We hope that the president will not delay in the same way that the other National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, NCGBVF, still has not been appointed. So we hope on this particular one, you will act with the necessary speed to ensure that the work of the committee can be fulfilled and that the individuals are appointed without delay, but we support this report.

Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

Ms T A KHANYILE: House Chair, hon members, before we proceed with these appointments, it is very important that we reiterate why the process is before us in the first place. The Constitutional Court judgment did not arise in a vacuum. The matter originated from 2022-23 process undertaken by this portfolio in six parliament to fill vacancies on the Commission for Gender Equality, CGE. Following interviews and recommendations by Parliament, the President announced appointment of five commissioners on 25 February with effect from 1 March. Thereafter, Corruption Watch approached the Constitutional Court under section 167, subsection 4(e), arguing that Parliament had failed to fulfill its

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constitutional obligation to facilitate meaningful participation in the appointment process.

Corruption Watch challenge was based on three concerns: the public was not provided with sufficient information about shortlisted candidates, the CVs were not made available and public comments were restricted by character limits and that public was afforded only a short period within which to make submissions. In August 2025, the Constitutional Court unanimously ruled in favour of the Corruption Watch and found that Parliament had failed to facilitate reasonable public involvement as required by the Constitution. The significance of this judgment extends far beyond the Commission for Gender Equality.

It is a reminder that constitutional institutions belong to the people of South Africa, not to political parties. The DA has long argued that public appointments must be based on merit, competence, experience, and integrity. This principle was reinforced by the courts in the DA's successful challenge against the ANC's cadre deployment practices, culminating in a Constitutional Court victory in July 2024.

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That judgment affirmed that party political deployment committees have no place in determining appointments within a professional public administration. South Africa's history provides ample evidence of what happens when merit is abandoned. Many state-owned enterprises and public institutions have been brought to the brink of collapse because individuals were appointed primarily on the basis of political affiliation rather than their ability to lead. The consequences have been devastating, and that is poor governance, financial mismanagement, weakened oversight, and decline in public trust.

As members of this portfolio committee, we have experienced firsthand the challenges associated with this process. We have went from advertising for vacancies, considering nominations, shortlisting candidates, and conducting interviews. We had to ensure that every state withstands constitutional scrutiny. We have had to balance transparency, public participation, and fairness, while ensuring that only the most suitable candidates advance. The DA's approach is informed by our record in the Western Cape, where professional public administration, clean governance, and accountability remain central principles. While challenges exist everywhere, the Western Cape consistently demonstrate that institutions

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perform better when appointments are based on competence rather than political connections.

There is much that South Africa can learn from where the DA governs. I therefore wish to place on record that the DA will continue to oppose cadre deployment in all its forms. Any attempt by the ANC or any other political party to use this committee as a vehicle to advance politically connected candidates will be resisted.

This committee must never be a rubberstamp for party interest. The Commission for Gender Equality deserves commissioners who are independent, qualified, experienced, committed to advancing rights of women, youth, and persons with disabilities. South Africans deserve institutions led by the best people for the job, not the best connected people in a political party. Merit must prevail over political patronage. That is the standard the Constitution demands, and that is the standard that the DA will continue to defend. The DA supports this report. I thank you.

Mrs T M CHAUKE-ADONIS: Chairperson, and greetings, hon members and fellow South Africans. As I stand before you, we must indicate that as the ANC, we outright support this report. We

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would like to start off by appreciating the dedication that has been put by hon members in the portfolio committee, but also by the individuals who availed themselves to serve in the Commission on Gender Equality, and those that have been subsequently recommended to the President to be appointed as potential candidates to serve South Africans. We must also have an appreciation that in this institution of CGE, it plays a vital and instrumental role in addressing issues of inequality and gender disparities that persist and continue to exist in our country and globally as well. We must understand that this institution plays a significant role in ensuring that there is equity, equal access, accountability, but also we must ensure that gender justice is applied.

With this, we have picked up that there are legislations and processes that we undertake within the National Assembly and in our legislative and policy processes. But yet, the implementation might be delayed. They delay for us to ensure the empowerment of women, youth, persons with disabilities, the most vulnerable, and those who are non-gender confining, seeks to undermine our democracy.

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We appreciate this institution which aligns itself with the Constitution and the National Democratic Revolution, NDR, of the ANC that speaks to a nonracial, nonsexist, and nondiscriminatory South Africa. And therefore, it is an instrument and an engine in which it must be able to achieve this and support the work and the engine of government, but also civil society and South African citizens. We must also indicate that it is equally important for us to highlight that this institution is severely underfunded.

Therefore, we would speak to National Treasury, would speak to Appropriations Committee to see what can be done, along with the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities and the Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities to ensure that Chapter 9 institutions are adequately resourced, capacitated, and funded so that they're able to ensure the successful implementation of the constitutional mandate. I must indicate that we must say that as the ANC, when we were shortlisting and we were recommending, we were very clear and not clouded. We were clear that these processes must be fair and they must be merit-based.

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We received various and several complaints on various commissioners. As the ANC, we understood that undertaking this process, coming from a constitutional judgment, we must ensure that we follow all due diligence and ensure that we do not face any future litigations. I must say that the portfolio committee has done so.

We indicated that all the complaints, all the allegations and whistleblowers reports that have been received must be deferred for the portfolio committee to interrogate, look into, and get a recommendation report that gives the results and outcomes of those complaints that have been brought forward to us in order for us to lead a fair and just process. Additionally, with these candidates, it seeks to show a broader representation of South Africans and their diversity, looking at young women, African, coloured - I would say Caucasian, those from the LGBTQIA+ plus community and persons with disabilities. This speaks to what our Constitution and our democracy stands for. A broad selection of nine candidates for the President to look into and consider that are willing and ready and competent enough to serve this South Africa.

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We must also indicate that as the ANC, we do clearly reject the motion that says that we must be the ones to indicate who the President must appoint as the chairperson, as this is the role and responsibility and the prerogative of the President, and that should not be undermined by anyone and any institution. Therefore, we hope that all the commissioners that will be appointed are ready to serve South Africans, are ready to address issues of gender-based violence and femicide, inequality, gender disparities that exist and seek to drive this machinery of CGE to where it needs to be, guiding policy processes and acting as a watchdog to ensure that governments, civil society, private sector and South Africans are protected. But also there is accountability.

Fellow South Africans, as we stand before you, we know that we will be entering into the Jubilee month of Women's Month soon. This is significant because this directly speaks to what we speak about on gender equality, but also having an appreciation that gender equality does not only speak and define itself as equality for women on their own. It speaks about a young boy, a young girl. It speaks about male and females who are disadvantaged and excluded. It speaks about South Africans and their diversity. It speaks about those who are nongender conforming. It speaks about persons with

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disabilities. And therefore, this vehicle must uphold its constitutional mandate. I say to you ...

Sepedi:

... re a leboga.

English:

Therefore, as the ANC, we support this report.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I now put the question. The question before the House is that the following candidates be recommended for appointment as commissioners on the Commission on Gender Equality: Ms Leonashia Leigh-Ann van der Merwe, Ms Sixolile Delight Ngcobo, Ms Chriscentia Caroline Blouws, Prof Corne Davis-Buitendag, Mamohapi Claurina Diseko, Adv Thando Gumede, Mr Alfred Ofentse Macheke, Adv Nthabiseng Sepanya Mogale and Mr Xolisa Yekani.

Are there any objections to the recommendation? I do not see any objections. Hon members, in terms of section 1935 of the Constitution, persons recommended for appointment as commissioners must be approved by the majority of the members of the Assembly. Although a division has not been demanded,

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members are required to record their support for the recommendation.

The bells will now be rung for five minutes. If you know of any members who would like to speak, please do so at this time. Hon members, we will now proceed. As determined by the Speaker, in accordance with the Rules, a manual voting procedure will be used for this division. I will request the Table to confirm that we have the requisite number of members physically present in the Chamber, that is, in the Chamber and on the virtual platform. Hon members, having confirmed that we do indeed have the requisite quorum, we will now proceed.

The question before the House is that Ms Leonashia Leigh-Ann van der Merwe, Ms Sixolile Delight Ngcobo, Ms Chriscentia Caroline Blouws, Prof Corne Davis-Buitendag, Mamohapi Claurina Diseko, Adv Thando Gumede, Mr Alfred Ofentse Macheke, Adv Nthabiseng Sepanya Mogale and Mr Xolisa Yekani be recommended for appointment as commissioners on the Commission for Gender Equality. Voting will now commence. The doors to the Chamber will be locked and members will not be allowed to enter onto the virtual platform.

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I am now going to request WIPs to indicate the number of their members present in the Chamber and on the virtual platform and indicate if they vote for or against the question.

Agreed to.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON ELECTRICITY
AND ENERGY ON REQUEST BY MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INITIATES A PROCESS TO FILL TWO
VACANCIES ON BOARD OF NATIONAL NUCLEAR REGULATOR**

Ms Z KHANYASE: I extend greetings to the hon Deputy Speaker, fellow hon members, and the people of South Africa. On 15 December 2025, the Speaker referred a letter from the Minister of Electricity and Energy dated 12 December 2025 to the Portfolio Committee on Electricity and Energy. The Minister requested that the National Assembly initiates a process to fill two vacancies on the Board of the National Nuclear Regulator in terms of the National Nuclear Regulator Act 47 of 1999.

The committee received 120 applications from potential candidates, 103 applications for the organised labour position and 17 applications for the community representative.

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According to Chapter 2, section 8(7)(b) of the National Nuclear Regulator Act 47 of 1999, the committee is responsible for compiling a short list of not more than 20 candidates from persons nominated to serve on the National Nuclear Regulator NNR, Board.

After the committee agreed to a selection criterion and applied that criteria to the 120 candidates, the committee identified four candidates for the community representative and 22 candidates for the organised labour representative. The candidates were then publicised to source public comments for one month to allow participation of South African citizens in the process and ensure a transparent process.

After two candidates withdrew from the process, 24 candidates were then interviewed by the committee over three days from 9-11 June 2026. On 11 June 2026, the committee considered the interview scores and commenced its deliberations to seek consensus on the candidates to be recommended to the Minister's consideration. The committee agreed to set a threshold score of 75% for forwarding to the Minister.

The candidates agreed to by the committee for forwarding to the Minister are as follows: For the community representative,

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Mr Ernest Tladi, and Dr Mosebetsi Leotlela. For the organised labour representatives, the following eight candidates will be forwarded to the Minister. These are Dr Pulane Elsie Molokwane, Dr Margaret Mkhosi-Motsaathebe, Mr David Lefutso, Dr Nomcebo Serrah Mhlanga, Mr Grant Son, Ms Zandile Matshaya, Mr Mudanalwo Freddy Ndou, Mr Lean Mayana Makhubele.

The committee further recommends that the Minister of Electricity and Energy ensure that these candidates, prior to appointment, undergo security vetting by the State Security Agency, confirm and verify candidates' qualifications, and ensure that there is no conflict of interest.

We appreciate the endurance of committee members who toiled long hours to ensure the success of this process. We further recognise the parliamentary support staff, particularly for the Portfolio Committee on Electricity and Energy, and the Parliamentary Legal Services for their counsel throughout. We appreciate all applicants and the individuals who underwent the rigorous interview process, displaying preparedness and eagerness to serve. I table this report before you, hon members, for your consideration. I thank you.

Declarations of Vote:

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Mr M S MBATHA: Good evening, members and colleagues. I think this is one of the most successful processes I have observed. This is what happens when you clean your house, when you tell South Africans they deserve an opportunity. They come forth, they march, they show their qualifications, and they show trust. They don't give you misgivings in the documents.

We were very happy that the total number of participants was encouraging. We were very happy that the labour movements participated, including the community movements that participated. This is what happens when you take away the dominance of political escapes, always wanting to get your own. Sometimes South Africans deserve to be trusted. They came with their qualifications. They showcased whatever that was necessary.

Nuclear is a very difficult field. Still, there are very few black people participating, whether as lecturers, artisans or as engineers. It is courageous to receive awareness that South Africans still have an interest of an equivalent of 103 people representing labour and 17 representing community structures. For the committee, colleagues, I think you did a sterling work. I think as MK Party, we could not fault this process by second-guessing it because we saw South Africans coming

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forth, showcasing, vividly saying, we have qualifications in this field or we don't, but we know how it works, we can help.

What we can say is the following, those that are recommended, I have a warning for them. Nuclear is consistently a contested terrain. Please don't go in there and start taking documents you don't know. Deal with the order of the mandate. Remove your mind from interest groups. Remove yourself from wanting to have money and a quick buck. Do what you think you are supposed to do as required by law and requested by the mandate.

I'm warning you, if you allow self-interest and specific international interest to come in and venture on derailing the South African journey to nuclear and nuclear and prosperity for our citizens, we will have to deal with you.

As the MK Party, we will even recommend to the Minister not to delay the process but privately to say, every second year of their existence, the State Security Agency must vet them again, because if you leave nuclear people unattended, so much happens in two years. Look at the police, brigadiers were now having R6 million. The energy for money intercepts loyalty. We

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need to make sure that these persons are ... Thank you very much. [Time expired.]

Ms H O MKHALIPI: Deputy Speaker, the National Nuclear Regulator plays a critical role in safeguarding the people of South Africa from nuclear hazards and ensuring that all nuclear activities are conducted in a manner that prioritises safety, environmental protection and public accountability.

The appointment of board members to such an institution cannot be treated as a routine administrative exercise. It is a matter of national importance. The individuals appointed will oversee a regulator entrusted with protecting workers, communities, future generations and the environment from the potential catastrophe, consequences of regulatory failure.

South Africa possesses a unique nuclear legacy on African continent. Through facilities such as Koeberg Nuclear Power Station and the country's broader nuclear capabilities, we have developed expertise that remains strategically important. The success of any nuclear programme depends not merely on technology, but on the strength, independence and competence of the regulator tasked with oversight.

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The EFF supports the filling of vacancies on the board. Our support is conditionally upon a transparent, merit-based and transformation-driven process. Appointments must be based on demonstrated expertise and integrity. Madam Deputy Speaker, the National Nuclear Regulator cannot become a site for political deployment or patronage. South Africans deserve assurance that board members possess the necessary qualifications, experience and ethical standing to execute their responsibilities independently and effectively. The process must advance meaningfully in transformation.

The nuclear sector remains one of the most technically specialised fields in our economy. Historically, disadvantaged South Africans continue to be underrepresented in many areas of advanced science, engineering and nuclear technology. The board must reflect the demographics of our country and contribute towards transforming this strategic sector. We must ensure that the regulator remains independent from undue political or commercial influence. A regulator that becomes captive to the entities to be a regulator becomes a rubber stamper.

Public confidence in nuclear safety depends on institutional independence and robust oversight. The board should possess a

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broad range of expertise. Beyond nuclear science and engineering, there is a need for skills, environment management, public health, governance, risk management, finance, law and community engagement. Nuclear regulations affect communities and ecosystems, not merely power stations and technical facilities. South Africa continues to face severe energy challenges.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired. Thank you.

Ms H O MKHALIPI: So, we support, Madam Deputy Speaker

Mr A K NGOBESE: Deputy Speaker, the IFP notes the report of the Portfolio Committee on Electricity and Energy regarding the process to fill the two vacancies on the board of the National Nuclear Regulator.

We have constantly supported a diversified energy mix, including nuclear power, as part of the solution to our country's energy crisis, hence our interest in ensuring that the vacancies on the board of the National Nuclear Regulator are filled.

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It is also a matter of public confidence that the highest standards are maintained in filling these positions. A credible, independent regulator is essential to ensure accountability in the nuclear sector. We acknowledge the efforts of the Portfolio Committee on Electricity and Energy in compiling the shortlist and support its recommendation that vetting be conducted prior to the appointments.

The IFP supports the report and calls for implementation of its recommendation to ensure that these vacancies are filled. This will help strengthen the oversight of the nuclear sector and support South Africa's pursuit of long-term energy security. I thank you.

Ms J A BASSON: Deputy Speaker, fellows Members of Parliament, and people of South Africa ...

Afrikaans:

... vandag wil ons nie net twee poste op die raad van die Nasionale Kernreguleerder vul nie. Hierdie poste is 'n toets of ons as Parlement die veiligheid van ons mense bo politieke vriende kan stel.

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Die mense van Suid-Afrika is moeg vir kaderontplooing. Hulle is moeg vir onbevoegde aanstellings.

English:

Concerns were raised to the Minister on how the candidates were scored in the interview process. This raises big concerns in the final appointment.

Afrikaans:

Ons sien daaglik wat gebeur wanneer onbevoegdheid die oorhand kry. Ons sien dit by Eskom en in ons munisipaliteite waar korrupsie en wanbestuur die mense van ons land miljoene kos. Ons kan nie oor en oor dieselfde foute herhaal nie. Kernveiligheid is nie 'n plek vir vriende van politiek nie. Wanneer dit by die mense van Suid-Afrika se veiligheid kom, is daar nie plek vir foute nie.

Die PA ondersteun hierdie verslag, omdat poste gevul moet word, maar ons stuur ook 'n duidelike boodskap: Stel die beste mense aan, nie kaders nie, maar die mense wat die werk kan doen. Laat bevoegdheid wen oor vriende. Laat die mense van Suid-Afrika weet dat hul veiligheid nooit opgeoffer sal word vir politieke voordeel nie. Die veiligheid van ons mense is nie onderhandelbaar nie. Salut.

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English:

Mr A D BEESLEY: Deputy Speaker, ActionSA supports the consideration of the portfolio committee's report relating to the Minister's request for this House to initiate a process to fill two vacancies on the board of the National Nuclear Regulator.

The National Nuclear Regulator is not a ceremonial body. It is a statutory guardian of nuclear safety in South Africa, entrusted with safeguarding of the public, environment, and our broader energy system from the consequences of nuclear risks. Its credibility rests squarely on the strength, independence, and competence of its board. It is therefore essential that any appointment process to this board is beyond reproach, transparent, merit based, and insulated from political interference, particularly at a time when South Africa is increasingly engaging questions around energy security, baseload generation, and the future role of nuclear in our energy mix.

We must also be mindful that the National Nuclear Regulator carries responsibilities that extend far beyond administrative oversight. It is the institution that must ensure compliance with international safety standards, enforce rigorous

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licensing conditions, and provide assurance to both citizens and industry that nuclear operations are conducted safely and responsibly.

ActionSA therefore emphasises that the nomination and appointment process must prioritise technical expertise in nuclear science, engineering, regulatory governance, and risk management. These are not positions for patronage or political accommodation. They are positions of public trust with real-world consequences. We further urge that Parliament ensures full transparency in the selection process, including meaningful public participation where appropriate, so that the legitimacy of the final appointments is strengthened. I thank you.

Mr W M THRING: Deputy Speaker, the ACDP notes that this report adequately outlines the process undertaken to fill the vacancies for the organised labour and community representatives on the board of the National Nuclear Regulator.

The National Nuclear Regulator plays a vital role in safeguarding the public, workers, and the environment from nuclear risks. It is therefore essential that its board

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possesses the necessary expertise, integrity, and independence to discharge its responsibilities effectively.

The ACDP is satisfied that the committee followed a transparent, fair, and legislatively compliant process. The public advertisements of vacancies, the consideration of 120 applications, and the rigorous interview process demonstrated our commitment to appointing suitably qualified and representative candidates to this critical institution.

The ACDP welcomes the recommendation that all shortlisted candidates undergo security vetting, qualification verification, and conflict of interest assessments before appointments. These measures are necessary to protect the credibility of the regulator and maintain public confidence in nuclear governance. It also strengthens accountability and ensures that any appointments are made with full knowledge of potential risks.

As kingdom builders, the ACDP supports this report and trusts that the Minister will give due consideration to the committee's recommendation in making final appointments. Thank you.

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Mr K J MILEHAM: Hon Chairperson, the test of a nuclear regulator is not whether it chairs nuclear energy or nuclear power. The test is whether it is willing to say no. No, to short cuts, no to political pressure, no to cozy industry capture, no to any project, no matter how fashionable, how expensive or however loudly announced, that cannot meet the highest security standard. That is why the National Nuclear Regulator is so important. It is not a marketing department for nuclear technology. It is not a lobby group for small modular reactors. It is not a rubber stamp for Cabinet ambition. It exists to protect people, property and the environment from nuclear harm

The DA supports this report because Parliament has done its work. The committee considered the Minister's request. We advertised the vacancies and as was announced, 120 applications were received, 103 for organized labour and 17 for the community representative. Twenty four candidates were interviewed over three days and a 75% threshold was applied. The parliamentary process was fair and objective. But in nuclear regulation, a clean process must lead to cleaner appointments because confidence is built before the first decision, not after the first scandal reaches tomorrow's newspaper front page. And mere process is not enough.

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A nuclear regulator must be independent in law, independent in culture and independent in fact. When the subject is nuclear safety, the cost of getting it wrong is not a bad headline. It is contaminated land, threatened communities damaged property and public trust lost generations. So, we support the report, but we do not support blind appointment. The report itself identifies three red flags. First, Dr Margaret Msongi Mkhosi-Motsaathebe. The report records that she previously served as CEO of the National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute, where allegations relating to a toxic work environment and bullying resulted in suspension and replacement. Those matters must be properly considered by the Minister.

Secondly, Mr Grant Son's CV records consulting work with the Chinese National Nuclear Corporation. During the interview, he said this related to creating a market for small marginal reactors in South Africa and then later indicated that the work had ended. That must be verified. His claim of a doctorate must also be verified. Mr Son's references also raise eyebrows. When a candidate for the national nuclear regulator cites Johannesburg Mayor Dada Morero and Minister Parks Tau as his references, the concern is obvious. This is meant to be a safety regulator not an ANC alumni network. And

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with respect, I would not put Dada Morero down as a reference for any job.

Thirdly, the committee noted that Mr Mudanalwo Freddy Ndou had interests in businesses that supply Eskom with coal. Now, Eskom is a nuclear license holder. That raises an obvious conflict of interest question. These are not minor footnotes. They go to independence, they go to neutrality, they go to whether the regulator can act as a watchdog or whether it risks becoming a well-dressed lapdog for powerful interests.

The Minister must therefore do three things before appointment. Complete security vetting, verifying qualifications and testing conflicts of interest properly. Not casually, not administratively, properly because nuclear governance cannot be run on trust-me politics. South Africa has seen too many boards captured by loyalty, too many regulators softened by proximity and too many public institutions turned into waiting rooms for private agendas.

The National Nuclear Regulator, NNR, board must be different. If South Africa pursues nuclear, then safety must come first, before ideology, before procurement, before vanity projects and before ministerial announcements. The DA supports this

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report, but our support comes with a warning. The National Nuclear Regulator must regulate. It must be independent, it must be neutral, it must be fearless because when it comes to nuclear safety, one cannot take shortcuts. Thank you.

Ms F HASSAN: Deputy Speaker, the ANC rises to support the adoption of this report and to make it clear why it matters. South Africa's Integrated Resource Plan places nuclear energy at the centre of our long-term energy security. This is not a contingency, it is a commitment. As we expand our energy mix to meet the demands of a growing economy and the people long-denied reliable power, nuclear will form an increasingly significant part of that mix. And if nuclear is to expand, its regulation must be world class. An under capacitated, National Nuclear Regulator, NNR, board is not a bureaucratic inconvenience. It is a risk to our energy security, to our communities and to our international obligations on nuclear safety and non-proliferation. This Parliament does not govern by leaving such risks unattended.

Deputy Speaker, this report is a product of a thorough, transparent and constitutionally grounded parliamentary oversight process. Following referral from the Minister, our committee was tasked under section 8 of the National Nuclear

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Regulator Act to fill in two very specific vacancies. One, for organised labour and one for community representation. These are not ceremonial seats. These representatives are the direct voice of workers and of communities who live and work alongside our nuclear infrastructure. Their presence on the board is a legislative requirement precisely because nuclear regulation must be answerable to those who bear consequences.

The public response told its own story. Hundred and twenty applications were received, 103 for organised labour and 17 for our community representative. From those, the committee identified 26 candidates for interview and we conducted three intensive days of rigorous interviews and evaluations. We even set a merit threshold of 75% before a single name was forwarded to the Minister.

Integrity was also not just a talking point in this process, it was practice. When a potential conflict of interest arose, a candidate who simultaneously serving on the Eskom board, which in itself is a nuclear license holder. We did not look away. We sought legal opinion from the Parliament Legal Services and the candidate elected to withdraw. This is what accountability looks like in practice.

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I also want to speak plainly about something the committee fought for throughout this process and that is transformation. The nuclear sector remains one of the most untransformed sectors and spaces in our energy landscape. It has been historically dominated, historically exclusive and historically indifferent to the faces and voices of the majority of South Africans. Our committee was not indifferent at every step of the way. We fought for black candidates, for women, for younger professionals who demonstrated merit and who demonstrated it powerfully. We did not lower the bar. We insisted that the bar be applied fairly and we pushed back wherever it was not. We are proud of the shortlist that has emerged from this process.

Topping the organised labour lists are black women holding doctoral degrees in nuclear physics, in highly specialised technical fields, who are decorated professionals with distinguished careers. These are not affirmative appointments. These are the very best candidates and the fact that the best candidate for black women is not incidental. It is the result of a deliberate commitment to look beyond the old networks and find the excellence that was always there and that is the ANC way. In the interest of time, I am not going to repeat the list of candidates.

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Our oversight does not end at the interview room door. The committee has explicitly flagged three matters that the Minister must probe before any appointment is sealed. The first is the administrative and suspension history of Dr Margaret Msongi Mkhosi-Motsaathebe during her tenure at the National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute, NRWDI, and she must be fully accounted for.

The second is the past consulting relationships of Mr Grant Son with the Chinese National Nuclear Corporation that requires verification and his doctorate must also be confirmed before appointment. Third, is Mr Mudanalwo Freddy Ndou's business interest in coal supply to Eskom, primary, a nuclear license holder and that must be examined carefully for conflicts of interest implications. We did not raise these issues to disqualify. We raised them because an NNR board that is not beyond reproach is one that cannot regulate. The Minister must satisfy himself that each of those concerns are addressed before finalising their appointments.

Furthermore, we have recommended that every preferred candidate undergo security vetting by the State Security Agency, SSA, full qualification verification and a thorough conflict of interest assessment with no exceptions. The

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Integrated Resource Plan, IRP, charts the course towards a more secure, more just and more sustainable energy future. Nuclear is a part of that future and as we move towards it, the quality of our regulatory architecture will determine whether expansion serves the public interest or becomes a liability.

This report is evidence that Parliament is not passive in that process. We do not rubber stamp executive nominations. We interrogate, we evaluate and we fight for transformation. We flagged those concerns and handed over to the executive only what has survived scrutiny. As the ANC, we fully support this report. We urge the House to adopt it and we commit to continuing our oversight of the NNR so that South Africa's nuclear regulation remains what it must be, capable, transformed, ethical and answerable to the people. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Question put.

Question agreed to.

Recommendation of Mr Ernest Tladi, Dr Mosebetsi Leotlela, organised labour representative Dr Pulane Elsie Molokwane, Dr

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Margaret Msongi Mkhosi-Motsaathebe, Mr David Lefutso, Dr Nomcebo Serrah Mhlanga, Mr Grant Son, Ms Zandile Matshaya, Mr Mudanalwo Freddy Ndou; and Mr Lean Mayana Makhubele accordingly agreed to in terms of section 8(7)(b) of the National Nuclear Regulator Act, 1999 (Act No 47 of 1999).

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The list of all the candidates will be forwarded to the Minister of Electricity and Energy for consideration.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND
CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON REQUEST TO INITIATE PROCESS OF
FILLING VACANCIES IN INFORMATION REGULATOR IN TERMS OF
PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ACT, 2013 (ACT NO 4 OF
2013)**

Mr X NQOLA: Deputy Speaker, on 18 September 2025, the portfolio committee received the referral requesting the National Assembly to initiate the process of filling vacancies in the Information Regulator in accordance with the Protection of Personal Information Act, POPIA. The requirement to fill the vacancies on the board of the Information Regulator rose due to two specific circumstances. The resignation of a full-time member before the end of their scheduled term on

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30 November 2026. The expiry of the term of office for a part-time member on 30 November 2026.

These vacancies were described as critical as they had crippled the council's operation making it difficult for the board to even form a quorum. The appointment process is governed by Section 41 and 42 of POPIA. Members are appointed by the President on the recommendation of the National Assembly. Candidates must be fit and proper. There is no issue about fit and proper on this one. They must be appropriately qualified. At least one member must have experience as a practicing advocate, attorney or professor of law, with the remainder appointed based on qualifications relating to the objective of the regulator.

Members appointed for a period of five years eligible for reappointment. The committee invited public nominations and applications via advertisements, subsequently publishing the CVs of all applicants on the parliamentary website for comments. Following this process, the committee shortlisted 10 candidates. Shortlisted for full-time basis was Ms Ayanda Mavandaba, Ms Dineo Ramokgopa, Ms Nomagcina Mtshontshi, Adv Luvuyo Sandlana, Adv Kulekani Mabuza.

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Shortlisted for a part time was Adv Thato Moeeng, Ms Alison Tilley, Ms Zama Awuzie, Ms Moses Mulaudzi, Ms Nande Mheshe.

Prior to interviews, the committee verified the academic qualifications of the shortlisted candidates. Formal interviews were conducted on 9 and 10 June 2026.

The committee noted the withdrawal of three candidates during this phase, Ms Zama Awuzie, Adv Thato Moeeng, and Adv Luvuyo Sandlana.

Candidates were subjected to security vetting as part of the parliamentary selection process. Having deliberated on the interviews and the requirements of the regulator, the portfolio committee recommends that the National Assembly approve the following nominations for a full five-year term. Ms Nomagcina Mtshotshi for full-time basis, Ms Alison Tilley for part-time basis. Deputy Speaker, we submit to the House for the approval as required by the law. Thank you very much.

Declarations of vote:

Mr B M MKONGI: Chairperson, I rise before this House this evening to present the considered views of uMkhonto weSizwe Party on the matter that lies at the very heart of the current

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constitutional democracy, which is the integrity of our processes and the strength of the institutions we are duty-bound to protect.

Our task this evening is not merely administrative. It is a reaffirmation of our commitment to good governance throughout. So, this process is to review other processes to fill vacancies in the Information Regulator. Indeed, the selection process detailed in the committee report was rigorous and followed the legislative framework set out in the Protection of Personal Information Act. However, I wish to note that the importance of this process goes far beyond the simple mechanics of shortlisting and interviews.

When we speak of proper processes, we are speaking of the bedrock of public trust, the process we followed from the initial referral and public advertisement on 18 September, 2025, to the publication of candidates list, to the thorough screening and verification of academic qualifications was designed to be transparent and merit based.

The interviews on 9 and 10 June 2026 were an opportunity to scrutinise the candidates' understanding of their potential duties, including their preference to serve in a full-time or

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part-time capacity. It is this meticulous attention to detail that safeguards the institution from accusations of impropriety and favouritisms.

Our citizens must have absolute confidence to those appointed to wield power over their data and their rights as selected through a process that leaves no room for doubt. When we adhere to the process strictly, we send a clear message that the integrity of our institution is non-negotiable.

Why is this process so vital? It is because the Information Regulator is not just another statutory court. It is the guardian of two fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution, the right to privacy and the right of access to information. This dual mandate is a monumental on the one hand and also is very important for the protection of our people.

We have seen the regulator transition from the advisory body to a proactive enforcement agency. This is not theoretical. It is having a tangible impact on the lives of ordinary South African based on the following principles: One, enforcing accountability. Two, standing up against global giants. Three, challenge the state and the government, enforcing penalties

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and so forth. So, these above-mentioned milestones underscore a fundamental truth.

The Information Regulator is a vital shield for our citizens rights. Its power to enforce, to prosecute and to protect must be wielded by individuals of highest calibre. If we are to ...
[Time expired.]

Ms P MARAIS: Chairperson, the EFF participated fully and constructively in the interview process for the appointment of members to the Information Regulator. We approach this process with a clear understanding that the Information Regulator is a total critical institution in our constitutional democracy, entrusted with protecting the personal information and privacy rights of the people of South Africa.

Throughout the interviews, we assessed candidates on their qualifications, experience, independence, understanding of the law, and commitment to public service.

We acknowledge that the several candidates emitted a high level of competence and a sound understanding of the mandate of the Information Regulator. In particular, candidates such as Ms Tilley distinguish themselves through the experience,

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preparedness, understanding, and of the challenges facing the institution. However, the EFF wishes to make it clear that technical competence alone is not sufficient.

South Africa has witnessed a dangerous trend where independent institutions are gradually captured by and used to protect those in power while targeting those who challenge the political establishment.

The Information Regulator has never become another institution that serves politicians instead of the people. Those appointed today must understand that they are not representatives of the ANC government, they are not representatives of any political parties, they are certainly not representatives of private interests. They are servants of the Constitution and the servants of the people of South Africa.

The EFF is concerned by the growing pattern where state institutions are increasingly weaponised against activists, whistleblowers, journalists, community leaders, and political opponents. While corruption, abuse of power, violations committed by these connected to the governing elite, I ignore.

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We therefore call upon the successful candidate to resist all forms of political pressure, manipulations, or interferences.

The EFF expect the appointees to act with courage, integrity, complete independence. They expect them to defend the constitutional rights without fear or favour. They expect them to protect the people against both sector, private sector abuses and state abuses. Above all, we expect them to remember that institutions do not belong to the government, they belong to the people.

The EFF will continue to monitor the work of the Information Regulator and will not necessitate to expose any attempt to undermine its independence or use for political purposes.

We support the appointments of capable individuals, but we equally demand unwavering independence, accountability, and loyalty to the Constitution of the people of South Africa. Thank you.

Ms B E MACHI: Hon Speaker, the Inkatha Freedom Party notes this report and reiterates that the Information Regulator exists to uphold the constitutional right to privacy by ensuring that personal data is processed lawfully and

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securely, and its stability remains vital in an era of rapid digitisation. As such, we welcome the transparent process undertaken by the committee, which adhered to the statutory requirements of the Protection of Personal Information Act.

The public call for nominations, the verification of academic credentials and the screening of candidates all strengthen confidence in the integrity of this regulatory report. We further support the recommendations that Ms Nomagcina Mtshontshi be appointed in a full-time capacity and Ms Alison Tilley in a part-time capacity, each for a full five-year term by granting a complete tenor rather than a short stopgap until November 2026. The committee promotes continuity in the Information Regulator's work and avoids the instability of repeated recruitment.

The IFP, therefore, accepts this report and the forwarding of the recommended names to the President for final appointments, thereby ensuring that the Information Regulator is equipped to carry out its mandate effectively. I thank you.

Mr E HENDRICKS: Hon Deputy Speaker and hon members, the Patriotic Alliance supports the report on the Portfolio Committee of Justice and Constitutional Development on the

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request to initiate a process of filling vacancies in the Information Regulator.

In terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act 2023, this is not a routine administrative step. It speaks directly to the strength of our constitutional democracy. The Information Regulator is the frontline guardian of the personal data of every South African child, the child whose school records are digitised, the worker whose payslip is stored online and the elderly citizens whose ID copies is shared across multiple systems. When this institution is under capacitated, the public is exposed. When the public is exposed, Parliament must act decisively.

We, therefore, welcome the committee's recommendation that the Minister proceed with urgency, transparency and full compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act. The days of slow appointments, drifting mandates and regularity gaps must end. South Africans deserve a regulator that is fully staffed, fully functional and fully empowered to enforce the law.

Afrikaans:

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Laat ek dit plain [eenvoudig] sê, die mense se data is hulle data. Dit mag nie rondlê vir misbruik nie. 'n Sterk Information Regulator [Inligting Reguleerder] beteken 'n sterk staat en 'n veilige samelewing. The PA staan vas. Ons mense se inligting is nie for sale [te koop] nie of vir skelme gebruik nie.

English:

As a committed partner in the Government of National Unity, the Patriotic Alliance emphasises that these appointments must reflect competence, integrity and the diversity of our nation. The regulator cannot become another institution weakened by delay or insufficiency. It must remain independent, credible and capable of acting without fear of favour. It is alleged that the top ... [Time expired.]. The Patriotic Alliance supports.

Mr W W WESSELS: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus supports this report.

Let's stop spam calls. Thank you.

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Madam Deputy Speaker, the Information Regulator plays an increasingly important role in protecting

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South Africans' personal information and enforcing the Protection of Personal Information Act, POPIA. Vacancies undermine institutional effectiveness and should be filled promptly.

Parliament followed a transparent process, including public nominations, publication of candidates, verification of qualifications and interviews. The committee recommends the appointment of Ms Nomagcina Mtshontshi full-time and Ms Alison Tilley part-time for five-year terms each. We as Action SA support these appointments. However, we note with due concern that the Speaker wrote to Parliament and asked that these vacancies be filled in August last year. It's 10 months later and we're now filling these vacancies. Are we serious about having people doing this kind of job or not? The tardiness of this appointment does not reflect well on Parliament.

These appointments will hopefully strengthen the capacity and resources of the Information Regulator so that it can carry out its mandate effectively and ensure robust enforcement of POPIA against both public and private institutions that fail to protect personal information. I, like all the members in this House, continue to receive unsolicited calls every day from people that obviously have my information somewhere.

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We hope that they will promote greater public awareness of citizens' rights regarding privacy and data protection. We also hope that they will let South Africans know that if they break the law, you will forego the constitutional rights of the POPIA if the restriction is reasonable, justifiable in a democratic society and enacted by law of general application, e.g. the criminal procedure laws.

We support the appointments of these two people and hope that they have a stellar term in office.

Mr D D KLOPPER: Hon Deputy Speaker, the report presents a recommendation for the appointment of the ordinary members to the Information Regulator following the process undertaken by the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development in terms of Protection of Personal Information, POPI, Act of 2013.

At its heart, this matters more about not just simply filling vacancies, it's about whether South Africa appoints people who are properly qualified, fit for purpose and able to give real effect to the laws Parliament has passed.

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The Protection of Personal Information Act and the Promotion of Access to Information Act, PAIA, are not decorative pieces of legislation. The nature of these two pieces of legislation is to protect real people. They exist to protect South Africans from unlawful use of their personal information while striking a balance that ensures public and private bodies can obtain and handle information responsibly.

The question that arises is: Why does this matter and how does it translate to the normal lives of citizens?

They ensure that citizens can access information where the laws allow, especially when transparency, accountability and public interest are at stake.

But laws do not enforce themselves. A well-crafted Act on paper does not safeguard pensioners whose personal details are leaked. It does not assist a citizen whose access to information request is disregarded nor does it fix public bodies' failure to report correctly.

Additionally, it fails to hold private companies accountable where they unlawfully process personal data. For legislation

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to work, we need skilled professionals in the institutions that enforce it.

It is, therefore, imperative that people with experience, integrity and technical ability to identify breaches, close gaps, demand compliance and act without fear or favour are appointed to these critical appointments without delay. It is for these reasons that merit-based appointments do matter.

The DA welcomes the committee's adherence to the process of advertising, shortlisting, screening, verification and interviews.

The legitimacy of the institution depends equally on the law that creates them and on the calibre of people appointed to lead and strengthen them.

The committee has recommended Ms Nomagcina Mtshontshi for the appointment as a full-time ordinary member of the Information Regulator and Ms Alison Tilley for the appointment as a part-time ordinary member. These recommendations are supported.

Ms Tilley brings direct experience to POPI and PAIA transparency, whistleblowing and the Information Regulator's

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existing work. Her experience is directly aligned with the Regulator's core mandates, particularly with respect to the Protection of Personal Information Act and the Promotion of Access to Information Act.

Ms Mtshontshi brings a strong enforcement profile. Her legal, forensic information, technology, data governance and investigative experience are particularly important at a time when data breaches, unlawful processing, weak controls and poor institutional accountability are becoming more serious and complex.

Together, these appointments provide a useful balance. One candidate brings deep rights-based information law experience, the other brings strong enforcement, investigative and data capability. That is exactly the skills of interaction the Regulator needs if it is to move beyond awareness and guidance and into a stronger compliance and enforcement.

The DA supports these appointments with confidence that they will help strengthen the enforcement of the Protection of Personal Information Act and Promotion of Access to Information Act.

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The Regulator must be able to identify breaches quickly and ensure that they are corrected. It must prevent gaps in compliance from becoming permanent loopholes while keeping a focused attention to ensure that public bodies and private entities take their responsibilities and duties seriously. In particular, annual reporting under the Promotion Access of Information Act cannot be treated as an optional administrative exercise.

Public bodies and private bodies, where required, must properly report on access to information requests. Without proper reporting, Parliament and public cannot know whether the right of access of information is working in practice.

South Africans deserve a Regulator that is independent, capable and firm. They deserve a Regulator that can protect personal information, promote access to information and act decisively where rights are undermined.

This report gives us a reason for hope. Hope that merit-based appointments can strengthen public institutions and capable professionals can help close enforcement gaps. And I hope that laws of South Africa will not remain promises on paper but protections in practice.

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The DA, therefore, supports this report. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Ms N E MOTAUNG: Deputy Speaker, the ANC rises in support of the report of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development recommending the appointment of Ms Nomagcina Mtshontshi as a full-time member and Ms Alison Tilley as a part-time member of the Information Regulator.

The Information Regulator occupies a critical position in our constitutional democracy. It is entrusted with protecting the personal information of South Africans, promoting access to information and ensuring that both public and private institutions comply with the legislative framework established by Parliament through the Protection of Personal Information Act and the Promotion of Access to Information Act.

The vacancies before us arose following the resignation of a full-time member and the expiring of the term of a part-time member.

In fulfilling its constitutional and statutory responsibilities, the portfolio committee undertook a

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rigorous, transparent and participatory process to identify suitable candidates.

The committee advertised the positions publicly, invited nominations and applications, published the names of candidates for public comments, verified qualifications, conducted screening processes and interviewed shortlisted candidates in an open parliamentary process.

The process complied fully with the requirements of the Protection of Personal Information Act.

As the members of the committee we were able to assess not only the qualifications and experience of the candidates, but also their appreciation of the challenges facing the Information Regulator at a time when data protection, cybersecurity, digital governance and access to information are becoming increasingly important.

The ANC is satisfied that Ms Nomagcina Mtshontshi possesses the requisite expertise, leadership qualities and commitment to constitutional governance required of a full-time member.

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We are equally satisfied that Ms Alison Tilley brings valuable experience, independence of thought and demonstrated commitment to accountability and transparency that will strengthen the collective capacity of the Regulator.

Importantly, these recommendations are not based on political affiliation or personal preference. They are based on merits, suitabilities, competence and the ability of the candidates to contribute meaningfully to the mandate of the institution.

The committee's recommendations reflect careful deliberations and a commitment to ensure that the Information Regulator remains an effective and a credible institution supporting constitutional democracy.

The ANC further welcomes the recommendations that the full-time appointment be made for a full five-year term for stability and continuity, which are essential to enable the Regulator to fulfil its growing responsibilities and to provide strategic leadership in an increasingly complex information environment.

Hon members, South Africans expect their personal information to be protected. They expect transparency from institutions

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that exist in public power. They expect independent constitutional bodies to function effectively and without interruption.

By adopting this report, the National Assembly will contribute to strengthening an institution that is central to those expectations.

These appointments advance the ANC's commitment to build capable, ethical and effective democratic institutions.

Therefore, we call upon this house to endorse the recommendations of the portfolio committee for the appointment of Ms Nomagcina Mtshontshi as a full-time member and Ms Alison Tilley as a part-time member of Information Regulator. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Question put: That the recommendation for appointment of Ms Nomagcina Mtshontshi and Ms Alison Tilley for a full five - year term as ordinary members of the Information Regulator be approved.

The Deputy Speaker announced that the Speaker had determined that, in accordance with the Rules, a manual voting procedure

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would be used and that the whips would conduct a headcount of members in the chamber and on the virtual platform for the purpose of ascertaining quorum and voting.

Voting. [Take in from the Minutes.]

Question agreed to.

Recommendation of Ms Nomagcina Mtshontshi and Ms Alison Tilley accordingly agreed to in terms of section 41(2) (a) of the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act 4 of 2013.

**DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO EASTERN
CAPE AND KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCES FROM 27 TO 31 JANUARY 2026**

There was no debate.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

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**DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO NORTHERN
CAPE ON 10 MARCH 2026**

There was no debate.

The Chief Whip moved: That the Report be adopted.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party and Economic Freedom
Fighters dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

**DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE IN WESTERN CAPE**

There was no debate.

The Chief Whip moved: That the Report be adopted.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party and Economic Freedom
Fighters dissenting).

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Report accordingly adopted.

**DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE FROM
27 TO 31 OCTOBER 2025 AND 27 TO 28 JANUARY 2026**

There was no debate.

The Chief Whip moved: That the Report be adopted.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United African Transformation dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

**DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO
CONSTRUCTION SITE, SEA POINT, CAPE TOWN**

There was no debate.

The Chief Whip moved: That the Report be adopted.

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Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

**DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON LAND
REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO LIMPOPO
PROVINCE FROM 18 TO 21 NOVEMBER 2025**

There was no debate.

The Chief Whip moved: That the Report be adopted.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party, Economic Freedom Fighters and United Africans Transformation dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

Mr C M DUGMORE: Deputy Speaker, just a point of order, I'm just concerned that when you're asking for objections, there's a competition between MKP and EFF, as to who should be the first one? Can you give them a chance? Like one, then the other one ...

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Dugmore, well, that was the last one, so we are not going to accommodate that.

DECISION OF QUESTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTION

(Mr S Lonzi)

Decision of question postponed in accordance with Rule 99.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Deputy Speaker, with due respect, we want to understand why it was withdrawn ... [Interjections.] ... No, it is our member. This is our motion. You can't be howling at me. I just want to understand why it was withdrawn. This is a very important motion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, I will enquire about that, however, that is what we have on the Order Paper. I will ask the Table to also find out why that is. Rule 99 refers to the decision of a question postponed. We will get the reason, hon Mkhaliphi.

Hon members, I have been informed that this was apparently an agreement between the Chief Whips. So, if you are unhappy with

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that, please consult with the Chief Whip of the ANC. Hon Mkhaliphi?

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Deputy Speaker, we can ask the Chief Whips here, starting from here ... [Interjections.] ... But why are you howling? I am not talking to you; I am talking through the member. Please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mkhaliphi, that is what we have been informed, and that is how ... [Interjections.]

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Deputy Speaker, I have made my point. This is our matter ... [Interjections.] ... No, I am allowed; I am the Chief Whip today. This matter is here on the Order Paper. You can't be telling us that it is because we have entered into an agreement which we do not understand. We need to be outlined with the process why it was withdrawn so that we can clarify that matter. This is very important. It is about learners who do not afford any school fees. So, we want to know why and what is the way forward.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will definitely enquire into that, and I will also enquire from the Chief Whip of the Largest Party.

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Hon Skosana, do you have any reply to this?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE SECOND LARGEST MAJORITY (Ms N P Nkabane): Deputy Speaker, we are busy engaging with various Chief Whips from various political parties so that we try to reach consensus in some of the issues that have been raised. I spoke to hon Hlengiwe this morning, and we agreed. Thank you.

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Deputy Speaker, no, no, no ...

[Interjections.] ... You can howl as much as you can, but this is our matter ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members ... [Interjections.]

Ms H O MKHALIPHI: Deputy Speaker, this matter is very important. This is the second time you postpone this matter, and there is no reason provided. The only thing that we demand is an explanation why this matter is withdrawn. According to us the EFF who are the owners of this motion, we have managed to put this matter through the channels of Parliament.

Therefore, Parliament was supposed to come to us, not through the back door as they are doing.

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This is a very important matter here if you have not reached out to understand this matter. We therefore demand from your office to tell us what happened, and as Chief Whips here let us meet and discuss this matter now!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Dugmore and hon Zungula, I now have a way forward from the hon Mkhaliphi who is the acting Chief Whip for the party where this matter is derived from. So, hon Mkhaliphi, my ruling is that the Chief Whips discuss this and that we get to the bottom of what the reason is.

DECISION OF QUESTION ON DRAFT RESOLUTION

(Mr V Zungula)

Decision of question postponed in accordance with Rule 99.

Mr V ZUNGULA: Deputy Speaker, it is very important that South Africans are informed why because both of these draft resolutions are not for us personally, they are for the people. Hence you find that AmaHlubi were here earlier this morning. It is very important that the decision as to why gets to be informed especially since this is the second time there

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is a postponement. The first time there was a lack of quorum in the House, but if there is no tangible explanation today, it is going to impact how South Africans view Parliament. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Zungula, I fully agree with you and my ruling will be same as with the hon Mkhaliphi that I request the Chief Whips to get together and find out what the actual reason is and how it was postponed.

Hon Wessels?

Mr W W WESSELS: Deputy Speaker, I don't want to belabour the point, but I do want to say that the procedure in this House has always been that Whips are consulted when these decisions are taken. Whips were not consulted and I feel that is unacceptable and that should please be addressed. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Wessels, again, I fully agree with you. We are aware of what the procedure is and that Whips are always consulted. My information, however, is based on what the Table has been informed. So, that is where we are at this point. Hon members, the way forward is then that the Chief Whips please consult and that we get the information as to why

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these two motions were again postponed. It is unacceptable. We do have procedures.

The business of the House concluded.

The House adjourned at 20:07.