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PROCEEDINGS OF HYBRID NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 14:00.

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

The SPEAKER: Hon members, the only item on today's Order Paper is Questions addressed to the Deputy President. There are four supplementary questions on each question. Parties have given an indication on which questions their members will take.

Adequate notice was given to parties for this purpose. This was done to facilitate participation of members who are connecting to the sitting through the virtual platform. The members who will put supplementary questions will be recognised by the presiding officer. In allocating opportunities for supplementary questions, the principle of fairness among others has been applied. If a member who is supposed to ask a supplementary question through the virtual

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platform is unable to do so due to technological difficulties, the party whip on duty will be allowed to ask the question on behalf of their member or any delegated member from that party. When all the supplementary questions have been answered by the Deputy President, we will proceed to the next question on the Question Paper.

QUESTIONS TO THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Question 1:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, the question by hon Kumbaca on the work we are doing in silencing the guns in the African continent is appreciated. Hon Kumbaca, when the President responded to questions for oral reply in this House last week regarding the peace and silencing the guns in the continent he said the followings, I quote: "We continue to work within the African Union to end several ongoing conflicts on the continent and restore constitutional and democratic government to countries that have recently experienced coups".

He further said: "We are currently involved in supporting the people of Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and other countries to ensure that there is peace and stability on the continent".

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Hon Speaker, we have undertaken a working visit to assess progress in implementing the revitalised agreement on conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. Following the working visit, which was last year August, we have now appointed a facilitation task team to strengthen our work on finding lasting peace and support the people of South Sudan as they are planning to hold election in December of this year.

With regard to Sudan, as South African government, we are a proponent of effective and consistent implementation of the African Union roadmap for the resolution of the crisis in Sudan and other unstable governments on the African continent.

As you are maybe aware that since the conflict started, the shift to Civilian Rule has been slow down and many people have been killed and enforced to move to nearby countries.

A conflict has driven millions of Sudanese people to abandon their homes, displacing more than 12 million of them, amidst mist displacement and reports of mass killings humanitarian access has been severely curtailed making it extremely hard for aid to reach vulnerable communities. The long-term political instability and economic constrain left 15,8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. The violence has

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further worsened these circumstances with about 25 million people or more than half of Sudan's population in need.

Hon Speaker, to this end, we will continue to engage both the government of the Sudan and the rapid support forces with a view to encourage them to seize fire, create humanitarian corridors and contribute to the existing mediation initiatives, particularly led by the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Igad.

In conclusion, hon Speaker, as the South African government, we urge all African leaders to negotiate within the parameters and policy position of the African Union towards finding lasting peace on our continent. I thank you, hon Speaker.

Ms A N KUMBACA: Hon Deputy President, given the possible impact of the war in Sudan on the stability of the region would the South African government consider engagement with the Sudanese armed forces and the rapid support forces to find a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Sudan? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: As I said in my early response that we are already engaging them as I indicated that I undertook a trip to South Sudan last year August and I had a meeting with

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President Salva Kiir and also the four vice presidents. South Sudan has five vice presidents. So, one was out of the country, but I met all the four as well as all other stakeholders that are involved in the initiatives. So, the engagement is already taking place and earlier this year I then appointed the facilitation task team, which has now also been to South Sudan, and we are planning a follow up because all the engagement that we are busy with must ensure that the elections do take place in December of this year.

So, we will probably go back to South Sudan just to ensure that there is progress. Thank you, hon Speaker.

Ms E L POWELL: Speaker, according to a recently published report Russia is planning on building a logistics support centre on Sudan's Red Sea coast with the goal of securing a naval base in order to improve its military posture in the region. Equally, the syncretic dictatorship of Iran is allegedly supplying drones to the Sudan armed forces. Russia and Iran's backing of the Sudanese Armed Forces, SAF, risks undermining regional attempts to restore democracy and bring about lasting peace. Sudan is just one of many countries being targeted by anti-democratic forces intend of using fragile SSA

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states to wage a proxy war with the international community of democracies.

Deputy President, given South Africa's commitment to advancing freedom, human rights and democracy on the African continent what is your position on efforts by anti-democratic forces to gain a fit all in the region in order to profiteer through destabilisation? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon member, in conditions of war there would be a number of people who come with their different objectives. So, I am not surprised that there would be some of the countries that would want to use the conflict there for other purposes that are not to support peace.

So, as a Special Envoy of the President in South Sudan my responsibility is to ensure that there is peace in South Sudan working with all those stakeholders, including the African Union that are busy pushing for peace. In fact, when I went to South Sudan initially last year, my plan was also to have meetings with President Museveni, President Kagame and others who are the initiators of Igad. As I said earlier, Igad is now in control of that situation. As South Africa, we support it.

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So, we are going to make sure that other elements that are coming for other purposes that are not to seek peace don't have a role in that situation. We will obviously do this with the corporation of stakeholders there, including the engagement with President Silva Kiir, who I must say is very committed to achieving peace and ensuring that there are elections at the end of this year. Thank you very much, hon member.

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: Speaker, the Deputy President is making a reference to 15 million people that require humanitarian care and more than 25 million displaced. Now the question becomes, we hear everything that you have done in terms of the UN and in terms of the meeting, but we need practical solutions as a country that was once in a similar situation through apartheid and other people came to our rescue and we are okay. What are the practical steps that are done by South Africa in terms of providing a relief to the citizens of Sudan in terms of healthcare, in terms of food supply, in terms of children and women being safe? What are the practical steps that we are providing as a country? We must avoid a situation where we take resolutions, and we respond to matters of this nature similarly to the way we did with Israel. We took a resolution with Israel but ... [Inaudible.] ...

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The SPEAKER: Hon member, if you can round up your question.
Your time is up.

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Mente, the task team that we have appointed is looking at all these issues that you are raising. Firstly, there is an African Fund that has been established that we are using to support initiatives in South Sudan. One of the things we are doing is to train many of their people here at home. We have involved the Department of Justice to train people in various aspects of establishing a democratic government. We have trained people to set up an Independent Electoral Commission as they are preparing for elections.

So, there are a number of initiatives that we are looking at. As we go to South Sudan, we are looking at those issues of what is the impact on the people of South Sudan. What is an impact on the infrastructure.

So, yes, we will impress upon our task team to say to them as we trained them and these other aspects, let's look at issues of humanitarian aids.

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Remember, the Human Rights Commission is also there. Its deployed there. I met them when I was there. We are of course concerned about the humanitarian situation because as I said people get displaced. So, there are a number of issues that we will deal with and obviously later once we have been to South Sudan again, we will share this information with the hon House. Thank you very much.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Deputy President, achieving lasting peace in Sudan does not only require parties to negotiate with adversaries, but also requires the mediators to deal with the interest of external role players and some economic powers whose interests' and role in that conflict are beginning or increasingly overshadowing the internal Sudanese disagreement and are dominating the conflict. Whether in view of the fact that multiple mediation efforts have been initiated since the conflict task started, for example, the Saudi US, the AU, Igad and UN as you have already indicated some of them which have not yielded the desired results whether South Africa has considered proposing via the AU a more co-ordinated mediation process which will follow the principle that you are talking about. Thank you.

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Kwankwa, you are quite right, a more co-ordinated approach is necessary. So, when we got there as South Africa, we understood that there are other players there already particularly Igad, and we decided we are going to co-ordinate our efforts with them. But also, perhaps the important thing that I should also indicate that obvious as we are busy with mediation and initiatives for peace, it's important that the country becomes stable and focus also on growing that economy. Those of you who knows South Sudan will know that they are rich in oil, and one of the issues the President Silva Kiir raised was that please get the South African businesses to come here as well. We are building roads because our roads are damaged. We have got oil. We have got vast amounts of arable land. He said something to me, he said, Deputy President, we are not farmers. You south Africans you have got lot of good farmers, please, come.

So, one of the things, hon Kwankwa, we will be doing other things than mediation to look at these other issues of ensuring that we assist in stability there getting the economy to grow once more but you are quite right, we can't do it alone. We must understand that we need the other countries, Kenya and others that are already involved to work with us.

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But I am confident having discussion with various players there. The people of South Sudan are tired of war. They want peace. Therefore, we must help them to get to this election in December of this year. I know that there were others who were not sure Vice President Riley Mashall was not quite committed to a December election. He was saying is a too short period. But others were saying, look, we have been postponing and postponing. Let's get it done now. So, I think, let's support them. Thank you, hon member.

Question 2:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, hon Basson has asked a question that is in fact on top of our priorities as this administration.

Hon Basson, we all agree that water is life. In fact, section 27(1)(B) of the Constitution states that everyone has a right to sufficient water. This is our constitutional responsibility as government and we are not going to fail in it. Hence, having observed potential challenges in the delivery of water, President Cyril Ramaphosa, in addition to the work that the Department of Water and Sanitation is doing, appointed the Water Task Team which he delegated to me to check.

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Amongst others, the Water Task Team's responsibilities are to do the following:

Firstly, implement interventions to resolve water challenges focusing on targeted municipalities, to address water supply challenges as well as supporting municipalities in the implementation of innovative approaches to addressing infrastructure, operations and maintenance challenges.

Secondly, to refurbish, upgrade key bulk water infrastructure network reticulation and support human settlement expansion, rural development and agricultural development and targeted industrial areas.

Thirdly, develop alternative blended funding arrangements for water infrastructure in low-capacity municipalities, especially rural municipalities with no meaningful revenue basis.

Lastly, but not least, ensure consistent enforcement of legislative and regulatory frameworks for the private and public sector infrastructure.

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Since the Water Task Team was established we have been working hard on the ground. We have been conducting outreach programmes within the District Development Model, DDM, to approach and assess affected water challenges in these areas.

During our DDM outreach programme I have led a team to Knysna Municipality here in the Western Cape, we also visited eThekweni Municipality to assess interventions there.

Hon members will recall that the President did have a Presidential Task Team at eThekweni. So, we went to assess how those interventions are working to resolve challenges both of water and sanitation in eThekweni.

We also visited Jagersfontein in the Free State. Hon members will recall this is a place where there was a dam that burst and affected a lot of houses downstream. I think it was owned by one of the mining companies. So, we visited there to assess the damage but also looked at how we can help people to rebuild.

These visits complemented the existing work of the Presidential Task Team at eThekweni, that the group was

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already doing and particularly to bring a turnaround in that area.

Hon members will remember that the biggest problem at eThekweni was the floods. In fact, the floods there affected, particularly, water treatment plants that really came completely underwater and similar to the challenges in Jagersfontein.

One of our most notable observation during these visits in these various areas is the inadequate and lack of maintenance of existing infrastructure for reticulation and sanitation. In fact, in some of the areas you notice that some of the pipes that supply water could have been installed 30 years ago. So, there hasn't been regular maintenance of this infrastructure cause some of the municipalities are saying, look, we can't afford. But there's also inefficient and dysfunctional ways water treatment facilities which contributes to unreliable water or access to quality drinkable water, thus compromising the quality of available water resources.

To demonstrate our government's commitment to resolve water and sanitation challenges, especially at local government level, the President visited Hammanskraal after the tragic

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loss of life due to cholera outbreak. To date, the work of the task team includes engagement with the leadership of the affected communities. I think if I'm correct, the new Minister of Water and Sanitation has also visited Tshwane and Hammanskraal. And we're going to continue to do that.

To date, the work of the task team includes engagements with various municipalities, leadership in various municipalities. We went to Vereeniging in Gauteng, we met with ... a few months ago we met with Rand Water to look at what the challenges are. We were particularly worried because there will be an upgrading of the pipes that bring water from the Lesotho mountains, those tunnels and we were worried that we will start having a shortage of water in provinces like Gauteng. But we were assured by Rand Water that, that won't happen, they have got adequate supplies that they've put in place.

On Tuesday this week I met with the Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, CoGTA, and also the Minister of Water and Sanitation and we engaged on looking at the programme of action to be proactive to ensure that we don't get to a water crisis.

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And together with the Minister of Water and Sanitation I will be leading a delegation to Giyani to assess the state of progress in ensuring that the people have reliable water supply in that province. We will be leaving tomorrow morning with Minister Majodina ... [Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Order! Let's allow the Deputy President to finish the answer.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, I think they do like Giyani, so, I'm going there ... [Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! The Deputy President is rounding up.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon members, ya [yes], I'm rounding up. As I round up, we are also implementing the public-private partnership model to assist us to deal with the challenges of water. We are discussing this with National Treasury.

We are also working with Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency, Misa, to ensure that these water agencies are properly capacitated.

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In conclusion, this House has passed into law the South African National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency, limited Bill. And with this new legislation we will effectively address the current fragmentation in water resource management between the Department of Water and Sanitation and Water Boards.

We are also serious about the delivery of sufficient water and addressing water challenges in the country. Hon Speaker, I thank you.

Mr L J BASSON: Deputy President, 105 municipalities have been identified as being critical and in poor performance according to the Blue and Green Drop Report.

What is the progress of your task team on those 105 municipalities and when can we expect positive outcome in those municipalities that have been identified in the Blue and Green Drop Report?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Basson, we have that report, in fact, as I said earlier, I met with the Minister on Tuesday and we are coming up with a programme to exactly address challenges in those municipalities to look at problems, where

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there is a problem of blue drop, green drop or zero drop, because in some of the problems is actually this problem of losing water through leaks, what they call ... I think Treasury would call it non-revenue water. This is the water that as the municipalities buy water from water authorities, they lose ... I think, Minister, I'll be correct, 48% of water is some municipalities lost; it doesn't reach the people.

So, it's not only the problem of quality of blue drop, it's also the question of revenue water and of course, we are also looking at the issue of the green drop.

When I was in the Vaal this was the biggest challenge of the sewage system running into the water supply system. We had to go and quickly address that situation at a time with ... Minister Mchunu was Minister of Water and started building and upgrading infrastructure.

So, you can be assured that we will be on top of that situation. Thank you, hon Speaker.

Mr P A VAN STADEN: Deputy President, the source of the contamination of the Hammanskraal water has been identified by various sources as the Rooiwal Waste Water Treatment plant. In

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fact, court papers show that two months prior to the cholera outbreak the Hammanskraal community and the communities residing alongside the Apies River took the City of Tshwane to court and warn the city of possible health issues arising from a failure by the city to manage the Rooiwal Waste Water Treatment plant. And this is a problem that has its origins since 2011.

Deputy President, what do the Government of National Unity, GNU, intend to do to alleviate plight over affective Apies River community together with the Hammanskraal community as they still have to face continuous job losses, contaminated water and contaminated soil, making ... [Inaudible.] ... farming activities at this stage impossible? Thank you, Speaker.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Van Staden, Hammanskraal is our biggest priority. As I said earlier, visited by none other than the President himself. So, you can be assured that it's on top of our agenda to ensure that the problems of the Apies River are resolved.

As I said earlier, the Minister has just been there a few weeks ago and will be going back because we have to ensure

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that the people of Hammanskraal put this problem behind them. The problem of cholera was very serious and we don't want it to be repeated. So, on the programme of action of Minister Majodina, is this matter, to ensure that we deal with it.

Obviously, we have to work with Tshwane and I've noticed there were some challenges in Tshwane there between organizations, others wanted the Mayor out and so on. So, we need to stabilize Tshwane because if they are unstable, they are not going to help us with this ... [Interjections.] ...

But I can assure you that it is our priority. Thank you, hon Speaker.

Mr W M THRING: Deputy President, the term contaminated water means ... [Sound cut-off.] ... health risks which causes gastrointestinal illnesses including cholera, hepatitis A and typhoid. If 46% of our water supply is contaminated then almost one of every two South Africans is likely drinking unhealthy water.

The Blue Drop Report mentions that only 26 of South Africa's 958 water supply systems passed the 95% of criteria for delivering clean drinkable water.

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In the Sixth Administration the ACDP visited Warrenton in the Northern Cape where we hears the allegations of corruption and mismanagement of funds for the Warrenton Water Treatment plant upgrade project, still incomplete R83 million later.

Mr Deputy President, will you action the Water Task Team or other agencies to conduct a forensic investigation into the incomplete Warrenton and other municipal water treatment plants, and make the findings public with consequence management, if necessary? If yes, by when? If not, why not?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, I suppose that my answer should be 'Yes'. So, I don't have to answer why not.

[Laughter.]

But hon member, on a more serious note, wherever we pick up corruption, we act. If there are indications that some of the problems we have is because people who run our municipalities or water authorities are doing wrong things, the money is not being used for what is supposed to be used for, we will take action. And I guess before you take action you need to do a proper investigation, whether it's a forensic audit, whatever, we'll discuss it with the Minister if it's necessary. Because sometimes you find that the information is so available that

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you don't have to do a forensic audit, but if need be, we'll do it so that we get things right.

We will be spending a lot of resources on the issues of water which we probably will announce later in the year through the Minister of Finance. There's a lot of money that we're going to use to really resolve this problem once and for all.

I was saying to the Minister of Water we had had too much problems with loadshedding, I don't want another crisis of water. We need to stop it before the country says we have the crisis of water. Yes, we have challenges now, many areas, that's why we're moving fast so that we are not in that situation again, moving from one crisis to the other.

So, hon Thring, definitely, we will investigate where needs be so that we get this problem fixed. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Speaker, there's something that the Deputy President is touching there that makes noise, there's a sound ... it disturbs, this thing. So, if you can just maybe push something back. Because I'm sure even the recording won't be proper.

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The SPEAKER: Okay, we'll check that. But what I heard was more the noise of the door ...

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it my papers? [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Hon President! Hon Salie, can you please ask your question. Order, hon members!

Adv S SALIE: Hon Deputy President, thank you for your detailed attempt of explaining the water crisis and the plans ahead, yet we don't remain confident.

The water supply crisis in KwaZulu-Natal, particularly in the eThekweni and Ugu Districts, remains a pressing issue.

Residents in areas such as Verulam, Umzinto and Harding are experiencing severe water shortages, yet they are confronted with disproportionately high water bills. These bills are reportedly inflated due to inaccurate meter readings caused by air passing through the meters.

Can you outline the government's strategy for addressing the problem of inadequate water supply, poor infrastructure, pollution and erroneous bills? Thank you.

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: So, hon Salie, you are saying that the bills are high but there's also insufficient water supply? What we'll do ... the Minister is listening to you as well ... we will look at that problem as to what makes the bills to be excessively high because water should be affordable. But with respect to shortage of water, the interventions we are making now is exactly to resolve that problem.

We have noticed that ... if I may share this quickly with you ... in a number of areas sometimes is a problem of reticulation. There's adequate water in the dams but when it comes to reticulation the system is not effective to ensure that we take water to the actual consumers. So, it's something that we are looking at and in our meeting on Tuesday we discussed this matter to ensure that ... let's make sure that water reaches the people. Because if the dams are full, they've got water, let's make sure that that water reaches the people, and sometimes it's really to fix the infrastructure.

So, we will look at KwaZulu-Natal. As I said, I have visited it before, at that time before Minister Majodina was here, and I'm sure it's one of the provinces that we're going to pay attention to. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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Question 3:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, let me thank hon Reddy for taking keen interest on how government is dealing with the serious problem of crime. It is true that there is a rise in criminal activities in the country. As the government, we are committed to building safer communities, hence we cannot conduct business as usual in the fight against crime, especially because so many police officers continue to lose their lives in the hands of criminals. This is unacceptable. When I was at the commemoration of the 39 police, this Sunday, the Commissioner of Police said to me, whilst we commemorate the 39, already this year, 21 policemen and women have been killed. So, it is quite a serious matter that we are going to address.

In his ministerial statement on the 3rd, which was on Tuesday, this week, Mr Mchunu, amongst others, stated that the three provinces, being Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Western Cape currently carries 73% crime levels in South Africa. The gravity of these crimes alone, including extortions, is of serious concern to us over and above their concentration. The Minister also outlined the whole of government approach in fighting crime. This includes the initiative that we all have seen taking place here in the Western Cape of signing co-

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operative agreements between the national, provincial, and local government, including working together on operational plans seeking to integrate our resources as well in the fight against crime. Minister Mchunu also indicated together with General Masemola that they are working on police operational plan that will be rolled out, like what they did in the Western Cape. It will be replicated in all metros in the country. I think the immediate one I can think of is that they said they will move to, was Gqeberha. The operational plan. Will also include community police forums, CPFs, but also private security companies. There are a lot of private security company that are involved in our communities, particularly in the suburbs, with what they call the neighbourhood watch, you find a lot of private security companies that we must pull them in to work with the metro police, the CPFs, and the police in general.

Hon Speaker, having appreciated the magnitude of the levels of criminality in the country, especially in provinces like KwaZulu-Natal, the National Commission of Police issued what they call National Instruction. So, he issued what now is referred to as National Instruction 1 of 2016 on the use of force in effecting an arrest, and this is about how to regulate the use of force by police officials during an

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arrest. This instruction clearly sets out the legal requirement that must be followed to ensure that the conduct of police official is lawful and reasonable. The police are required to prevent, combat, investigate crime, maintain public order, protect and secure the Republic's inhabitants and property, and uphold and enforce the law as outlined in section 205 of the country's Constitution. However, fighting crime should not only be the responsibility of the SAPS, us in this House, as well as communities are expected to work with the police to fight criminal activities and help to identify criminals.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon member.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon members, criminals are humans who live in our communities, and the residents often know who they are. As a result, we urge all community members to inform the police of criminal's whereabouts to enable them to promptly respond and arrest all criminal elements in our communities. To avoid the current shootout that is taking place now. We also in this regard call upon communities to strengthen CPFs. I see in many communities, we do have CPFs, but they are not very active, let us strengthen them. We must, hon Speaker, stand united in this fight as partners to confront the

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challenges head on. And work tirelessly to ensure that South Africa is a place where we all can feel safe and secure. I have also had a discussion with the Minister of Justice to review or amend relevant legislation to strengthen the work of the police to be able to act during the violent encounters with criminals, and that is because I was told that sometimes the police feel that their hands are tied, they are not able to act. So, I said let us look at the legislation, it may not necessarily be like that. But if they interpret it to be like that - then they do not act - until the criminal shoot them and kill them.

In addition. The JCPS cluster will meet next Thursday to finalise a comprehensive plan in this regard. Minister Mchunu presented a detailed report to Cabinet yesterday, and next week, the JCPS will meet where we will bring in all the elements, the role-players, the Defence Force, South African police, the intelligence, and we will plan together to ensure a comprehensive approach. Hon Speaker, I thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Minister, here is a supplementary question for you, Sir. Sorry, Deputy President, I apologise. Given the MK's party observation that the police responses frequently occur after incidents have escalated or

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become widely apparent, indicating a reactive stance and a lack of co-ordination between the SAPS and intelligence agencies as seen during the July 2021 riots: Firstly, what specific actions would you take to improve interagency collaboration and ensure a more proactive approach to prevent such incidents in future? And lastly, can we have an indication as to the timeframe where possible? Thank you, Deputy President.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Dr Hlophe, it is almost like you have dropped in to our discussion in Cabinet because we discussed exactly that, that the fight against crime by the police must be intelligence driven and more resources must go to intelligence because we do not want to put more boots on the ground, and they go into the dark. So, we have already discussed that to say we are going to put a lot of resources behind intelligence so that as we train more policemen and women as we are doing, as you know we will be training 10 000 of them to add to the numbers, wad we need this intelligence. So, the comprehensive plan that we are finalizing next Thursday, is looking exactly at this matter. So, I am happy that you have raised it. You see, we think alike. Thank you, Dr Hlophe. Oh yes, Dr Hlophe wants a timeframe. Next week Thursday ...

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IsiZulu:

... sesiyaliqedela lelisu.

English:

... It will be in place.

Mr X NQOLA: Deputy President, section 11 of the Constitution guarantees everyone a right to life while section 36 limit the rights espoused by the Bill of Rights in terms of the law of general application to an extent that the limitation must be reasonable and justified. Now reports have it that the fire altercations between the alleged criminals and police arise when police conduct investigations and they are welcomed by aggressive attack from those criminals. Now, how does the National Integrated Crime Prevention Strategy and the Instruction 1 you are talking about issued by the National Commissioner mitigate between enforcing the law, the use of force, and preventing any possible loss of life in the process? Thank you very much, Speaker.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: In fact, it is something that worries me a lot as well. In fact, yesterday I was talking to the Minister of Justice over the phone, and I asked her: Minister of Justice tell me which legislation restrict the police to

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act in situations of violence because if that is the case, we need a review or an amendment to that legislation? And she said, look, we are looking at the Criminal Procedure Act and other laws for review. But the approach that we should take hon members is that - as I said on Sunday - we trained a lot of police. We give them guns. And we do not want them to die with their guns in their holsters. We train them and give them guns because we want them to use them. We do not want the police force or Police Service to be a killing machine. Police are trained to protect, but in a situation where they are confronted by these brazen killing criminals, they must use their weapons or otherwise they are going to die. And I said to them, we cannot continue with police being killed ... and they have guns, and somebody said no, the police are not sure ... they may be arrested by the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Ipid, for shooting someone. I said no, you cannot shoot someone after you have died. So, you must understand the situation you are in. Today's criminals are very clear that they are killing. So, what are we still analysing when we are confronted with them? No need to analyse. We train you; we give you guns, use them when you are in that situation, and I am sure hon members will agree with me - I do not want to see any more policemen and women dying on duty because we give them tools of trade that must them and

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protect communities. They must use them. Thank you very much, hon member.

The SPEAKER: Hon Inkosi Cebekhulu. The question will now be taken by ...

Mr K P SITHOLE: Sithole.

IsiZulu:

USOMLOMO: Sebekubizele phambili, Jobe, abasangivumelanga nokuthi ngisho ukuthi, Jobe.

Mnu K P SITHOLE: Angibonge kakhulu, Somlomo, ngibingelele kuMongameli nabaholi bonke, kuSekela Mongameli ...

[Ubuwelewele.] ... awume kancane wena. Into esibhekene nayo la mhlonishwa, abantu bafa njengezimpukane. Uma befa njengezimpukane, amaphoyisa esinawo akhombisa ukuthi akhona asebenza nabo laba bantu abenza lezi zinto.

Okwenza ngisho lokho yingoba esiteshini samaphoyisa saseKhombe ngaphansi kwaseNkandla sekufe abantu abangu-28 ezinyangeni ezine nje vo. Akekho noyedwa umuntu osaboshiwe noma abantu behamba beyowavula amacala. Sike sayikhuluma nomhlonishwa uMacingwane ukuthi isimo sishubile laphaya.

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Manje into esiyibonayo ukuthi kunganjani ukuthi kubuyiswe amaphoyisa amadala ngoba kade ekwazi ukubhekana nale mpi ekhona njengamanje? Kungaba yiqhinga ukuthi kubuyiswe wona ngoba uma ubheka, abaseshi baseKhombe bahlanu basebenza izindawo zenkosi yakwaSithole, inkosi yakwaXulu, inkosi yakwaDlomo ukubalula nje, kugcina ngokuthi bonke laba bantu begcina bengakwazi ukubasebenzela ngenxa yokuthi bancane kwabona. [Kwaphela isikhathi.]

English:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon Speaker ...

IsiZulu:

Jobe, ngiyavumelana nawe ukuthi uma bekhona abantu abangakwazi ukusebenza masibabuyise ngoba siyashoda vele. Uma nje basakwazi ukugijima. [Uhleko.] Phela ngeke ungene embuthweni wamaphoyisa kanti hhayi sekuyala. Kodwa Jobe okunye okufanele sikwenze ukuthi laba abasha sibaqeqeshe kahle.

English:

... I was quite surprised when I looked at ... when I was there on Sunday ... they asked me to go and greet the new recruits ...

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IsiZulu:

... hheyi, basebancane.

English:

... very young, very excited ...

IsiZulu:

Basha mhlonishwa u-Ndlozi. Ngakhoke masibaqeqeshe kahle bona laba abancane ...

English:

... as they come in. It is well and good to bring experienced people, but ...

IsiZulu:

... kodwa abanye babo bagugile, abakwazi nokugijima. Ngakhoke masiqeqeshe laba abasha. Jobe, manfiyibeke kanje, siye sakhuluma noMacingwane futhi ...

English:

... you'll recall that the President said we will train 10 000 and another 10 000, but I am sure ...

IsiZulu:

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... kulezi zinto zama-CPFs, ukugapha komakhelwane ...

English:

... community police forums, CPFs, neighbourhood watch, some of them can come and volunteer if ...

IsiZulu:

... uma bekhona kodwa sizoyibheka noMacingwane ukuthi ...

English:

... how can we use ... because in areas where people are running short of police officers, we need to look at how we can complement them. But I do like this thing ...

IsiZulu:

... yamaCPFs.

English:

... When I was young in Alexandra township ... hon Ndlozi, did you know about street committees ...

IsiZulu:

Uyawakhumbula?

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English:

... We had street committees ...

The SPEAKER: No, if he wasn't there, then he must have read about it. So - yes, because it's the issue of whether by nature and biology you were already there. But it doesn't mean you can't read history, hon members.

English:

Dr M Q NDLOZI: On a point of order.

The SPEAKER: What's the point of order, hon member?

Dr M Q NDLOZI: I wanted to understand under which Rule are you contributing Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The Speaker was trying to protect a member. Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, we do read history as well. But the street and block committees were so effective in the 1980s and during that time, remember it was still an apartheid government, so, the police at the time didn't want to work with us, they wanted to arrest us. Now, we have a friendly

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force. So, the streets and ward communities should be more effective now because there is a friendly force. So ...

IsiZulu:

Ngakhoke mangigcine laphe Jobe ukuthi masihlanganiseni ...

English:

... communities, people who were trained before and ...

IsiZulu:

... futhi laba abasha sibageqeshe kahle. Ngiyabonga.

English:

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Madam Speaker, hon Deputy President, sadly, for the law-abiding citizens, the criminals are winning, and we need to push back, as they did successfully in El Salvador. It is ironic and curious that a member of a party whose leadership supported the July 2021 uprising and the resultant violent unrest that started in KwaZulu-Natal on 9th July, which marked the most violent and traumatic episode in post-democratic South Africa has the temerity to ask you, what you will you do about preventing further loss of life in the line of duty of South African police officers fighting violent criminals in South Africa, as the chairperson of the Justice

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and Crime Prevention and Security Cluster. My question to you, hon Deputy President is: What are you, as the cluster head of crime intelligence and the State Security Agency doing about holding those responsible for the July uprising and the resultant unnecessary loss of life and economic losses to account ...

IsiZulu:

Nizobabamba nini?

English:

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Before the Deputy President answers the question, there was a point of order.

Mr M MANYI: Thank you, Speaker, I am rising on a point of order here concerning the member that has spoken now - because he is making all kinds of inferences to our member who asked the Deputy President the question. So, the inference he is making is a bit malicious and disparaging. Therefore, we want you to withdraw that.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, I would look at the matter in terms of the Rules of procedure and come back to report to the

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House. Can I ask? Hon Trollip, can I look at the matter as the presiding officer and come back to the House?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Trollip, the criminals may think they are winning - you are not listening.

The SPEAKER: Hon Trollip, the Deputy President is answering to you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will skip you, if you don't listen.

The SPEAKER: Deputy President, order.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am instigated, hon Speaker, to skip him. Hon Trollip, the criminals may think they are winning, but not for long. As I said earlier, we are aware they are very brazen. They think that it is free-for-all. That is coming to an end. Wait for the plan. We are finalising next week. You will see that we are dealing with ... I am not sure what you were saying about the July something ... no, let me say that the police do investigate cases. They don't just go and arrest people. So, give them time. If they find that there is somebody who was involved in the July unrests who deserve

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to be arrested, they will do so. Can we leave it to them?

Yeah, let us leave it to them. Thank you very much.

Question 4:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Speaker, as I indicated earlier on a similar question, I would like to assure hon Dithebe that we have made progress on the ongoing intervention to address water challenges. Yes, the challenges are still there, but we have made some progress. We just need to speed it up. In this regard, the Department of Water and Sanitation is offering conditional grants and technical support to municipalities to address water infrastructure challenges.

Similarly, the Department of Water and Sanitation conducts assessments on assessments of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in all provinces and issues the Blue and Green Drop annual reports on a yearly basis. Amongst other findings, the 2023 Blue Drop annual report revealed a sharp decline in the quality of supply of municipal water and sanitation by most water services authorities.

Water services authorities are instructed to develop turnaround strategies to alleviate these challenges. And the Department of Water and Sanitation is monitoring the

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implementation of these action plans through its provincial offices.

As part of strengthening the work of the task team, the Department of Water and Sanitation has already identified core challenges and priorities that need to be addressed in the sector and has initiated multiple interventions and support interventions to address all of these.

The water task team will build on these and supplement these efforts through a multisectoral approach, to expand the interventions beyond the area of accountability of the Department of Water and Sanitation to other relevant departments that they work with.

Key issues which cut across different sectors and departments will therefore require a collaborative approach through the leadership of the water task team. An engagement between the Deputy President and the Minister of Water and Sanitation has already taken place, as I indicated earlier that we met on Tuesday to map out a plan of action for the task team. I thank you.

Sesotho:

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Mong S L DITHEBE: Ke a leboha Motlatsi wa Moporesidente ka karabo ena e tibileng. E tsibisa baahi lapeng hore na mmuso o etsang ho rarolla pharela ena ya metsi.

English:

Deputy President, allow me to take this opportunity to appreciate the signing into law of the National Water Resources Infrastructure Agency Bill by the President, which effectively galvanises all water resources under the Trans-Caledonian Tunnel Authority and the Water Trading Entity to establish a single state-owned entity, to regulate water use and ensure that it is used equitably and beneficially in the public interest.

In keeping with the efforts of the task team on water that the Deputy President leads, could the Deputy President assure this House that government will tighten all controls to ensure that the recently obtained \$1 billion from the New Development Bank of Brics to support water and sanitation in municipalities will lead to these resources being used exactly for what they were intended, and that they will not be wasted, to ensure that the challenges that you outlined earlier are indeed addressed adequately?. Thank you.

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes, hon Dithube, in fact, that was one of the preoccupations in our meeting with the Minister of Water on the usage of these resources. It is likely that the resources may come through Cocta. So, we will have a discussion with the Minister of Cocta, but at the discussion we had with the Minister of Water, we were also emphasising the same point that this is not a grant; it is a loan.

We, of course, welcome the initiative by the New Development Bank for making this loan of \$1 billion available for water services.

The biggest question is going to be: Are we going to ensure that it is used properly and that is what we will discuss with the Minister of Cocta, because it must help municipalities. They are likely to be the one to drive it and we will prioritise. One of the things that worried the Minister of Water, and I was the decaying infrastructure, which lead to the loss of so much water. An amount of 48% plus water get lost because of decaying infrastructure, but also, we need to train our water authorities to be able to manage these facilities.

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So, we will look at how we are going to use these resources. It will require the Minister of Water, the Minister of Cocta and the Minister of Treasury to sit together and look at ensuring that the use of these resources become effective, to ensure that the people of South Africa at all times have a reliable supply of quality water. Thank you very much.

Mr B B NODADA: Deputy Speaker, ...

IsiXhosa:

Sekela Mongameli, ...

English:

... municipalities across the country owe water boards a collective of R22,4 billion, a 151% increase over the past five years. This alarming trend has left various water boards either facing financial distress or even bankruptcy. The Department of Water and Sanitation reports that Vaal Central Water Board and Magalies Water Board are both likely to go bankrupt in the next six to 12 months, if nothing changes, which will be a disaster for our country in general, but particularly for the Free State and Northwest provinces. The water challenges and the prioritised municipalities are directly contributing to the water board crisis.

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IsiXhosa:

Kamnandi utshilo Sekela Mongameli ukuba amanzi bubomi.

English:

What are you doing to ensure that the prioritised municipalities pay and ensure that water boards and water supply do not collapse? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Nodada, this is the same problem that worried us when we had the discussion with the Minister. In fact, when I read the report, she mentioned exactly that problem, that many of the water authorities or water boards may go bankrupt because of not getting payments from municipalities. Municipalities, on the other hand, will say, well, people are not paying, so, we are not able to pay you.

However, we also realise that a municipality that buys water from a water authority and loses 48% of that water is bound not to make money. I think it is simple arithmetic, or should I say mathematics. As a municipality, if you buy water, you pay 100% for it.

By the time you sell it, you have lost 48%. There is no way you can make money. And that's the problem we must address. If

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municipalities are going to continue to lose water, they are not going to make any revenue out of the water they sell to communities, even if communities do pay.

So, we need to address the issue of payment by communities, but this non-revenue water is a big killer for municipalities. And when you trace this problem, it goes back to the problem of infrastructure.

Old pipes. So, you buy water, and all goes into the ground, before you can even supply authority. So, we are going to look into that, when we look at this matter with the Minister, going forward. Some of the resources that will come to this sector should fix this problem of non-revenue water, so that municipalities can make money when they sell water. And in that way, they will be able to pay the water boards.

That will take time. So, what will we do in the meantime? It is something that we will discuss with the Minister, because we don't want the water boards to go bankrupt. It can be a big chaos. So, we will perhaps use some of the resources to support those water boards to be sustainable, but in the long run, they need to be sustainable because municipalities are paying. And municipalities must pay, because when they sell to

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citizens, they get money, and they must not lose that water into the ground. So, that is what we are working on. Thank you very much for your question.

Sepedi:

Moh P R MAILOLA: Thobela, Motlatšamopresidente. Bekeng ye e fetilego, Mopresidente wa gago o be a eme gona mo o emego a kgopela tshwarelo go setšhaba sa Alexandra ka morago ga gore a ba tshepiše gore o tlo ba agela dintlo tše milione. Bjalo, seo re nyakago go se tseba Motlatšamopresidente ke gore na mehleng ya lehono batho ba ga bo rena ba baso ke bona bao ba tshepišwago tša ka ntle ga seatla? Ke nako ya gore lehono le kgopele tshwarelo go batho bao le ilego la dira ditshepišo go bona empa la se diphethagatše. Seo se tshwanetše go direga tadi e amuša.

Mopresidente wa gago o etetše badudi ba Giyani ge Manthole e na le matšatšatši a lesomepedi ngwageng wa ketepedi masomepedi-pedi (12 December 2022) gomme a ba tshepiša gore go metsana ye masomehlano-hlano ya Giyani e ka se humane meetse ka kgwedi ya Hlakola 2023 (March 2023).

Tona ya maloba, Senzo Mchunu, o tla rakwa mošomomg; o tla lebogišwa mošomo ... [Nako e fedile.]

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, ...

Sepedi:

Ke mohl Mailola?

English:

I think they spelled it wrongly here.

Sepedi:

Mohl Mailola, nna ge ke mo kwešiša Mopresidente ka taba ya Alexandra, o re - ke ile ka bona le theipi ya taba ye. O ile a re go batho ba Alexandra re tlo aga dintlo tše milione, efela a sa re bona. O rile re tlo aga dintlo tše milione. Efela lena mo Alexandra, re sa tlile go lekola pele gore naga e gona na. Bjale, ga a bea palo go Alexandra.

English:

No, no. Listen, hon members! Listen, hon members!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Please, allow the Deputy President to reply.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: So, okay. No, no. No, let us not argue about it, because we will bring the tape here. We will bring

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... We will play the tape. Let me go to Giyani. For Alex, we will play the tape. Hon member, you are going to get good news when I return from Giyani. Let me tell you why. When I met with the Minister, I asked exactly that same question, because the officials brought a report to Cabinet, and it talked about the fact that 15 communities would get water in two years' time. And I asked the question, why? So, when I met with the Minister, they gave me a report that, in fact, the project that brings water from Nandoni Dam right to those villages in Giyani is complete.

You get it? First, ... So, no, wait. That project is complete. So, the water is now flowing from Nandoni to the water plant or the reservoir. The reservoir is not big enough to manage the volume of water from Nandoni. [Interjections.]

Sepedi:

Aowa, theeletša. Akere ba mpha pego.

English:

I want you to be wise about the situation. So, that water reservoir, as we speak, is being upgraded to be able to receive water from Nandoni to go into communities. Out of 14 of them, nine of them are already receiving.

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So, I am going there tomorrow. When I come back, I will even give you a better report, because the Minister and I agreed that there is no two years. People must get water now. Nandoni is full of water. So, water must go to the people. Keep being interested in this matter. It is a very important matter.

Sepedi:

Ge nkabe o se wa swarwa ke tše dingwe, o be o tla sepela le rena re ye moo. Efela o tla re bona. Re tla be re le Giyani. [Tsenoganong.] O tla be o le ka mo? [Tsenoganong.]

Ee.

English:

Thank you very much.

Sepedi:

Re a e lokiša taba ye.

Ms N L WEBSTER: Deputy Speaker, my question is on the issue of prioritised areas, as it pertains to water. I think we are all aware that the issues of water in the country are quite widespread throughout the country. So, the question is: What criteria is being used in order to determine how an area

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becomes classified as a prioritised area? And then secondly, what are the specific additional allocations then that become allocated to these prioritised areas in comparison to those areas that haven't become classified as prioritised?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Well, at the moment, from the water task team's side, we were embarking on an outreach to areas where we already heard there is an outcry. There may be issues that the Minister and the department will determine, in terms of priorities. They will say to the water task team, we think these are the areas that we must focus on.

For me the criteria at the moment have been a situation where the challenges are so big that you can easily reach a crisis situation where you hear stories that people drink water from some dams and water that is not clean. Those are the areas we need to prioritise.

I think one of those areas, hon member, are somewhere in KwaZulu-Natal, where I saw people drinking water from a street that did not look clean. For me, an area like that must be a priority to be attended to.

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The allocations, obviously, is not something I can talk about. It is in the purview of the Minister and the Minister of Finance on how they are going to allocate resources. We should commit ourselves to ensure that no South African is put in a situation where they cannot access water.

Remember, when I started, I said water is life. So, there must be no South African that says they went to bed the next day without water. That must not happen. We will identify those areas, and we will make them a priority. Thank you.

Question 5:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, let me begin by assuring hon Malema that I am currently meeting with all Ministers who form part of the Inter-Ministerial Committees I lead. I have already met with Minister Hlabisa, Minister Nyhontso, and Minister Steenhuisen, and I met with the Minister of Water this Tuesday. Last week was when we started most of these meetings.

Now, hon Malema wanted to know particularly whether I've met Minister Nyhontso, yes, I did on Tuesday. Initially, I was supposed to meet him the previous week with Minister Steenhuisen because their portfolios are still married.

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They are still married, hon Ndlozi. [Interjections.] You are not sure what I mean. Okay, let me simplify it.

You remember the Department of Rural Development and Agriculture together under Minister Didiza. They are separate but still together. Unfortunately, I couldn't meet them together. I met the Minister of Agriculture first. We had a good meeting, hon Malema, with Minister Nyhontso to look at this issue of the Communal Property Associations, CPAs. It was one of the issues that we focused on. Now, the Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development has informed me that the total extent of land under the ownership and management of CPAs now stands at about 2,8 million hectares. It is for this reason that as the government, we cannot afford a situation where this amount of land is lying fallow or not being put to productive use.

We are, therefore, working with the CPAs through direct engagement. I had an opportunity to visit a few of them. Some of them are doing very well, like one in Mpumalanga where I went are doing very well, and some in the Free State, but some of the things that we engage with them on are mediation services and support through a panel of attorneys. We do

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workshops for them as well, training the executive members, and then we continue with oversight visits.

Now, hon members, one of the problems we have discovered is that some people take the money, they don't want the land, particularly in situations of restitution. I think we have spent more than R2 billion on that. For those who take the land, the problem at the moment is that there is conflict within the CPAs. You know whenever resources are available, money, conflict ensues. So, one of the things that we are looking at is how to have an effective conflict resolution mechanism to assist the CPAs because as hon Malema is saying, they are dysfunctional. I asked Minister Nyhontso, if they were dysfunctional. And he said I wouldn't use that word. There may be one or two, but some of them, it's noncompliant. They are not necessarily dysfunctional, and noncompliance could be brought about by this issue of conflict or lack of training and so on.

So, I think, we need to agree it means there is a problem with the CPAs. The question of the functionality of these CPAs should be a critical one, given the direct impact it has on the life of communities, and the efficacy of the country's land reform programme because when it comes to dealing with

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communal land, you rely on them to be able to deal with this problem. So, it means they have to be effective in their operations.

To capacitate the CPAs to address the identified challenges, the government has been engaging at different levels with various role-players in finding common ground on implementing corrective measures to support and strengthen them. This includes the development of a policy framework that will address the challenges particularly the conflict that has emerged, the issue faced by the CPAs. When we conceptualised them initially, we did not anticipate that it could be an area of huge conflict. To this end, the Sixth Parliament, as the members are aware, has already passed the Communal Property Association Amendment Bill, and is currently being considered by the President for assent. Among other matters, this Bill seeks to amend the Communal Property Association Act of 1996. So, this is the journey we have travelled. In 1996 we started with this, and it will be amended to insert and delete certain definitions, to provide clarity on the objective of communal property associations, and to extend the application of this Act to certain labour tenants that were not covered before and who have acquired land.

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Now, as a chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Agriculture and Land Reform, I will build on the good work that was done before and the progress that was made before my time to support the CPAs to become fully functional entities. In this regard, I briefly engage, as I said earlier with Minister Nyhontso so that we immediately come up with a clear programme. We have agreed that we will ensure that the issues that we discuss at the Cabinet Lekgotla are immediately implemented because, in our discussion, Minister Nyhontso also agreed if you look at where we started with land reform, where we are now, we're moving at a slower pace. So, we need to turn around the situation.

We started very well, but we've slowed down somewhere, and it's because of some of the problems that he has picked up. I conclude the Communal Property Associations Amendment Bill once assented by the President will provide for the establishment of a Communal Property Associations office and also the appointment of a Registrar of Communal Property Associations that will assist these entities to work effectively, improve their relations with traditional councils because that is another problem.

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In our discussion, we found that in some areas traditional leaders want to be the one that deals with the issue of land and the issues of title deeds. So, there is now a conflict with the CPAs. Traditional leaders say, now you CPAs, you think you are in charge. These are our people. We should be the ones issuing the title deeds. So, we will look into that through these legislations to try and regulate this so that there is synergy between the CPAs and traditional leaders.

Lastly, we remain focused on building the types of capacities for the CPAs that will contribute to the betterment of the livelihood of communities in all our rural areas and all communities under traditional leadership. Hon Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

IsiZulu:

Nk H O MKHALIPI: Ngiyabonga, Sekela Somlomo, Sekela Mongameli, siyayizwa incazelo yakho oyinikezayo. Siyajabula futhi ukuthi niyakubeka ukuthi nani niyakubona ukuthi ukubuyiselwa komhlaba kubanikazi bawo kuhamba kancane ngonyawo lonwabu. Ngakhokhe manje umbuzo uthi noma iqiniso lithi, sekuphele iminyaka engaphezulu kweminyaka engamashumi amabili nanhlanu nenza into eyodwa ngenkathi abanikazi bomhlaba belindele ukubuyiselwa imihlaba yabo. Ngabe umnyango lo esikhuluma ngawo othe

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usuhlangane naye uNgqongqoshe wawo, unawo amandla ngoba thina uma sibuka la njengoba sihleli la, iwona angekho ...

English:

... to deal with such issues?

IsiZulu:

Ngakhoke wena, Sekela Ngqongqoshe, zithini izinhlelo zakho ngoba uma ngikulalele ulokho uthi ...

English:

... we are going to look at it.

IsiZulu:

Isho izinhlelo ezicacile. Sake sakubuza naphambilini ukuthi yini indaba ungasithathi isinqumo lesi sokuthi ...

English:

... we must expropriate land without compensation.

IsiZulu:

Awuzange futhi nakulo nyaka usiphendule ngoba lezi zinkinga zakho zingaphela nya. Kanye nabantu abafuna umhlaba wabo

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ungabuya ngokushesha. Besicela nje ukuthi ungene ngqo odabeni.
Siyabonga.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, ...

IsiZulu:

... mangibonge, mhlonishwa uMkhaliphi, siyavumelana sonke
futhi akekho umuntu ophikisayo indaba yokwabiwa kwabusha
komhlaba kuhamba kancane, siyavumelana sonke.

English:

I'm not sure about the phrasing ...

IsiZulu:

... unyawo lokuthize. [Ubuwelewele.]

English:

What did she say? [Interjections.]

IsiZulu:

... unyawo lonwabu. Sesiyashintsha njengoba kade ngisho
ukuthi uma sihlangana noNgqongqoshe, besikhuluma ngayo le
ndaba ukuthi make kusheshwe, waye esengibonisa ngalo lolu daba
okufanele silulungise kalawa makomidi.

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English:

We need to assist them, end their conflicts, and train them. We may even have to relook at some of the models we are using that are slowing us down because all of us agree that the struggles of our people hitherto have always been the struggle for land. So, it's not something we can try to brush aside and do business as usual.

Sesotho:

[Ho se utlwahale.]

English:

One of the things that, which is in our hands is we do have a lot of government land by various government departments, and we have agreed with the Minister that, where we are in charge of the land, let's make that land quickly available. The issue of expropriation is happening, and we did say that there may be instances where the government may not have to pay to expropriate land. If you read the ANC resolution from our 54th conference, you will see that it is phrased that way, where possible, you can expropriate without compensation.

So, in some situations, we had to buy land as the government, but in some instances, we can expropriate without

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compensation. So, this should not be a matter of debate. It is a matter of how we do it, and from the government side, we are committed to fast-track. I think the member is concerned about that ...

IsiZulu:

... sihamba kancane.

English:

So, hon MkhaliPhi, we will fast-track.

IsiZulu:

Siyabonga.

English:

Mr M MANYI: Deputy Speaker, on a point of privilege: The Deputy President is misquoting his resolution. The resolution of the 54th conference does not say what he is saying. What he is saying ... [Interjections.] ... he is allowing me to clarify him.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Okay, let's see.

Mr M MANYI: The 54th ... [Interjections.] ...

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Manyi, you had to ask a question of privilege, no argument or debate. Thank you.

Mr M MANYI: But he is misquoting the conference's resolution.

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: I wanted to say that hon Manyi should ask the Deputy President if he can take a question or not and start from there. Not just jump and ask a question. It's very wrong.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member, I have already ruled on the matter. Deputy President, please proceed.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: To answer hon Manyi, is it where I was? Let me say, hon Manyi, that we have been working like that in the government. Government ministers know, like The Minister of Public Works, and others, there will be instances where you may not have to pay for land that we expropriate. They know that. So that's why I say it's not a matter of debate. It is a matter of situation because the way the question is asked is almost like the ANC does not want to do it. We don't want to expropriate land without compensation. We said there would be instances or situations that that would be done. Okay! Thank you.

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Afrikaans:

Me S E LUCAS: Goeiemiddag aan u, Adjunk Speaker, asook aan u, Adjunk President, die Waarnemende President van die land.

(Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.)

[Ms S E LUCAS: Good afternoon to you, Deputy Speaker, and also to you, Deputy President, the Acting President of our country.]

English:

My question is still with regards to the issue of the CPAs and governance structures of the restitution areas. Hon Deputy President, we have been utilising these different governance models, but it's an open secret that has yielded mixed results. Also yesterday, we were briefed by a young person on his presentation to the University of Venda that he thinks that this governance structure, the biggest issue is the issue of representativity, particularly the absence of women and young people in this specific structure.

Now, as the responsible chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Task Team, Deputy President, would you be able to advise the Minister to embark on a study that will assist us in developing more inclusive or effective governance models for

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these restitution areas? Maybe it will assist in addressing the challenges that lead to the breakdowns of relations and inhibit the success of our efforts. What is it the Deputy President can recommend for this specific challenge to be addressed? I thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Speaker, ...

Afrikaans:

Baie dankie, agb Lucas.

English:

Am I correct?

Afrikaans:

Agbare ... ja ... agb Lucas ...

English:

We will engage with the Minister about your proposal, but there are things that we can immediately look at. As I said earlier, immediate intervention because we don't want to say to the population, that land distribution is going slowly, we're still going to do a study. You get my problem. You can't say that to the people. We still must go into a study ...

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IsiZulu:

... sizobuya sinibone.

English:

What we need to do is to do the immediate interventions of capacitating those CPAs that hon Malema said were dysfunctional, and make sure they work properly and properly trained, and they have resources, and then include women. The challenge is that when you deal with rural areas, you've got men dominating what's happening on the land, but it's a commitment that we can't run away from. We will look at it immediately. It doesn't need a study, that one, we must do it. We must sort out the representation and end the conflict. I am convinced that if we can have more women serving in CPAs, we'll have less conflict.

IsiZulu:

Amadoda ayahhlupha nje.

English:

I think the men are not happy with that comment. But, hon members, let's do it. Let us sort out the representation. Let us get women on board. Yes, we will always do studies, and continue to learn from other nations, that will happen.

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Afrikaans:

Baie dankie, agb Lucas.

English:

Mr M E NHANHA: Deputy Speaker, you are right, Deputy President, 2,8 million hectares of land is in the hands of the CPAs, and the government shouldn't allow such amount of land to lie fallow. But the sad reality is that it remains as such, and I will tell you why. As was said last week, the Portfolio Committee on Land and Rural Development received a briefing from the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, showing an alarming 75% failure rate of CPAs and property trusts across the country. Will the Deputy President agree that trying to regurgitate a failed concept of CPAs and property trusts can only lead to further loss of funds we do not have? Einstein crisply defines insanity as doing the same thing over and over again, expecting different results. Deputy President, is it not about time the government should start thinking innovatively about the ownership models, such as individual ownership of the land, and doing away with the failed concept of CPAs and property trusts?

IsiXhosa:

Enkosi.

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English:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, the first thing, hon Nhanha, we should agree on is that land should not remain fallow. We give people land, it must be used, and we must support them. I said to the Minister of Agriculture last week, I want to see emerging farmers, people who have acquired land, let's support them. We have agreed that we're going to get a lot of these emerging farmers to be supported so they can till the land. So that's the first thing we should agree on.

The second issue you raised, is something that I was asking some of my officials about, we relied on one model for 30 years. Is it not time we relook at the models? I was not keen to immediately say, no, let's ditch the model of CPAs. But thinking about other models, I think it's something that we must look at, including the possibility of individuals, as you said. But for now, let's fix the CPAs as much as we can, but make sure that we support those who want to till the land, emerging farmers and then we relook at models. We could have one or two different models that we can even use at the same time.

So, it may not be a question of either or. The CPAs or individual models or whatever. But it may be a combination of

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these models that will help you fast-track the resolution of land redistribution. Thank you very much, hon Nhanha.

Sesotho:

Mong L W MAHLATSI: Motlatsi wa Moporesidente, batho ba rona ba temo ba ferekanywa ke Trust Act le Communal Property Associations Act. Ba kopana le dikganyetso moo mme potso eo ke neng ke batla ho o botsa yona, ke ena.

English:

Should the process of reviewing the Communal Property Associations Act also initiate the re-examination of the Trust Act to enhance its role in facilitating effective rural development? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Deputy Speaker, ...

Sesotho:

... morena'ka, ke tshepa hore ke ntho eo re ka kgonang ho e etsa eo.

English:

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As I said, I've already agreed with the Minister that we need to review and amend legislation where we think there are problems. So, if the trust is frustrating the people...

Sesotho:

... ke tshepa hore re ka e sheba le yona. Ke dumellana le wena ho menahane. Re tla etsa ka yona tsela eo. Ke se ke lebohile.

English:

Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Ms N V MENTE-NKUNA: Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: There are people that are trying to join on the platform.

No one is accepting them. In the past question and the question before that one, we have been having people in queue. No one is accepting them from IT. Please intervene.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Mente. We will take this up immediately. Thank you for alerting us.

Question 6:

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. A similar question was asked by hon Hadebe in the Sixth Parliament. I would like to thank hon Hadebe for the interest he has or demonstrating in what we are doing to address the challenges of construction mafia in the country. On 27 March, I addressed the national Conference on the Integrated Criminal Justice System where amongst other important matters was the criminality in the construction sector. When delivering the keynote address, I stated the following.

Murderers' construction mafias have brought many companies to their knees and we must fight back to safeguard this industry. A concerted effort from all is necessary to unravel the complex web of construction site disruptions which endangers lives and impedes the government's objective of transforming the nation to a massive construction site that generates employment and expand the economy. This what I said in that conference.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in this regard, the SA Police Service, SAPS, has taken significant steps to address this issue by implementing a co-ordinated multidisciplinary response to criminal activities including a special focus on the construction mafia in various provinces. An investigation

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capacity has been established to address extortion and violence at construction sites across the country with a particular focus on KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern cape and other areas where similar problems have been reported.

Furthermore, the SAPS has partnered with various stakeholders including state-owned companies, government departments, private security companies and civil society to enhance their efforts in combating these criminal networks.

As government we have committed ourselves to address this challenge through the introduction of policies that will curtail and eliminate mafias in the construction sector. This includes the national infrastructure plan, the critical infrastructure programme, the social facilitation programme and also the infrastructure built anticorruption forum. The infrastructure built anticorruption forum in particular is another intervention that is yielding positive results to stop criminal activities by the so-called construction mafia. The infrastructure built anticorruption forum was formed in 2020 and is aimed at monitoring infrastructure projects and putting systems in place to detect and prevent corruption in the construction sector. The forum comprises civil society,

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representatives from the built environment, various arms of government including the Special Investigating Unit, SIU.

Furthermore, the department of Public Works and Infrastructure, through the application of the social facilitation concept, which was approved by Cabinet in May 2021, is conducting pilot projects like the one in Salvokop precinct strategic infrastructure projects.

Hon Deputy Speaker, given all these interventions I have outlined above, the challenge remain that the actual number of crimes committed by these mafias may actually be underreported as witnesses and victims are often reluctant to come forward. It is crucial for communities, organisations and businesses to work together with the SA Police to bring these criminals to justice. Top class detectives and criminal intelligence work must be intensified to produce air-tight prosecutions and see these crime bosses evicted, locked up and their proceeds of crime seized. The impact of these construction mafias on our nation's development cannot be underestimated. The existence and the activities of construction mafias significantly undermines the concept of a developmental state as envisaged in our National Development Plan 2030. These criminal organisations pose serious threats to public safety and the

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integrity of the construction projects which are essential in driving economic growth and development.

In conclusion, as government at all levels we are committed to address this issue through independent investigations in partnerships with organisations like Business Against Crime, but most importantly, with civil society organisations who live around and know some of these criminals. Hon members, let us stand together in the fight against these criminal gangs and work towards a safer and more prosperous South Africa for all who live in it. Hon Deputy Speaker, I thank you.

Mr N M HADEBE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy President, considering the delays due to the construction mafias' interferences, projects run past their estimated completion time. These projects are subject to municipal infrastructure conditional grants. What has the government done to ensure that the implications of the construction mafias do not risk the withdrawal of grants from the municipalities? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you, hon Hadebe. Indeed, I think your observation is correct that because of these interferences some of the construction

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companies leave sites and are therefore unable to complete projects on time. In some instances they abandon the projects because they don't have money to pay these gangs. It is something that we will look at as well when we meet on Thursday to say, how do you manage the situation because we don't want people to go bankrupt or we have a situation where the funding agency withdraw funding.

I think if we put good plans to safeguard the construction sites it will give people courage to continue and where possible if there are these disruptions funding agencies should be able to relook at the completion of these projects and not penalise the victims. It is something we would look at. Thank you very much.

Tshivenda:

Vho C M PHIRI: Mudadza Muphuresidennde ...

English:

Construction contributes to the increased or gross capital formation in the country, which is currently low and require to be increased. It is also a critical part of inclusive economic development and job creation and therefore there is a

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need to be a co-ordinated approach to eradicate the scourge of extortion and criminality in the construction industry.

Venda:

Mudadza Muphuresidennde, mbudziso yanga ndi ya u ri: kha hoyu muvhuso wa Vhuthihi wa Lushaka, GNU, u do dzudzanya hani mashumisele a wo na u farisana na zwa matshilisano kha heyi sekhithara nga ndila i ne vha do shumisana zwavhudi?

Ndi kho u dovha hafhu nda vhudzisa u ri: hoyu muvhuso u do khwathisa hani heyo milayo ye vha i bula musi vha tshi fhindula ya u ri hu na milayo I ne ya do shumisiwa u lwa na havha vhahomboki vha dovha hafhu vha lwa na havha vhane vha ita zwa vhukwila kana vha ne vha shuma kha tshiimiswa tshi lwaho na vhuvemu? Milayo iyo vha do i khwathisa hani? Ndi a livhuwa.

English:

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Phiri, I can't agree more with you. "Ndi khou livhuwa." [I thank you] The government of national unity, GNU, is prioritising this problem. [Interjections.] No, it is true. Look at our state of intent. The issue of crime is on top of our priority including the construction mafias. Remember, we want to grow the economy and create jobs. These

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construction mafias are affecting many government projects of infrastructure as well. Hon Phiri, it is true that this government is prioritising this matter.

Xitsonga:

Hi lava ku endla leswaku vatsotsi lava vanga eka swa vumaki va tiva leswaku mhaka ya vona yi herile.

English:

There will be no room for them because we have to build infrastructure. We must protect the companies that are working there so that they don't leave sites. If they are not protected, they will leave sites and therefore this thing of us saying want to drive economic growth through infrastructure will become a pipedream. Be assured that we are dealing with this matter and we are dealing with it forcefully.

Xitsonga:

Vatsotsi a va nga hi hluli. E-e! Hi hina mfumo naswona matimba ma le ka hina. Hi fanele hi ma tirhisa.

English:

Thank you very much, hon Phiri.

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Mr E J MARAIS: Deputy Speaker and Deputy President, my question is around, how can the national government work together with the private sector, civil society and other government spheres to do not only tackle, but prevent further interference by the construction mafia, and what laws need to be reviewed and strengthened in order to curb the scourge of this criminal organisations. Thank you, sir.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, hon Marais. I did say earlier that in our commitment to eradicate crime we want to work with the private sector. In some provinces there is what we call businesses against crime. I personally had an opportunity to work with them in Gauteng when I was MEC for Safety and Security. Our partnership was very effective. I remember we had a plan of what we called sector policing, and we would focus on particular areas. Also, one of the things that the government is doing is to have specialised forces to deal with a particular crime. You will recall that there was a time where South Africa had a big problem of cash-in-transit and those kinds of robberies, and we had to put a special team to focus on them. Some of these problems require that kind of approach where you have a special dedicated team to deal with a problem and wipe it out. That's really what we must do.

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The private sector has resources. In fact, when you look at a number of private securities in South Africa, the number is as big as the police force. It is far more than the police force. Where are they using that? We need to bring them on board and say, come here. This includes your metro police to be brought in. Those of you who live in Johannesburg you know that every time you go home there is a roadblock. But they are just looking for traffic fines instead of fighting crime. I am going to tell the mayor of Joburg that forget about traffic fines and let's focus on the real problem. Those of you who go to the airport and so on you may even miss your plane because ...

isiZulu:

Abantu bavimbungwaqo bafunana namathikithi ukuthi ubhadele inhlawulo yokuphula umthetho womgwaqo.

English:

Those people must be put to good use. They must go that campaign that Minister Senzo was doing in the Western Cape with the metro police. That must be in Johannesburg. They must go after the criminals and stop inconveniencing innocent citizens who are trying to go and catch a plane. There is a

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roadblock in front of the airport. I'm sure "liya dumela" [you agree]

isiZulu:

Niyavuma angisho. Ake bagxile ebugebengwini labantu.

English:

Let's go with them there and deal with the criminals. With a traffic fine you can send me a notice at home, and I will receive it and go and pay. Let's focus on crime. After next week Thursday ...

IsiZulu:

... siyabalanda labantu ama-Metro. Ngibafuna la kulomkhankaso ...

English:

... campaign of fighting crime. Let's focus. Thank you very much, hon Marais.

Ms S G KHOJANE: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Good afternoon to the Deputy President. Deputy President, yesterday, the Cabinet issued a statement that it takes zero-tolerance approach against extortion, and furthermore

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extortion often thrives where there is a lack of economic opportunity. I would also like to appreciate the Deputy President's response to the first question which touched on the introduction of the national infrastructure plan and the social facilitation plan in conjunction with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. I would then like to ask, how government will ensure that these construction companies will upskill and equip local communities in construction and ensure that the construction procurement will benefit those serving communities? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, hon Khojane. Yes, I think zero-tolerance is a catchword. Criminals must know that their time is over. The government must implement a zero-tolerance approach when it comes to crime. I agree with you.

The construction companies should empower locals? Yes, and I think we should agree on that. They need to be engaged. I know that the problems may not be whether they are empowered or not, but the people that they are empowering are being intimidated. It's not big companies that are extorted. Big companies sometimes appoint local companies, and these criminals target those local people. They say, do you want to

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continue working here, then pay. That's the problem. I think it's an important question.

Hon members, I want to assure you that we will implement a zero-tolerance approach. There's a member who was saying to me you have too many meetings can you check. Do you think I will forget it? No, I won't. It is my job to meet people and give direction. This country must work. This crime must be defeated. Our people must be free so that we can build this beautiful country together. Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. Thank you very much to all members.

The House adjourned at 16:20.