

WEDNESDAY, 10 JULY 2019

PROCEEDINGS OF MINI-PLenary – NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

Members of the mini-plenary session met in the National Assembly Chamber at 16:35.

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

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate on Vote No 32 – Telecommunications and Postal Services and Vote No 3 – Telecommunications:

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES: Hon House Chairperson, Minister Mboweni, Minister Dlodlo, Minister Nzimande, Deputy Ministers led by Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana, chairperson of the portfolio committee, hon members of the portfolio committee, the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, directors-general, chairpersons and CEOs of state-owned entities, captains of industry, members of the

media, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. We dip our banners and join South Africa in mourning the tragic loss of Mr Mandla Maseko, the aspiring astronaut who died in a bike accident over the past weekend. His untimely death comes as the continent prepares to laud him as the first black African to travel to space. We also learnt with sadness about the passing of a veteran actress, uMama Nomhle Nkonyeni earlier this morning. A recipient of the Order of Ikhamanga in silver, Mama Nomhle boasted a career that spanned 50 years and she starred in various television, film and stage productions such as *Igazi*, *Gazlam*, *Red Dust* and *Die Swerfjare van Poppie Nongena*. May their revolutionary souls rest in peace!

Distinguished guests, when delivering the inaugural state of the nation address of the Sixth administration, His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa emphasised that the resolution of our developmental challenges, namely the triple evil of unemployment, poverty and inequality which depend largely on growing our economy. We must add that this economic growth that we desire must be inclusive to gain traction given the historic exclusion of the Black majority. The importance of inclusive growth is becoming more pronounced given the reality that key sections of our society, such as the youth and rural

communities, are bearing most of the brunt of a sluggish economy.

Within the construct of inclusive economic participation, government, labour and the private sector must work together through a social compact that recognises the need to be single-minded in accelerating economic growth.

Contributions must come from all industries, and our efforts must be felt seamlessly within and outside the borders of our country. In this respect, our response to the Fourth Industrial Revolution presents us with a unique opportunity to harness our individual and collective talents, energies and strengths to decisively address the economic and social challenges that we currently face. It presents an opportunity for all in society to participate in the digital economy, whether for social welfare or business interests, as creators or consumers of goods and services, or for trading locally, regionally or internationally.

Irrespective, the Fourth Industrial Revolution represents an opportunity for inclusive contributions to the national effort of turning around our economy and society for the benefit of all. At its core, it represents the extent to which the digital economy is becoming a key ingredient in the production

processes, in various sectors such as education, health agriculture, manufacturing, financial services or infrastructure development. Further, it represents the extent to which societies can overcome their traditional challenges and people can lead dignified lives, be it through better guarantees of safety and security, easier access to effective healthcare, broader access to education, better social mobility through gainful employment or more comprehensive and responsive social protection systems. Public services are also not immune from this development as governments and cities recognise the need to invest in smart digital services to better understand societal needs and optimally design legislative, policy and regulatory responses to those needs.

Recent studies by Accenture and the World Economic Forum estimate that the aggregate value that can be derived by our country from the digital transformation of our society and the economy is about R5 trillion. More specifically, this economic value addition will result in roughly four million new jobs. Whilst we acknowledge that some jobs will become obsolete, we cannot afford to bury our heads in the sand and ignore this critical phenomenon, the opportunities it presents, and the necessary steps that we must take as a nation to minimise risks and maximise benefits.

As a government, we are committed to transforming the telecommunications and digital industries' market structure. Key to such an objective is the requirement to remove barriers to entry for new market players, noting that the mobile industry is highly concentrated. We must therefore be forthright in investing in digital skilling and reskilling of our people as an imperative for inclusion in the digital economy.

House Chairperson, in June, Minister Ebrahim Patel and I had the privilege of participating in the G20 Summit that was held in Osaka, Japan. This summit brought together, for the first time, trade and digital economy Ministers from various selected countries to present opportunities and deepen understanding of the interface between trade and the digital economy.

As respective G20 Ministers, we acknowledged the fact that digitisation presents both benefits and challenges to society. We also agreed that this phenomenon of digitisation presents us with a rare opportunity to drive inclusive and sustainable growth amongst our people. This has reaffirmed our resolve as the South African government to locate digital innovation at the core of our economic growth.

In our quest to digitally transform the nation, we also acknowledge the fact that the vast majority of our people still lack access to digital infrastructure, which is the bedrock for the digital economy. In this respect, the Fourth Industrial Revolution must therefore be viewed as providing impetus to the objectives of the National Development Plan. Our challenge therefore is defining the strategic areas of investment in the Fourth Industrial Revolution that will position South Africa as a leader in this revolution.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is against this background that in March 2019, President Ramaphosa established the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution comprising eminent persons drawn from a cross-section of industries, academia, labour and civil society. The commission, as chaired by President Ramaphosa and his deputy, Professor Tshilidzi Marwala, has been inducted and is already hard at work focusing on the following six delivery areas: policy and legislation; human capital and the future of work; research, technology and innovation; infrastructure and resources; industrialisation and commercialisation; and economic and social impact.

To ensure that the work of the commission is realised into government priorities, the President has appointed an

interministerial committee on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, 4IR, which comprises the following Ministers: the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, who is chairing the interministerial committee, or IMC; the Minister of Basic Education; the Minister of Employment and Labour; the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation; the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition; the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy; and the Minister of Small Business Development. Within the next few months the commission will engage with key stakeholders and the public, working towards the development of South Africa's blueprint on the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Hon members, on 5 July, we hosted the Digital Economy Summit in Midrand as the first step towards bringing all economic and social players to the table on the collective effort of understanding the drivers for unlocking the value of the Fourth Industrial Revolution within the economy and society and with a focus on the specific drivers for job creation in this new world. The outcomes of the Digital Economy Summit will serve as an input into the work of the Presidential Commission.

Further, to showcase technological innovation, we enacted, through collaboration with Nokia and Vodacom, a replication of

the summit in Rustenburg using a holographic projection. This was the first time that a head of state was broadcast live utilising 3D holographic technology. [Applause.] This move signalled our readiness to cement South Africa's position as a leader in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

As we deal with policy for the digital economy, the Electronic Communications Act has played its role in transforming the industry to its current position. However, overhauled instruments need to take into account the plurality of players across all aspects of the value chain as well as new emerging markets. As indicated, we need to immediately overhaul our policies in order for them to respond to a changing industry that is increasingly dominated by data and an ecosystem of digital platforms.

On reconfiguration of the portfolio, the merger of the Ministries of Communications and Telecommunications and Postal Services into a single Ministry of Communications and Digital Technologies is designed to ensure better alignment and co-ordination on matters that are critical to the digital economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We have, together with the Deputy Minister since our appointment, been seized with the task of creating a new department that places at its centre the

digital transformation of government and support for a digital economy and society. We are currently designing an optimal structural and institutional framework that will speak to our new mandate. This entails defining the focus areas and operating model of the new department and aligning these with the outcomes of the Presidential Commission in order to ensure that the new department is indeed the champion, leading in matters related to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The design and alignment of work will inform and guide our continuing operations in relation to some of the key public policy promises made under the previous department. To this end, we are also engaging our stakeholders, departmental employees and unions about the new mandate. All these processes will culminate in the finalisation of the organisational structure for the new department and strategic plan. The annual performance plan will therefore need to be reviewed and amended in line with the new mandate and structure that will feed into a single budget for the new department.

The state-owned entities under the department are also being reconfigured to make sure that they are in line with the new mandate. Through the reconfiguration of some of our state-owned entities, we will establish a new infrastructure company that

will be responsible for the roll-out of infrastructure and connectivity. As part of the creation of this company, we will ensure that all state infrastructure initiatives are harmonised and co-ordinated.

We will further reconfigure our entities to create a streamlined regulator that will respond to the emerging needs of the digital society. As we ready South Africa to take a leading position in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we will also position the National Electronic Media Institute of SA, Nemisa, to be a digital skills institute that will train government employees and members of the public.

As part of ensuring development of the sector, we will also present to Parliament the digital development fund Bill to establish the fund to support innovation.

In order to drive digital transformation in government, there is a need to establish a state IT company. This will entail the repurposing of the current State Information Technology Agency to drive innovation, transformation, localisation, cybersecurity, e-government and IT service management.

We will further repurpose the SA Post Office to take advantage of the thriving e-commerce and financial services environments, with the latter through the Post Bank. All of this will be done in this financial year, 2019-20. [Applause.]

Finally, government is actively looking at strengthening the SA Broadcasting Corporation. As we reported in the portfolio committee last week, we continue to engage with the National Treasury on a lasting financial solution for the public broadcaster. To this end, working with the National Treasury, we will in the next 10 days provide a portion of the interim relief and the remaining balance within the next 45 days. [Applause.] However, this is subject to the SABC meeting all the set conditions and requirements. In this regard, we will work with the Minister of Finance towards an institutional mechanism to support the turnaround effort, and this includes the appointment of the chief restructuring officer, CRO.

On digital transformation of government, the digitisation of government services is an important pillar of digital transformation, and therefore the department will lead a process of fast-tracking the digital transformation of government services with a particular focus on front-line services.

In responding to the President's call for the district service delivery model, we will be working with all government departments and stakeholders to support cities in digitising their services. Government will, within 90 days, identify priority districts for this purpose.

To date, the department has facilitated broadband connectivity to 570 facilities including schools and health facilities. In addition to what the industry is doing, the department continues to engage all. For example, Telkom has about 160 000 km of fibre which will be critical as we move forward towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Broadband Infraco has rolled out 15 000 km of fibre and 147 points of presence throughout the country. Sentech has an extensive wireless network with more than 300 sites to deliver digital and broadband services.

Going forward, the department will focus on rolling out broadband services to an additional 400 sites, the majority of which, once more, will be schools and health facilities.

Through the Independent Communications Authority of SA, Icasa, we will also review the current universal service obligations to ensure alignment with SA Connect standards. During the medium term, we will review the download speeds to be in line with

international best practice. This will form part of the work we are currently doing with the Development Bank of Southern Africa, which will be concluded by the end of the financial year. Furthermore, the feasibility study for the second phase of the roll-out will be co-ordinated, and the study will investigate cost-effective and efficient ways, inclusive of public-private partnership models, of rolling out services and funding broadband on a much larger scale.

Regarding high-demand spectrum licensing, we will issue the final policy and policy direction to Icasa within the next seven working days on the licensing of unassigned high-demand spectrum. As the international information and communications technology, ICT, community prepares for the World Radio Conference that will be held in Egypt in October 2019, plans are afoot for South Africa's participation in discussions in the Southern African Development Community or SADC, in Africa and in international fora to ensure that this time we are not left behind and that our people and country are not delayed in playing the meaningful role they could play, because 5G is not only telecommunications-based but cuts across all sectors. We have to treat it in the way we deal with land.

In terms of accelerating the broadcasting digital migration programme, the department will present the reviewed broadcasting digital migration delivery model within 90 days, in order to enable the swift release of the high-demand spectrum needed for the roll-out of broadband and effective digital terrestrial television migration, or DTT migration. We have to build a capable army if we are to ensure that our people benefit from the spoils that are presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Ladies and gentlemen, the late former President Nelson Mandela once said, and I quote:

If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language that goes to his heart.

Indeed, the language that we use influences the way that we think and act. Therefore, making content readily available in multiple languages enables a connected society. As such and as part of the Internet for All Initiative, we have established a working group on content which has commenced with translating Wikipedia content into the 10 official languages of South Africa, save for English. [Applause.] To this end, both isiXhosa

and siSwati translations have been completed, and learners from schools in the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga have already started with the project. Of course, all isiXhosa- and siSwati-understanding people can have access irrespective of their geographical spread.

You will recall that in my 2018 Budget Vote speech I made a bold statement about training one million young people on data science and related skills to ensure that they are equipped to take advantage of new digital technologies, unlock future jobs and drive competitiveness. To this end, the National Digital Skills Strategy has been submitted to Cabinet for approval and we have, through a partnership with portfolio entities and stakeholders such as the Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority, or MICT Seta, Telkom, Cisco, Vodacom, MTN, Google and Microsoft, amongst other sectors, trained more than 20 000 young people in data science and in the skills of cloud computing, digital content production, 3D printing, drone piloting, cybersecurity and software development. [Applause.]

Further, Accenture is investing in future skills development with a special focus on the youth and contributing to the township economy. This is exemplified by the Accenture Java

Academy in partnership with Codex and the long-standing and proven Skills to Succeed Programme. We invite partners to join us in this digital skills revolution.

Ladies and gentlemen, cumulatively, portfolio entities and private sector companies spend approximately R20 million per year on bursaries for tertiary students studying in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics field or Stem field. The sector also utilises about 300 interns annually, most of whom are then absorbed into the respective companies. We don't make ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Minister, your time is now expired.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION: Thank you, House Chairperson. Ladies and gentlemen, I present the budget allocation for the department, which is R1,000 576 billion and for the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services it is R1,684 billion ... [Inaudible.]

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES: Thank you so much. [Applause.]

Mr A H M PAPO: House Chairperson, Minister and Deputy Minister of Communication and Telecommunications, fellow portfolio committee members, fellow Members of Parliament, invited guests from the ICT sector, Ministers who are attending the session and fellow South Africans, we are having this Budget Vote debate one day after the birthday of a veteran, stalwart and intellectual giant of the South African and international struggle for social and economic justice, Tata Govan Archibald Mvuyelwa Mbeki.

It is also the month in which our leader Mama Adelaide Frances Tambo was born in 1929. We are also holding this debate during the national and international month of July dedicated to the volunteer-in-chief of the Defiance Campaign, founding father of a democratic South Africa and founding commander-in-chief of our armed forces, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

This Budget Vote debate happens within the context of the ANC commitment to building a national democratic society, as reflected in the ANC ideological document - the strategy and tactics document - as adopted by the 54th national conference held in December 2017 which states, and I quote:

A national democratic society should be founded on a thriving economy and structure of which should reflect the national endowments of the country and the creativity that the skilled population can offer. It should be an economy in which cutting-edge technology, labour-absorbing industrial development, a thriving small business and co-operative sector, utilisation of information and communication technologies and efficient forms of production and management all combine to ensure national prosperity.

The debate is also informed by the ANC policy positions reflected by the 54th national conference resolutions on communications and the battle of ideas and by the 2019 and 2014 ANC election manifesto, under the section on transforming the economy to serve the people, which says:

The country and the world are at a critical point in the digital revolution. We must craft our digital future and devise a national programme for innovation that will unleash the talents and creativity of South Africans. Our country must become the centre of digital transformation in Africa. Its benefits must be spread across the economy and society rather than reinforcing existing inequality.

The Budget Vote debate is also informed by the decision taken by the ANC government in 2018 to reconfigure the Department of Communications and Telecommunications and Postal Services with 13 entities, namely: the SA Post Office; the Universal Service and Access Agency of SA, Usaasa; .Zadna; Broadband Infraco; Sentech; the National Electronic Media Institute of SA, Nemisa; the State Information Technology Agency, or Sita; the SABC; the Independent Communications Authority of SA, Icasa; the Film and Publications Board; the Government Communication and Information System, or GCIS; the Media Development and Diversity Agency or MDDA; and Brand South Africa which reported to the two departments, that is 2018.

A further decision was announced by President Ramaphosa in his June 2019 state of the nation address to rename the department as the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies with a deadline of the end of March 2020 to have completed the integration and reconfiguration of the two departments.

The Government Communication and Information System and Brand South Africa were transferred to the Ministry in the Presidency to ensure effective co-ordination.

As reflected by the observations and recommendations of the portfolio committee report and for the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, or ATC, there were two reports because the process of reconfiguration had not yet been completed and it was decided there would be one debate.

The portfolio committee will play an oversight role in the reconfiguration process to ensure it happens in a manner which takes into consideration all the laws governing the sector, and takes into consideration the country, existing skills and new skills which must be created for the country to ensure effective participation as a country in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. I see the Minister and the Deputy Minister are already in the dress code and are already in that revolution. [Applause.]

The portfolio committee report notes the number of successes and challenges which face the department and which face the entities reporting to the department, and the committee makes recommendations regarding the challenges. Some of the issues noted by the portfolio committee are the following: that there is the department's plan on the digitisation of government information; that government employees must be provided with digital skills; that the amended Banks Act will enable the Ministry of Communications to begin the process of amending the

Postbank Act; that the director-generals of Treasury and Communications were going to meet last week on Thursday, 4 July 2019, for further discussions about the SABC financial challenges - the Minister has now alluded to ongoing discussions and even on Monday there were engagements on the SABC: government's commitment to assisting the SABC to deal with its financial challenges; that there is the issue of the strategic plan which can deal with the short-, medium- and long-term sustainability of the SABC; that the department will be tabling the Broadcasting Amendment Bill in the 2019-20 financial year which will seek to assist, among other things, the SABC and to respond to the dynamics of the technology-driven sector; that the department will soon be issuing a spectrum policy directive; that the Minister has enabled workstreams to ensure a smooth reconfiguration; that a moratorium is in place to merge possible duplicate positions; and that a skills audit was instituted to evaluate skills resources available to the department.

The committee also noted with concern the serious financial challenges facing the SABC. The portfolio committee agreed, when we adopted the report, that the Minister would update it on progress in relation to the ongoing engagement among the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, the SABC and National Treasury on the challenges facing the SABC.

Some of the recommendations made by the portfolio committee are that the Minister ensure the department implement a co-ordinated strategy with clear internal processes on how the two departments will merge in respect of the reconfiguration, and to report to the committee when requested to about the programme of action especially relating to staff; ensure that during the reconfiguration, the role of its entities are clearly defined to avoid further duplication; ensure that in the creation of a highly industrialised economy, favourable conditions are created to ensure that small, medium and micro enterprises and the co-operatives sector survive and thrive; ensure that the department expedites spectrum policy so as to ensure that spectrum is released without further delay; adequately capacitate Icasa to ensure the licensing of spectrum is equitably favourable to all; ensure that strategies are in place to facilitate further reduction of data costs and the cost to communicate in general and ensure that the sector remains competitive; ensure that its focus to digitise government structures does not result in unintended job losses; that a thorough policy review is conducted for the digital migration process; promote regulation in order to stimulate the growth and sustainability of SMMEs; profile digital terrestrial television user experience and share that with committee; share with the committee more information relating to the study measuring the gap in ICT skills in South

Africa; and that government should take advantage of the world stage at the World Radio Conference, WRC19.

In our country we already have the South African affiliated Centre for the World Economic Forum for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, C4IR-SA, based at the CSIR in Tshwane which was launched in April 2019. On behalf of the legislative sector, national Parliament convened a seminar and exhibition on the Fourth Industrial Revolution this year. Various other discussions and practical initiatives are taking place as part of contributions towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Government and all sectors of society must diligently consolidate and co-ordinate all these initiatives related to the Fourth Industrial Revolution to ensure maximum benefit for the economy of the country, to assist us with innovation and the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

For maximum impact, we cannot afford the old, sterile, silo mentality. We expect the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which held its inaugural meeting on Friday, 5 July 2019, to co-ordinate and galvanise, through its six workstreams, all efforts towards developing a national strategy for the country by the end of March 2020.

Instead of sloganeering and fearmongering, we as lawmakers have to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution and immerse ourselves in the theoretical, policy and practical aspects of it. There are a number of scholars and practitioners in this area of work who have done research and can assist us to be active industrial revolutionaries to completely change the socioeconomic face of our country.

As elected public representatives we have a responsibility to ensure that the Fourth Industrial Revolution practically benefits the people of South Africa, the majority of whom are black, women and working class. We will do our oversight in a robust and strong manner, but the majority of committee members agree that this oversight should not be done in a rude and abrasive manner. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Ms P T VAN DAMME: Hon Chairperson, on the Sona red carpet Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams said her dress was to remind South Africa that Stella is a princess. It was bizarre that a Minister, a public representative, would see fit to remind South Africa that she is a princess and not a humble servant of the people ... [Interjections.] ... as she was elected to be.

Princess Stella ... Stop my time, please Chair! Stop my time.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members.

Don't drown out the speaker with your interjections. Hon members

...

Ms P T VAN DAMME: She said she was a princess.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members!

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE SECURITY: On a point of order,
Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members ... Hon
members ... I will recognise you now, Deputy Minister.

Nk P T VAN DAMME: Kwasho yena nje. (*Translation of isiZulu
sentence follows.*)

[But she said so herself.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member at the
podium, if you want the protection of the Chair, then you must
also try not to elicit a response; to be drowned out while you

are delivering your speech. Why are you rising, hon Deputy Minister?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE SECURITY: Because the hon member is misrepresenting the hon Minister.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): That is not a point of order.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE SECURITY: The hon Minister is a princess. She is a princess. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member. Please take your seat. Thank you for the information. Continue, hon member.

Ms P T VAN DAMME: Hey, she said so herself. Princess Stella's attitude was unfortunately not limited to the red carpet. It became patently clear that the Minister thought herself to be a fairy-tale princess to whom all must bow. Her approach and treatment of the SA Broadcasting Corporation is indeed that of one who considers themselves above the law that applies to us common folk. [Interjections.]

Last week, the Minister ...

Ubukhona wena ... (*Translation of isiZulu phrase follows.*)

[You were there ...]

... claimed that the judgment of the High Court in the case *SOS Support Public Broadcasting Coalition and Others v South African Broadcasting Corporation (SOC) Limited and Others* and by implication, the Broadcasting Act, did not necessarily apply to her in all cases as the Minister of Communications.

In reference to the effects of the Broadcasting Act and its implication of the Minister's relationship with the SABC board, Judge Matojane held in the judgment - listen carefully here:

Because the SABC is a medium ...

[Interjections.]

Lalelani! [Listen!]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members!

Ms P T VAN DAMME:

Because the SABC is a medium that should allow the free flow of ideas that are necessary for our democracy to function, the state must ensure that it has structural and operational independence.

The judgment further reads:

The Minister as a sole shareholder and not a member of the board does not have the right to act on behalf of the SABC or manage its business or affairs. The ultimate decision-making power is that of the board and not the Minister as sole shareholder.

[Applause.]

This means that the Minister has a constitutional duty to work with the SABC without unduly interfering in its operational decisions taken by the board. Before you deny it, this is not my own interpretation of the judgment in the Broadcasting Act but that of a constitutional law professor.

Minister, through you, Chair, if you consider yourself above the law and the courts ... [Interjections.]

Hhayi, uzoshelela kabi. [Ubuwelewele.] (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[No, you will be surprised. [Interjections.]]

The editorial of the *City Press* this Sunday, if your behaviour thus far is anything to go by, is correct.

Hlaudi Motsoeneng took the SABC to the edge of the cliff and you appear to be determined to push it over.

Minister, please be sure to protect ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members!

Order!

Mr K J MILEHAM: Hon Chairperson ...

Ms P T VAN DAMME: I don't know why they get so excited ...

[Inaudible.] My time, please!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, one of your members is now raising a point of order. So, he is taking up your time. Have a seat. Hon Van Damme, just have a seat please. Yes, hon member?

Mr K J MILEHAM: Chairperson, we all enjoy a little bit of heckling and joshing but it is starting to drown out the speaker. I would ask for your protection. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members! Hon members, I have requested you not to drown out the speaker. Continue, hon member.

Ms P T VAN DAMME: Minister, please ensure that the important role that the SABC plays in our democracy is protected, supported and respected. This a heartfelt plea I make on behalf of those people of our country who do not have money for Netflix, Showmax or DStv and in some cases do not own TVs and only have radios.

You know that the majority of South Africans rely on the SABC's radio and TV stations. Please ensure that they can continue to be provided with information, education and entertainment by the

public broadcaster. Day Zero must never come for it will be them who will suffer. You may live a life of luxury; they do not.

This is also a heartfelt plea I make on behalf of the thousands of SABC staff who lived through Hlaudi Motsoeneng's reign of terror and now live in a time of uncertainty with only three months of salaries left in the SABC's coffers.

We applaud the SABC staff who made sure, probably for the first time in a democratic South Africa, that coverage of the election was fair across all parties. That's why nibuhlungu. [That's why you are bitter.] Is that why the Minister is upset because the SABC is no longer under the ANC's control? [Interjections.] Is the Minister upset because the SABC bravely reported her attempts to block the SABC covering a protest at a manifesto launch? If you are upset, build a bridge and get over it. Stop putting you and your party's ego above that of the people of South Africa. Enough!

You have National Treasury's 11 preconditions. Work on building an amicable relationship with the SABC so that the people of our country do not have to suffer because of the bad blood you have with the SABC and your bad-mouthing.

To the SABC I say: Continue your good work thus far but please release the following reports that are long outstanding: The Revised Editorial Policy Report, the Report on Political Interference at the SABC and the results of the staff and salaries audit that you conducted. This is work that does not require funding from National Treasury and we trust that these reports will be released soon for public scrutiny.

I must state that I am incredibly excited about the inclusion of digital technologies as part of the department's mandate. I trust that adequate funding will be allocated to this important function. I will offer the Minister suggestions from the DA, which I hope she will consider in good faith. This is but one idea, and I look forward to sharing many with her.

Last month, the UK government announced new measures to ensure that their regulatory system can effectively support technology innovation. A council will be formed to advise government of regulations they need to adapt and respond to changes in technology.

I believe that the same is needed in South Africa. Companies in this sector should not be hamstrung by onerous red tape. Please

make sure that this sector is provided with enough support so that it can create jobs.

To my fellow committee members, I have already suggested that as a communications and digital technology committee, we must lead by example in creating a digitised Parliament. [Interjections.] Yeah, the Waterfront is where you buy all your expensive outfits with money you got from the Guptas. [Interjections.]

Ms L S MAKHUBELA-MASHELE: On a point of order.

Ms P T VAN DAMME: Thank you. We must drive a digitised Parliament. We would also like to see ... [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon member, could you take your seat? There is a point of order. Hon member, what is your point of order?

Ms L S MAKHUBELA-MASHELE: The point of order is that the member at the podium says the Minister buys expensive clothes with money from the Guptas. That is not correct and it is unsubstantiated. She is making allegations. She must withdraw. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Order, hon members!

Unfortunately, as there was a lot of noise I didn't hear that.

Hon Van Damme, could you confirm that you said that?

Ms P T VAN DAMME: I said all of them ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): All of them what?

Ms P T VAN DAMME: ... especially the one in the Burberry scarf.

Please, my time. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon Van Damme ...

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE SECURITY: Chairperson?

[Interjections.]

Mr K J MILEHAM: Chairperson, excuse me, I had the floor before the Deputy Minister.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): I was still talking. Could all of you take your seats? Hon Van Damme, I want to make a ruling. If you said that, could you please withdraw it because it is unparliamentary?

Ms P T VAN DAMME: I withdraw because I don't know where they all shop. We would like to see a far more robust Parliament and committees holding companies in the private sector accountable - the DA took on Bell Pottinger and won, and there is no reason why Parliament couldn't have done so. [Applause.] - that does not only protect our people from the misdeeds of government but also those of the private sector.

As my final word to the Minister, it is still early in your tenure. She has the time to right wrongs and be the Minister of Communications that South Africa deserves; if not ...

Sizofaka upelepele. *(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)*

[We will exert pressure.]

Chairperson, I have just been informed of the passing of legendary springbok wing, James Small. On behalf of the DA, I would like to send our deepest condolences to his friends, family and the global rugby fraternity. We will forever remember your contribution to South Africa's victory in the 1995 Rugby World Cup - a victory that united South Africans at a fragile time in our country's history. Rest in peace.

Rus in vrede, James. (*Translation of Afrikaans sentence follows.*)

[Rest in peace, James.] [Applause.]

Mr L G MOKOENA: Chair, let me add the condolences of the EFF to the passing of Nomhle Nkonyeni. She has led an entire generation of artists and we send our condolences and respect.

Ulale kakuhle Sisi Hlehle Nkonyeni. (*Translation of isiXhosa sentences follows.*)

[Rest in peace, Sisi Hlehle Nkonyeni.]

Minister, let me start by saying that we welcome the decision by the ANC, finally, to amalgamate the two Departments of Communications and Telecommunications. [Applause.] It's an overdue decision and we don't understand why they were separated in the first place - actually we do know - but we welcome the decision.

We think that immediately after announcing the amalgamation, that the President should have also introduced the operation of the Post Bank as a full bank, because it is an extremely

important pillar of the economic emancipation of our people. It is important that the Post Bank take advantage of the Financial Matters Amendment Act and start operating as a fully licensed bank now that the Banks Act has been amended to allow SOEs to carry and operate with a banking licence. The EFF is proud to have initiated this process through its private member's Bill of 15 May.

So, back in 2017, the Post Bank applied for a license to operate as a bank. When it did so, it should have had a business plan and that business plan would have outlined shareholders, operations, strategy and all of that. Your department comes to the committee last week and says: that now that the legislative environment allows for the bank to operate, they are now speaking to shareholders and they understand the modus operandi. So it means that they don't have a plan as yet.

Since 2017 up until the announcement of the amendment on the 23 May, this year, there was no plan. This is what characterises the Department of Communications, generally. So, we have a few suggestions, Ma'am. This is how you do it: Because you have the Public Investment Corporation, PIC; you have the Industrial Development Corporation, or IDC; you have the National Empowerment Fund, or the NEF; you have Sassa; you have

government departments; you have the ANC account - even the EFF will throw their money into that account of the Post Bank. You then have strong leverage ... [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Order, hon members!

Mr L G MOKOENA: You then have a strong leverage. Use that leverage to go to the poorest of the poor, to the marginalised, go to ... [Inaudible.] ... where the established banking system is exploiting our people. Go to Nxamakwe, go to Qumbu, go to the rural areas of KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo, go there and go service our people there and go reduce charges and reduce tariffs. That is the mandate that the post bank should ... forget what Minister Cele was saying about a development bank and all of that. This must be a mainstream bank that services the marginalised and the poorest of the poor. This could be one of the strongest pillars of the economic emancipation of our people. So, we implore that you that very seriously.

Now, the SABC, you must talk to that Minister of yours, he is not here. You must tell the Minister of Finance ...

Ukuba uxobana nathi uma engafuni ukubhekela i-SABC ngezimali

(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)

[... that he is fighting with us when he does not want to bail out the SABC.]

It is extremely important that he finances it. Now we know that the reason why he is using the turnaround strategy as a scapegoat, as a reason not to finance the SABC, is because we understand his attitude towards SOEs. But the SABC is an extremely important pillar of our democracy so it has to be financed, even before those timelines that you are mentioning and you put a proviso that, no, if they meet certain ...

[Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon members, order! Could you allow him to speak please?

Mr L G MOKOENA: ... you give a proviso that if they meet certain functions then they will be financed. The SABC must be financed, Ma'am. It is absolutely important. Now, the SABC ...

[Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Order, hon members! Could you allow the speaker to speak please?

Mr L G MOKOENA: So, the SABC has had more turnaround strategies than any SOEs ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon member, could you take your seat, there is a hand. What is your point of order, hon member?

Mr D BERGMAN: Chair, on a point of order, this sound like a conversation between the Minister and the speaker ...

[Interjections.] ... It's meant to go through the Chair, please.

[Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon member, that is not a point of order. Hon member, could you proceed? [Interjections.]

Proceed!

Mr L G MOKOENA: Thank you, Chair. So, the SABC has had more turnaround strategies than any other SOE and those turnaround strategies have never worked. The SABC keeps getting worse and worse and worse. You know why? It is because the problem is not the turnaround strategy, the problem is people ...

[Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Order, hon members!

[Interjections.] Order, hon members! We want to listen to the speaker. Could you give him a chance please?

Mr L G MOKOENA: The problem is not your turnaround strategy. It's people, it's implementation and it's policy, right? So this is how you fix the SABC. The SABC needs to be depoliticised. We are hearing all kinds of stories that ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon member, could you speak through the Chair? [Interjections.] Please, hon member ...
[Interjections.]

Mr L G MOKOENA: I don't understand, does it mean I must look at you? [Interjections.] [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE SECURITY: Order, Chair! Order, Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon member, I am trying to protect you because they are disturbing you. I am saying please speak through the Chair. [Interjections.] Please continue

Mr L G MOKOENA: Okay. Thanks, Chair.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE SECURITY: Order, Chairperson!

Order, Chairperson! I think it is important to protect an hon member, because I think there is jealousy on the other side because he is facing this side. He is saying sensible things and not looking at them. I think you must protect the hon member, please Chair. [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE SECURITY: [Laughter.] Hon member, proceed, otherwise you are finishing your own minutes, please.

Mr L G MOKOENA: Through you Chair, Minister ... [Laughter.]

[Interjections.] ... we must depoliticise the SABC. This is crucial because we are still hearing stories of politicisation of the SABC and its going to destroy that institution. We must release the skills audit and we must solidify the definition of roles. People are running around the SABC and they don't know what they are doing. It is important that everybody understands what their role is.

You must put in proper financial and operational systems, Ma'am, and we must not tolerate corruption, because what has happened is that we have had the SABC inquiry. There were recommendations and people are still running around. Some of them are even opening their own political parties with the monies of the SABC.

So we must go and arrest those people. We must recoup the monies that we have lost in the SABC through corrupt operations, with the Guptas, with Multichoice. We have lost archives, we have lost a lot and we must recoup all that money. And we must go back to the basic principles of broadcasting: its information and education, entertainment and fairness. Those are all embodied within the broadcasting Act. These are some of the things that we need to look at in order for us to bring back the dignity of the SABC.

Ma'am, leave the Broadcasting Act alone; leave it alone. There is nothing wrong with the Broadcasting Act. Now what happened in the last tenure is that your Minister - when you were Deputy Minister - went into that corner office of hers there and fiddled with the Broadcasting Act. We learned later that what she was doing was to centralise power among herself, Hlaudi and other corrupt individuals. Don't do those things. There is nothing absolutely wrong with Broadcasting Act. Let's go to the SABC itself and fix what is there. That is where we need to start.

On digital migration, digital migration must now be the cornerstone of broadcasting in South Africa. Now, your department already told you that ... [Interjections.] ... I have

got lots of time, thank you very much. We want numbers, we have got time now. [Laughter.] Your department already told you that we are already paying money towards Sentech and preparing Sentech for the digital migration so it is not operational but the money is already going out. So, its wasteful expenditure by definition, so to speak, and failure to do so will result in the stifling of the development of the SABC.

The SABC should be giving us a whole lot more channels; it should be giving us many more services. You're stifling the development of local transmission. Now, at the moment, the process of applying for a local television station is so cumbersome that there are at least five provinces that don't have those things. So, the digital migration will make it easier for them to open up and have ... we will continue to engage on these issues. There is a whole lot more that we are going to discuss. Thank you very much. We will not be supporting your Budget until you do these things. Thank you very much. [Time expired.]

Mr J B MAMABOLO: Point of order, Chair. Point of order, Chair. [Interjections.] This very important, Chair. Hon Chair, is hon Mandla waKhethiwe lebhuti Tau aware that in order for people at home to watch *Generations: The Legacy* at eight o'clock they have

had to watch you on *Generations* at eight o'clock, then this Budget Vote needs to pass? I don't think he is aware. Hon Ringo Madlingozi, you don't know ... [Inaudible.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon member ... [Interjections.]

Mr J B MAMABOLO: Hello ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon member, you should address the Chair not the member. [Interjections.] So ... hon Mokoena?

Mr L G MOKOENA: Through you, Chair, I appreciate my fan there ... [Interjections.] ... but we are not there, chief. We are in Parliament now. We are discussing telecommunications, okay. [Interjections.] I will deal with you afterwards at eight o'clock. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon Mokoena, you are making the very same mistake: you must address the Chair. Could you take your seat? I have made a ruling. Let us proceed with our debate. The next speaker is the hon Majozzi; she is making her maiden speech. Over to you, Mbokodo. [Applause.]

Ms Z MAJOZI: Hon Chairperson, this department is the custodian of information and is responsible for the national communications policy and strategy; information dissemination and publicity; and the branding of our country. It is incredibly difficult to discuss only budget matters when 91,3% or R4,6 billion of the department's total budget will be transferred to entities for the implementation of communications and broadcasting policies. It is no surprise who will receive the bulk of the billions, but the uncertainty around the sustainability of the SA Broadcasting Corporation and its current business model is what affects the work of this department most.

As the sole shareholder, Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams has not been doing a stellar job. [Interjections.] Without having to debate inconsistencies and the relationship of the department with National Treasury, we must never forget that the people who will bear the brunt - owing to a lack of financial certainty, poor management and lack of oversight and blatant ineptitude - are the many faces behind the public broadcaster. They need to put food on the table. They need to ensure their children's school fees are paid and that they are able to cover their bonds, or their car payments or their credit.

The board's pockets are lined as they are getting paid per meeting, yet producing zero results. There is no bang for your buck. If this were any company, it would be addressed. If key performance areas are not met over this medium term, all hope will be lost. We must never forget that when things are unravelling right at the top, the worst affected are the ones who put in the hours of work to make ends meet.

The situation at the SABC right now is not something we should take lightly as a nation. There are many lessons which have been learnt over the years and there are many examples of state-owned entities which have become successful enterprises by opening up to private sector investment and shareholdings. Such a public and private partnership is required to move the SABC forward and out of the red. It is a shame, really, that we have found ourselves in this position. The lack of consequences for gross neglect flies in the face of the millions of South Africans who rely on the SABC for their information, their entertainment and their upliftment. It is unacceptable, it is a waste of public funds and it is a grave shame that various Ministers have failed to fix and clean up the public broadcaster.

The welcomed merger and rebranding of the department to include digital technologies is a step in the right direction. But face

painting is meaningless without action. The state of the telecommunications industry in our country is a missed opportunity to unlock jobs for our people and to reach out to the millions of people who live in rural South Africa. Digital technologies and opportunities have been squandered owing to the lack of policy certainty within that department, and the political will has not been there to turn around the entities of the department.

Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams certainly does have a challenging portfolio of entities, boards and industries to manage. It is important that she focus and that she is able to navigate the industry sharks in prioritising the creation of jobs and opportunities for young South Africans in the tech space.

Chairperson, the IFP is extremely concerned about the possible adverse health effects associated with the roll-out of 5G Communications. We urge government to exercise the utmost precaution as is mandatory in terms of international agreements to which we are party as well as in terms of our own constitution.

We must caution and conscientise this House about the many dangers posed by radiation, which has been scientifically proven

to be harmful when exposed to humans, particularly young people in the roll-out of 5G. In this respect we have submitted a number of parliamentary questions to the Ministers of Health and Communications, Environment, and the JCPS cluster. We urge the Minister to conduct independent investigations into possible adverse health and wellbeing effects of 5G. The IFP supports this budget. I thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr W W WESSELS: Hon Chairperson, communication: the human connection, is key to all forms of success, therefore the importance of this department should not be underestimated. According to President Ramaphosa, the merge of the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services and the Department of Communications will ensure better alignment and co-ordination of matters that are important to our economy. This can, however, only be obtained if the different components of this department function properly, which is currently not at all the case. The instability in leadership of this department has had a detrimental impact on its entities - such as the Independent Communications Authority of SA, Icasa, the Film and Publication Board, the Government Communication and Information System, GCIS, and the ANC government's greatest embarrassment, the SA Broadcasting Corporation, the SABC.

Minister, through you, Chairperson, you referred to the Electronic Communications Act, but since it was passed into law, 17 years ago, nothing has happened, nothing! A good piece of legislation but nothing has happened, niks [nothing]. The progress on essential projects such as the switch from analogue to digital broadcasting, which has been 10 years in the making and for which the deadline was set to be 2011, is still not completed. It is now estimated to be completed by 2020, but most probably that is also just a dream. We are lagging behind our neighbours, Namibia and Botswana in this regard. This delay has cost the country more than R10 billion.

The poorest of the poor are excluded from affordable digital connectivity. Why? Is it deliberate or is it just incompetence? Because, currently, only elite few benefit. The economy is suffering due to the various delays to implement the Electronic Communications Act.

Let's get to the SABC in particular. Hlaudi Motsoeneng was appointed by the ANC. He was appointed by your predecessor, Minister. The ANC protected him amidst his destruction of the public broadcaster, amidst his corruption when he stole and was part of stealing R631 million from the Department of Human Settlements in the Free State. Houses that could have built for

the poor - he stole, but the ANC chose to protect him year after year. And then what did he do? He started his own political party - learn from that. [Laughter.]

The hon President's pipe dream of a smart city will never be realised amidst the mismanagement and corruption which contribute to South Africa lacking behind the world in terms of digital communication. We cannot talk about the Fourth Industrial Revolution whilst we do not even have a nearly, almost functioning, Post Office - not even a Post Office. We do not even have a functioning public broadcaster, but then we hear in every speech "Fourth Industrial Revolution". We are far from that. Let's get what we have working. Let's implement what we have. Let's stop the corruption. Let's make appointments based on merit. Learn from the Hlaudi Motsoeneng incident. Listen to the opposition parties. Listen when people within the entities tell you that there is a problem with a certain individual. Don't just ignore them.

The whole SABC destruction could have been prevented or limited if the Minister at that stage and the ANC had listened, but they chose to protect their cadre and now he is an ACM cadre. Stop your cadre deployment. If this is not done, the President's dream - actually a fairy tale of a smart city - will remain a

fairy tale, and the only place where the hon Minister will feature is as a fictional princess within that fairy tale. I thank you. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES (Ms P S Kekana): Hon Chairperson, let me recognise the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies Ms Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, other Ministers and Deputy Ministers here present, the chairperson of the portfolio committee, hon Hope Papo, members of the portfolio committee, directors-general of respective departments, commissioners of the Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, captains of industry, distinguished guests, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, let me start out by apologising to the House for the regrettable incident that took place at last week's portfolio committee session. This was not out of disrespect to the portfolio committee and all South Africans. It was the effect of taking new flu medication and bearing the consequences thereof. I conditionally apologise. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

With eight days left to Mandela Day, as the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies we are guided by the words of our former President, Nelson Mandela, when he said and I quote: "The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but

he who conquers that fear.” With many challenges to face and the many unknowns that come with the advancement of technology, like Madiba said, we have to be brave and conquer those fears.

As we head into the Fourth Industrial Revolution, our drive needs to be underpinned by institutions, especially state-owned enterprises, agencies and regulators.

Significant strides have been made to transform the SABC from being the mouthpiece of the apartheid government into a true public broadcaster. The uninterrupted coverage of the 2019 national and provincial elections enabled South Africans from all walks of life the opportunity to receive pertinent information about the elections, therefore facilitating a participatory democracy. This, once again, positioned the national broadcaster as an important pillar of our democracy, and is probably best summed up by the analysis of Media Monitoring Africa, an independent media monitoring group, which concluded the following, and I quote: SABC coverage of the 2019 general elections is to be strongly commended, not just because they were overwhelmingly fair, but because, firstly, there was a clear shift to offer more citizens voices; secondly, political parties were equitably covered; thirdly, the SABC stood up for their editorial independence; fourthly, provincial coverage was

in line with general population spread; and, lastly, to the best of our knowledge, no formal complaints about the SABC's failure to run party adverts or messages were lodged.

This proves, hon Mokoena, how the SABC is depoliticised.

Ms P T VAN DAMME: Chairperson ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon member ...

Ms P T VAN DAMME: Could I just ask a question? Why is the ANC not clapping about the equitable coverage? Not clapping. Why is that?

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon Van Damme! Hon Van Damme, I did not allow you to do that. Hon Deputy Minister, could you proceed.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES (Ms P S Kekana): Thank you. The ANC is aware, so we are trying to educate you. And this happened at a time when the SABC was faced with unprecedented financial challenges, which were mainly the results of mismanagement, corruption and an outdated funding model. Government understands these challenges and commits

itself to finding lasting solutions. And, of course, our Minister has come up with those, which include working with the SABC and other stakeholders.

In this respect, the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies has commissioned the Government Technical Advisory Centre, the GTAC, at National Treasury to assist with the development of the corporate strategy of the SABC to ensure that it is sustainable and forward-looking. It is within this context that the Minister of Finance has charged his Director-General, Mr Dondo Mogajane, to determine how the SABC can be assisted from within Treasury's contingency reserves, as indicated in the Minister of Finance's February 2019 Budget Speech. We are truly indebted to the board, the management and the staff of the SABC who have continued to steer the ship through stormy seas which were not of their own doing. We will be working studiously and speedily with the GTAC, SABC current lenders, and National Treasury - as the Minister has outlined - to ensure that the SABC gets the assistance it desperately needs in the interim whilst parliamentary processes are being finalised.

The department has also identified policies that need to be amended to create an enabling environment for the turnaround and complete recovery of the SABC, taking into account the changing

market and technological advances. This will entail amendments to the Broadcasting Act and the Electronic Communications Act, amongst other things.

We call upon all government departments and state-owned entities to use the SABC as a platform to educate, inform and entertain about specific areas of work, cutting across various sectors such as health, sports, transport, etc. This will enable us to position the SABC as your home, within the homes of South Africans. This can and should happen, if we get all government departments and its entities to understand that the SABC is a fundamental platform for public content. I have no doubt that we can build a public broadcaster which makes the paying of TV licences worthy. I expect all members to really lead by example. [Applause.]

A good and viable broadcaster is central to the development and growth of audio-visual content and the creative industry. The creative industry was identified by the World Economic Forum as a high-priority industry, and our current discussions on the renewed industrial policy has affirmed it as one of the future economic growth sectors for South Africa. In this regard, the department will prioritise the development of an audio-visual and digital content strategy. Engagements with the creative

industry are ongoing and the department has already committed funds to support this initiative.

In support of the development of more local content, as required by section 38 of the Broadcasting Act, the Ministry will appoint members of the public and industry to serve on the SA Broadcast Production Advisory Body, which will advise on strategies and plans towards the creation of a South African local content industry. This will take into account efforts towards positioning South Africa as a significant player in the global digital economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Financial inclusion is an important pillar of any economy. Over the years government has positioned the Postbank to become a trusted bank for many in our country, especially those who cannot access current banks. Currently, the Postbank has about 5,8 million clients with R5,3 billion in deposits, excluding SA Social Security Agency, Sassa, which amounts to 7,8 million grant recipients. Our competitive edge remains rooted in decades of building trust in communities, and in supporting South Africans, who would not normally have access to banking, by giving them a form of economic emancipation. So, I hear that the EFF is aligning with the ANC in this regard.

A significant number of South Africans started their banking with the Postbank and still do ...

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): Hon Deputy Minister, there is a point of order. Hon Mokoena, what is your point of order?

Mr L G MOKOENA: Sorry, Chair, this is point of correction. We are not aligning; it is part of our pillars. It is one of our main pillars to have a state-owned ... [Interjections.]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES (Ms P S Kekana): You are learning from the best. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms V S Siwela): That is not a point of order. Sit down. Hon Deputy Minister, you can proceed.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES (Ms P S Kekana): So, you are learning form the best. The payment of social grants through the postal network has brought convenience and even dignity to many of our people because of the extensive network of the Post Office, across more than 1 000 outlets. As we speak, Postbank is developing its strategy - so, the strategy is there - which will be unveiled in the next few months. This will enable it to compete in the market while

focusing on its immediate responsibilities to ensure financial inclusivity. We are getting there; "ukukhawuleza" [speeding up] is our approach now.

The Banks Act did not previously allow state-owned entities to hold bank licences. This has since been amended, and paved the way for the licensing of the Postbank. During the current financial year, we will amend the Postbank Act to align it with the Banks Act. The department has already delinked the assets of the Postbank from those of the SA Post Office.

It is safe to say we are in the process of concluding the regulatory framework for the first state-owned bank in the democratic dispensation. [Interjections.]

Kuya sheshwa la. *(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)*

[Things are speeding up here.]

The corporatisation model of the Postbank will ensure that we progress to a state bank which will fulfil both economic and social transformation mandates, serve the unbanked and underbanked, offering accessible, simple, and affordable banking solutions for our people. So, hon Mokoena, we have a road map.

Siyakhawuleza manje. (*Translation of isiXhosa sentences follows.*)

[We are speeding up now.]

The postal market is undergoing critical changes impacted by the rapid pace of technological advancements. Throughout the world the traditional mail volumes are in severe decline, which necessitate a complete rethink of the role of the Post Office. In South Africa, the National Integrated ICT Policy White Paper already recognises the strategic role of the Post Office in the changed market and ever-changing technological environment. In this regard, the Post Office will launch an e-commerce platform which is being implemented jointly with the Universal Postal Union, UPU, a United Nations agency for postal services. Last year, we committed to partnering with the UPU to make Sapo one of the three hubs in Africa.

I am pleased to report that there is increased co-operation with regional operators to enable trade and logistics solutions in the region and internationally. In addition to e-commerce, the department will work with the Post Office to redefine its mandate in the roll-out of e-government, as set out in the White Paper. The diversification of the mandate of the Post Office

follows on government's financial investment in the Post Office over the last three years. This will also enable the Post Office to digitise its network by connecting all post offices to high-speed internet.

As we continue to focus on the digitisation of the postal network, Sapo will continue to roll out addresses to assist government to comply with what is called the Tlokwe ruling of the Constitutional Court. In the past two years the department has supported the Post Office with funds to roll out addresses, and about 4,9 million new addresses have been introduced, far exceeding the original target of 3,5 million.

This assisted the IEC, greatly, in preparations for the 2021 local government elections. As the ANC, we are ready for local government elections. The roll-out of these new addresses will enable the recipient communities and households to participate in the economy and, over and above that, it gives our people a sense of belonging.

To sustain the postal network, government has reinstated the Universal Service Obligation Fund and dedicated R1,5 billion over a three-year period. This is important considering the huge cost of sustaining a postal network. Due to the successful

implementation of this project of R50 million funding from the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services, an additional R35 million grant was approved to support the development of the national address database envisaged in the national ICT policy. The focus for the coming year is to obtain approval for an amendment to our legislation that approves the data custodianship for addresses.

The socioeconomic conditions that are faced by women, youth, and people with disabilities remain at the centre of our programmes and policy framework, rightfully so. In the 2018-19 Budget Vote speech, the department committed to hosting and implementing programmes targeting women, children, people with disabilities, and our SMMEs. We hosted the national ICT Accessibility Symposium in Mafikeng where over 225 people with disabilities were in attendance, and where the outcome of the symposium was a heightened awareness amongst the attendees of what is available to them in the ICT sector. And I am glad that Mme Masingita Masunga is also in our midst and she will be carrying our message through.

The symposium also provided an opportunity for the sector to showcase what innovations and technologies are available in South Africa to support persons with disabilities. We are

passionate about the use of innovation and technologies that support and empower persons with disabilities.

As with anything, there is a negative side to technology. As such, the protection of children is a key priority for the department. We hosted the Child Online Protection programme, providing support to the Web Rangers programme, which is a national digital literacy initiative to equip young people between the ages of 12 and 17 to empower themselves and their peers to be safe online. The programme reached just under 1 500 young people across the country, equipping them to be Web Rangers in their respective schools, with the idea to catalyse the awareness and behaviours of safe online activity. The schools social media policy, which previously only focused on the restriction of cellphone usage in schools, has now been expanded with a priority on policy changes, to include aspects of cyberbullying, sexting and sexual grooming.

The department has implemented the e-parenting programme across all nine provinces, with just under 500 parents to date. We are calling on all political parties to also join hands with government in some of these programmes because it is important for our parents to understand all these things.

The department will be implementing the digital inclusion awareness programme in 2019-20, on the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution for four components of society, namely women, youth, children and people with disabilities. This will include the Young Women and ICT Dialogue in August 2019, with a focus on the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. You are all invited on my left.

South Africa is currently a member of various international organisations, such as the International Telecommunications Union, the World Intellectual Property Organisation and regional and continental formations dealing with the sector. Our strategic focus is mainly around the creation of a fair and equitable global communications environment, harnessing the value of strategic resources such as the radio frequency spectrum, as the Minister has spoken to, and universal standards.

As I conclude, I would like to say that all these initiatives constitute elements of a dream of the South Africa we want and the actions we are going to take to make that dream a reality. I started out my speech today by quoting Nelson Mandela, and I want to close with a famous Madiba quote in this Mandela Month:

"A winner is a dreamer who never gives up." "Malibongwe!" [Let it be praised!]. "Siyaqhuba!" [We are advancing!]. [Applause.]

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Thank you very much, House Chair ...

... niqhuba nibuya umva okanye kwi ... (*Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.*)

[... you reverse in a ...]

... traffic circle. South has already missed the International Telecommunication Union, ITU, committed deadline for migration, Minister, as you are aware. The question is: How do you intend to fast-track this process?

Another very critical issue to us is that South Africa has fallen behind the rest of the world regarding the assignment of 5G spectrum, as the Ministry has decided to assign 4G spectrum before it assigns 5G spectrum. The question we want to ask the Minister, which I think is pertinent, is: Should the Minister not consider simultaneous assignment of both 4G and 5G spectrum?

Another very critical issue for the Minister is: Foreign-owned OMEs such as Huawei, Erricson, ZTE and Nokia are increasing

their value-chain participation by providing full ...

[Inaudible.] ... e-services. This results in the exclusion and marginalisation of black SMMEs. What processes has the department put in place to monitor and ensure that big telecoms players such as MTN, Vodacom and Telkom remain accountable especially towards meeting their BEE participation in the industry value?

Another important question and issue for the Minister to consider is that phase one of SA Connect promised to provide broadband services to over 6 000 government facilities especially rural schools and clinics. What is the status of this project? When should we expect its completion?

I now want to come to the SABC, and to say in particular that...

... uMphathiswa weSebe lezeziMali uyayithanda injezu, unesigqezu [Kwahlekwa]. (*Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.*)

[... the Minister of Finance likes fame, he likes to show off
[Laughter.]]

I want to quote the report of the committee on communications, which says: The report of the committee commends the SABC board

and management for, and I quote: "... savings of R1 billion on the basis of a strategy implemented by the board to, one, increase revenue; two, contain costs; three, resolve internal inefficiencies". The same report says that it commends the SABC for balanced coverage of the elections, which has already been cited here, and then it goes further and says, "for the improvement in TV licence collections fees". That's a turnaround strategy, isn't it? It gives an indication that the institution is turning around and that is exactly what we discussed last year.

Nithetha ukuthini ke ngoku xa nisithi akukho ... (*Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.*)

[What do you mean when you say there is no ...]

... turnaround strategy.

Sanukudlala ipolitiki apha, la masela. (*Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.*)

[Don't play with politics here, these thieves.]

The other issue which, I think, is of critical importance is that, what appears to be a political tug of war between a department of government and the SABC is creating uncertainty for staff members at the SABC.

Hayi nantso, nitsho. *(Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.)*

[No, there it is, you say so.]

All of the issues I have highlighted here, which I quoted from a report of a committee of Parliament, are issues that we certainly discussed in the portfolio committee last year. The management and the board committed to seeing to these issues. They have seen to them ... [Interjections.]

... bayaqhuba kancinci, anifuni ukubanika imali kuba nineengxaki zenu. Siyanixhasa, kodwa khawuzame sisi, siza kububuya.

(Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.)

[... slowly, you don't want to give them money because you have your own problems. We support you, but try, my sister, we will come back.]

[Applause.]

Mr L E MOLALA: Hon Chair, fellow committee members, Minister, and Deputy Minister, board executives and staff from related state-owned corporations and entities, the media and hon guests, following the Departments of Communications, and Telecommunications, the Postal Services 2019 Annual Performance Plan presented on 3 July 2019, our considerations of the budgets and the committee reports on 9 July 2019, I am convinced, agree and rise to support this progressive budget.

The debate takes place in the immediate aftermath of the President's state of the nation address on the Sixth Parliament and the first 4IRSA Digital Economy Summit, held last week in Johannesburg.

In many ways, this is a sector of many firsts and the new departments will be a pioneered. We have the great fortune of being pathfinders for our nation in these uncharted waters. The President has made the commitment that government will open the doors of learning for all, and this is a skills revolution.

The President also made a commitment that will lower the cost of communications - young people call it #DataMustFall - and extend free Wi-Fi access to more sites in the country, particularly in the most vulnerable areas. As a cadre from the rural province of

North West, I have been grappling with these complex concepts in the past few weeks since the ANC deployed me to this committee. Clearly, the future we have always dreamed about is here. As Dr Martin Luther King Jr. said:

We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there "is" such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.

Our people are not interested in the drama which some political parties have brought to Parliament. The critics of the Fourth Industrial Revolution will be asking this question: What will be the future of work in the current revolution? How will work be defined?

Their prediction is that 5 million jobs will be lost next year, 2020, to technology - jobs in construction, manufacturing, public health and many other sectors. But, for us as the ANC, this is not the main question. The main question is: What would be the new forms of education and training that our people need because the world is now opening up learning? How do we take advantage of this phenomenon? The principle regarding automation

is that anything that is a repetitive task, a machine can do better in their view, and a machine would be cheaper and would not have to take vacation or sick leave.

Our task as the ANC-led government is to interface this human, nature and technology collaboration. What we need in this interface is to first identify things that the machine cannot do. For instance, the machine cannot produce itself, therefore we need human creativity. A machine cannot regularly service itself, maintain and operate itself. Therefore more technicians are needed. I am just giving you these few examples.

This shows that the Fourth Industrial Revolution has more opportunities for human participation. This path cannot lead us to a digital apartheid, a society where there are massive disparities between those who have access and those who are excluded. For the ANC, this digital revolution must be characterised by inclusive and shared growth and development. Our values and principles of striving for social and economic justice must remain our guiding light. This budget has responded to the clarion call of growing South Africa together including the opposition.

Hon members, as the ANC we are convinced that this Ministry has focused on the seven priorities announced by the President. May I remind you of those that are specific to our portfolio: economic transformation and job-creation; education, skills and health; social cohesion and safe communities; a capable, ethical and developmental state; and a better Africa and a better world. Focusing on the above, will indeed go a long way towards transforming the South African society in building of a better life for all.

Hon Chair, we are comforted by the fact that you have correctly translated the ANC manifesto into an electoral mandate, programmes into actions and that there is a concrete five-year programme for implementation. Above all, we are encouraged and totally agree with you when you say that the broadband mobile data price will fall. As you finalise the policy directives on the allocation and licensing process of high-demand spectrum, we would like to ask and call on all the mobile and fixed operations to do good on their promises that they will drastically reduce their prices and ensure that the rural and semi-urban signal coverage and nature of service are addressed.

Minister and Deputy Minister, we would like your department to continually brief and update Parliament as you play a

collaborative role in the finalisation of social compacts for the digital economy and the creative sector, in the ICT implementation plan for the roll-out of 100 digital hubs over three years, in the finalisation and implementation plan to address outcomes of the market competition inquiry into data prices, and engage with stakeholders on a possible agreement on data prices.

The African Union has acknowledged that the creative and cultural industries in Africa have great promise for the development of the continent, as they contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of our people. The above requires co-ordination to succeed.

We agree that more value is created when private and public sectors collaborate, having recognised the value of high-tech sectors and the creative industry in meeting some of the many challenges we are facing as the Fourth Industrial Revolution unfolds. We, therefore, request your support and collaboration with the upstarts within the e-sports and gaming space. This will go a long way in creating sustainable jobs for youth and unemployed people, particularly people living with disabilities.

The collaboration with Huawei, in the establishment of targeted, innovative young entrepreneur programmes within e-sports and e-gaming, will go a long way in building a culture of youth entrepreneurship and job-creation. We are confident that your collaboration with provincial governments, as you have had in the Free State provincial government and are about to do with the North West, where I come from, especially at local and district government levels, is a good step towards the creation of youth digital industrial hubs. This is a practical and meaningful response to the President's call.

This is a good budget plan with programmes relevant and fit for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Therefore, the ANC supports these Votes. [Applause].

Mr C H M SIBISI: Hon House Chair, hon Minister, Deputy Ministers and hon members, I greet you all. The NFP welcomes and supports the Budget Votes for Telecommunications and Postal Services tabled here today. The department is under major pressure from fast-evolving technological advances. Digital advancement continues to reshape our world in ways that encourage people to form new habits and find new ways to work together through effective and timely communication methods.

The NFP believes that if the departments remain committed to these key mandates in terms of meeting strategic goals and objectives, we can keep up with the fast-growing digital world, have effective and efficient strategic leadership, governance and administration, have a responsive communications policy, regulatory environment and improved country branding, and have a transformed communications sector.

We note and welcome the R64,9 million allocated for administration, the R16,4 million allocated for communication policy and the R47,4 million allocated for management of enterprise development, broadcasting digital migration, industry research and analysis.

Access to information and content is indeed easy, and with this luxury regulatory policies are needed to protect our children. We are unable to thoroughly monitor the information and content consumed by minors, but it is our duty to implement policies that can protect them as best we can.

The suggested course on digital media in partnership with the private sector and nongovernmental organisations, NGOs, will educate communities on how they can create and make use of opportunities through digital media. We note that most South

Africans do not benefit from ICT infrastructure, but we must focus on improving the promotion, growth and sustainability of SMMEs through facilitating the implementation of the ICT SMME Development Strategy. We thank you.

Mr M W MADISHA: Chairperson and all members here present, permit me to start at the end - the last two paragraphs - and indicate that Cope calls on Parliament to instruct government to address urgently problems faced by the Schedule 2 public entity of the Public Finance Management Act, namely the SABC. We must emphasise that it is in crisis.

South Africans, particularly the working class and the poor, cannot survive without the SABC. We call on government to give the SABC a bailout of not less than the R3,2 billion that they have requested. For the SABC to survive, it needs quality and content. For this to be attained, there must be staff. Some amongst us have and continue to campaign for a staff reduction. That campaign is wrong as it both ignores labour relations - that is section 189 - and skills development, including the quality and content that are required.

Furthermore, there are problems with the buildings. Those of us who have gone to SABC buildings, not only to their head office

in Johannesburg but all over the country, have seen the buildings that are collapsing and that has to be addressed. I must emphasise that we know of a worker who has been in the ICU for the past two months as a result of a building that collapsed. That's a major, major problem.

There are other very serious problems. They cannot even pay for electricity, and the toilets are blocked and all that. We need to do something. I must say to the Minister, through you, House Chairperson, that there needs to be a correction because when the Minister gave the committee the report, she painted a picture that she and the Minister of Finance agreed on the route to be taken in dealing with the SABC problems. This has gone out to the public media and I believe ... I want to hope that ...

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

Mr M G E HENDRICKS: Hon Chairman, the Fourth Industrial Revolution creates a sense of excitement and, hon Minister, you have captured the nation's imagination. But we must also have on the radar cybercities in deep rural areas to get corporates to relocate in their droves to make money there.

All this must be done in preparation for a cybercivilisation with South Africa as a member of this civilisation. If you achieve this, hon Minister, you will be part of royalty and the envy of the Official Opposition. [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

Hon Minister, the nation is waiting for the finalisation of policy directives on the spectrums so that the country can catch up with the progress we see made in developed countries. The President, in his state of the nation address, identified the need to strengthen the capacity of the state. The Independent Communications Authority of SA, Icasa, strengthens the capacity of the private sector by giving them spectrum space. More of this space must be given to state departments like Home Affairs and the Police. The 5G spectrum streams must be allocated to them to capacitate them and save them money rather than paying exorbitant future prices.

Having said that, we want to acknowledge that Icasa continues to be an independent and credible regulator. Wireless broadband services like 5G must be free, and Icasa must be creative enough to make this possible. The uptake of 5G systems must be speeded up and monopolies must be avoided.

The interim relief for the SABC is welcome. We must support the public broadcaster now that it is free and no longer captured. The digital economy in South Africa is in young hands which gives us hope, and Al Jama-ah, with a sense of excitement, wishes you, hon Minister, all the success. [Applause.]

Mr C MACKENZIE: House Chair, it's delightful to stand in a single Chamber today that is as it should be - where all the old split-up departments of Communications and Telecommunications and Postal Services are here under one roof, debating as one. Even President Ramaphosa didn't wait for any sunrise, any new dawn or old before quickly joining the two departments back together again, if only in name and under a single Minister in the Fifth Parliament. We wish the same Minister much success in the term ahead.

I'm also delighted to see the committee's positive recommendation of this departmental unification, albeit after the fact. Is there anyone in this House who thought splitting the two departments in the first place was a good idea? Put up your hands. Anyone? No? Not one? [Interjections.] There we go! Because, what a monumental waste of effort, money and time that was - fruitless and wasteful indeed.

South Africa's telecommunications environment is arguably the most liberalised sector in the country. Yet this sector, which should be the freest, isn't free. It should be creating thousands more jobs, upskilling more youngsters, growing technical careers, developing small businesses and contributing massively to the coffers of the state. Instead, it finds itself completely constrained. It's constrained by a lack of spectrum. You can't see it, touch it or feel it, but spectrum is all around us. It is infinite, it is indescribably valuable – billions upon billions of rand worth.

Now, there are companies that want to pay for and use this spectrum for mobile network development and roll-out. Government is the custodian of this spectrum on behalf of the people of South Africa and are supposed to use the spectrum for the benefit of the people of South Africa. Yet, you have dragged your heels for more than five years in releasing the spectrum for term sale or lease.

Effectively, government imprisoned spectrum for purely political ends and I am sure that makes spectrum a political prisoner. In fact, so determined was this government to keep this prisoner locked up that it took Icasa to court to ensure that it stayed that way.

Minister, if you are holding a sector to ransom by delaying the release of high-demand spectrum, be fair and tell them what the ransom is. At least, then, they can consider buying their freedom. Let Icasa hold an auction now, pitch it high and use the revenue raised for other government priorities. But you can't continue to do nothing. It is like owning a house that you can rent out to generate revenue but then you don't and you leave billions uncollected year after year that could have been spent on health, education or housing for those who desperately need it. Please don't spend it on the SABC.

Let's be honest. You only have to look at who's sniffing around the formation of the Wireless Open Access Network, Woan, to know much of the delay in allocating spectrum lay in connecting a few rent-seekers to spectrum through the Woan. Yes, rent-seekers, we see you, and that delay is very expensive indeed.

If that spectrum had been allocated to Telkom, where government has a share, Vodacom, where government has a warehoused share, or any other South African tax-paying company with the capital to deploy networks, Treasury and global ratings agencies would be a lot happier with our nation's finances because those billions in revenue and taxes would have flowed into our coffers in the last five years. And we could sure use the extra money to

keep the lights on, Minister, because if there's no power then there's no point to ICT, is there?

For South Africa's sake, Minister, take note of the committee's recommendation and release the spectrum without delay. It is a national infinite resource; set it free. Don't bog the spectrum auction down with onerous conditions; make it simple and clear. The benefits of allocating spectrum quickly far outweigh the disadvantages of backbreaking auction conditions, because this will merely hold us back even more. We don't have the luxury of time to waste.

Let Icasa make the spectrum available now and available to those companies with the massive capital outlay needed to immediately deploy the high-quality, reliable and ubiquitous networks, including 5G that we need to take full advantage of and, yes, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, because if we don't have the networks, we don't have the revolution.

As W E B Du Bois wrote, admittedly of his American South, but it might as well be us, and I quote: "Here is the magnificent climate; here is the fruitful earth under the beauty of the southern sun; and here, if anywhere on earth, is the need for the thinker, the worker, and the dreamer."

After the state of nation address, there's no doubt who the dreamer is - with bullet trains and connected cities: that's government led by the President. For innovative thinkers and actual workers, though, you need look no further than the Western Cape, where this DA government has done more to connect its public infrastructure and roll out universal access than any other province in the country. [Applause.]

But it is the rest of the country that I worry about. Is the President's bullet train just a bullet? Is the New Dawn simply the train's light at the end of the tunnel? Because an example from the State Information Technology Agency's annual performance plan might hold an answer.

One of their strategic objectives is, and I quote: "One hundred per cent of South Africa Connect sites connected at bandwidths of 10 Mbps as per government order." So, yes, the Minister can stand at this podium and talk confidently about 300 new sites that will be connected to the internet. Of course the devil is in the details. What she didn't say was that government's highest standard for our people is 10 Megabytes per second. And while she is connecting at 10 Megabytes per second, Vodacom is set to roll out 5G networks at speeds of up to 20 Gigabytes! 10 Megabytes and 20 Gigabytes! [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

I have seen what the private sector can do; I hold it in my hands. I use its networks. Africa's first live 5G session on a commercially ready 5G mobile phone and network was displayed at this year's elite Durban July. Perhaps, the hon Malema experienced it during his fun-filled day at the races. His outfit was better than your Sona one, Minister.

So, do you reward excellence? Do you say go and do more and here is the spectrum to make it cheaper for to you to roll out and deploy more networks? No, you don't, because while government dithers, the private sector delivers and it is them we have to thank for the state-of-the art networks we have in this country. Nothing the government did can take credit for it. [Applause.]

South Africa is nowhere near for the digital age, because in these prison-guard uniforms you are holding the future captive. You are still talking the Fourth Industrial Revolution, you are still holding commissions, you are still conducting more talk shops, and you are still imprisoning spectrum while the entire world is quickly moving ahead. Even Lesotho has a 5G network. On the subject of 5G, please ask "president dreamy" to stop talking patent nonsense about 5G and Huawei.

Holograms notwithstanding, Minister, tell him Huawei is not the only supplier of 5G technology or networks. Nokia is a world leader in 5G and the USA is a leading supplier of 5G networks. When the hologram knows more than the original Houston, we have a problem. [Applause.] It takes more than sloganeering and pretty gold-braided uniforms to start a revolution, Minister. If that was all it took, there are more than enough Gucci revolutionaries with pseudo-military titles already sitting around us to start a small war.

The hon Wessels gave us some great advice on telecommunications, although I'm not sure where he got his insights. I have never ever seen the FF Plus in the committee - ever! Not even in the last term. That said, I do like the idea of freedom if not front. [Applause.]

Frankly, Minister, it is time to stop talking and release the spectrum to mobile operators that can use it. Get the sector moving again because if we get left behind, you will never catch up. At 10 Megabytes per second we are going backwards. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Ms N J KUBHEKA: Hon House Chairperson, fellow committee members and MPs, Minister, Deputy Minister, officials of the two

departments, boards, executives and staff from related state-owned corporations and entities, guests and members of the public, the ANC government is offering a vision and far-sighted leadership through these Budget Votes. They are budgets that deal with the reality of our country and the challenges we are facing on the one hand, while laying the foundation to position South Africa to be among the early takers in the digital revolution on the other.

This is the kind of leadership the ANC is capable of providing. As we will be commemorating the birth of our icon, uTata Nelson Mandela a week from now, we recall the words he spoke at the ITU Telecom World in Geneva in 2009:

Communication technologies have transformed the way people live and the manner in which countries develop. They have the potential to enable us to solve many of the critical problems confronting us. If this potential is to be realised, then we must find ways of turning these technologies into a resource for all people despite the challenges they face within their community.

If we reflect on the history of industrial revolutions, we note that the First Industrial Revolution brought us the steam

engine, and our colonial masters imported trains and other technologies from England. The Second Industrial Revolution brought to the world the internal combustion engine and the motor car. More than 100 years later, as Africans, we have not invented our own car. The Third Industrial Revolution was the age of the personal computer and the internet, both invented in the United States of America. President Ramaphosa and African leaders have committed to not being late takers to digital technologies this time around. We will be producers. [Applause.]

As producers of technology, we will be able to own our intellectual property. That is why we are encouraged that this budget focuses on supporting the creation of digital innovation hubs. China has shown us that a developing country can lead the way in new technologies, much to the displeasure of developed countries.

The onslaught in the West against Chinese tech giants - Huawei and ZTE - is a sign that the Western colonial mentality remains alive and well. While the United States has been mired in wars in at least seven different countries, China has been quietly and peacefully developing its industries. [Applause.]

South Africa and Africa must seize the opportunity of leapfrogging the West in digital technologies if we are to emerge out of the trap of being sellers of raw materials and buyers of finished products. But there are the likes of the DA who would like to hold the development of Africans back.

If you asked an ordinary South African a question: What is Ms Phumzile van Damme famous for? They would probably tell you three things: first, she shares a surname with a famous action movie star; ... [Laughter.] [Applause.] ... second, she assaulted the racist DA voter at the V&A Waterfront as she was shocked ...

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: Point of order.

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

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: House Chairperson, the hon member is aware that if she wants to raise improper conduct or allegations, rather, about a member of this House, it must be by way of a substantive motion. [Interjections.] That's out of order and she must withdraw.

Ms N J KUBHEKA: Secondly, she assaulted a racist DA voter ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, now you are moving into the terrain of Rule 85. That Rule says that if you want to bring that type of attention to the House, you must do so in terms of Rule 85(1)(2). I thus request you to withdraw that remark and continue with the rest of your speech please.
[Interjections.]

Ms N J KUBHEKA: I withdraw, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): I am dealing with ...
Thank you.

Ms N J KUBHEKA: Third, Ms van Damme apparently fantasised about being the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies. She has been trying her best to project herself to the media and her Twitter followers as a hero. She is desperately trying to imitate her famous movie star cousin by attacking the Minister. Unfortunately, hon van Damme, for now you will remain just a shadow of our beautiful young Minister. Like a shadow, you will be ignored and forgotten. [Laughter.] [Applause.]

Let me take this opportunity to affirm the position of our portfolio committee. Having considered the annual performance plans, APPs, and the reports of the department and its entities, including the SABC, our portfolio committee was unanimous in asking the Minister, the SABC board and National Treasury to engage and resolve the financial challenges faced by our public broadcaster. We have not appointed Ms van Damme as our spokesperson on the SABC matter. [Applause.] We have a chairperson who speaks on behalf of the committee.

Ms P T VAN DAMME: On a point of order, Chair.

Ms N J KUBHEKA: We want to assure ... [Interjections.]

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

Ms P T VAN DAMME: This person here is misrepresenting my role. I am not here on the ANC's ticket. I am here representing the DA. She must be clear. I don't represent the ANC.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, hon member, that's not a point of order. Please take your seat. That's not a point of order. Continue, hon member.

Ms N J KUBHEKA: We want to assure the board and the staff members at the SABC that our parliamentary portfolio committee cares for them and the institution they serve. We believe that the Minister and the government of the ANC will never take reckless decisions with respect to the SABC or any other entity of the state.

We fully understand the strategic role played by the SABC in our democracy and we will never allow it to fall into a state of disrepair. We would like to see jobs saved at the SABC. We commend the good work the board has done. The management and board must have confidence in the real government of South Africa, not a shadow, because a shadow does not endure. A shadow is not reliable.

The SA Post Office is a great example of the determination within the ANC government to do everything in its power to preserve irreplaceable entities, such as the SABC, in the hands of the state.

We know that our colleagues from the EFF are still caught up in the 1950s slogan of the PAC of Azania, and I quote: "Land first, all else shall follow." Well, as the ANC, we have always argued with the PAC that ownership of land alone does not drive the

economy. Their argument is that even trade and commerce happen on land and, in their logic, the one who owns the land, owns the economy. Maybe we need to take this opportunity to stretch the brains of our EFF brothers and sisters a little bit.

I want to ask the fighters to think about all the wealth that has been created in the world in the past three decades.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, would you take your seat please. Why are you rising, hon member?

Mr L G MOKOENA: I am just checking why this member is speaking about land. We are speaking about telecommunications here.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): That's not a point of order, hon member.

Mr L G MOKOENA: What is the land all about?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, hon member, that's not a point of order. Continue, hon Kubheka.

Mr L G MOKOENA: That is not a point of order. It's a question.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No!

Ms N J KUBHEKA: Uzoyibamba phambili siyaqhuba ngokuhlanganisa.

(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)

[You will catch it upfront; we are moving forward with work.]

How much of it has been created by farmers or landowners? How much has been created by bankers, innovators and owners of intellectual property? Fighters, we want to assure you, as the ANC, that we are fighting for land and the agrarian transformation. But we also want all South Africans to participate in high-value economic activities - manufacturing, finance and insurance, innovation, and digital technologies. But, unlike the neoliberal DA, we believe that the state has a major role to play in the development of industries of the future.

The government creates an enabling environment for the provision of communication services to all Africans in an inclusive manner that promotes socioeconomic development and investment. For us, inclusion means programmes to ensure that millions of young people are absorbed into sectors where demand for jobs is growing.

These sectors include global business processing services, agricultural value chains, technical installation, repair and maintenance, and new opportunities provided through the digital economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

As announced by the President in the state of the nation address, we are looking forward to the Minister issuing a policy directive to Icasa to commence the spectrum-licensing process. This process must include measures to promote competition, transformation, inclusive growth of the sector and universal access as part of bringing down the cost of data, which is essential both for economic development and for unleashing opportunities for young people.

We believe that the people of South Africa trust the ANC government to manage the funds based on the department's track record of governance and accountability. The Department of Communications and GCIS both received clean audits in previous financial years.

Hon members, this department ...

... iyashesha ngempela. (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[... it is really fast.]

This department's annual performance plans have injected a sense of urgency in the programmes of the Fourth Industrial Revolution environment. The electoral mandate and manifesto programmes are all within the apex priorities identified and translated into the Medium-Term Strategic Framework of the department.

Minister, your programmes are responding to the ANC's call on all South Africans to rededicate themselves to the task of ensuring that government empower all South Africans, unemployed persons, the youth and women, and enhance their capacity to unleash their economic and social potential.

Last but not least, Minister, I would like you to continue marching on, regardless of the distractions that are emerging. As you continue with a review of policies and legislation for Fourth Industrial Revolution purposes, do not be discouraged by attention-seekers, particularly the DA.

Hon Minister, there are many men, but few women and youth on the boards of your entities. We encourage you to transform the boards and to focus on a gender and youth balance. [Applause.]

We support your approach to shareholder oversight, in line with the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act. We respect the independence of entities in terms of the Constitution and legislation, but we also expect financial accountability for the use of public funds. That is why the ANC calls on your Ministry and boards of entities that are struggling to engage with the National Treasury to find a lasting solution.

As the ANC, we fully support these Budget Votes that we are talking about today.

Manje uma sisho njalo ke bese ngithi kuwe Bab'uFana lalela ngoba usujwayele laphaya ku-*Generation* uma uhluphana no-Karabo.

(Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.)

[We say that now and then to you, hon Fana. I say listen because you are used to doing this when troubling Karabo in *Generations*.]

With due respect, hon member, acting in a drama on the SABC does not make you an expert on the SABC and broadcasting matters.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, your time has expired. [Applause.]

Nk N J KUBHEKA: Ngifuze wena. (*Translation of isiZulu sentence follows.*)

[I am taking after you.]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES: Hon House Chairperson, firstly ...

... mandibulise apha emhlabeni wamaMpondo kulo kaFaku njengengkosazana yamaMpondo. (*Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.*)

[... let me greet in Pondoland, the one of Faku, as a Pondo princess.]

Hon Mackenzie, you missed it. I did talk to the issue of the spectrum and the policy directive that will be allocated. It is important as hon members that we listen carefully and not just listen to respond. I said in seven days we will issue the policy directive in line with what the President has said. No, you don't get into the details; you must understand the

responsibility of the policymaker. I cannot determine what method the regulator must use. Read the Acts that you produce, hon member.

The second matter that you spoke on, hon Mackenzie, again with regard to how speedily we are providing broadband services, I did and I want to specifically quote this. You must listen when an Mpondokazi speaks.

Xa iMpondo lithetha, nceda umamele mhlonitshwa. Ndithe apha ...

(Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.)

[When a Pondo speaks, please listen, hon member. Here you said ...]

... during the medium term we will review the download speed to be in line with international best practice. This will form part of the work we are currently doing with the Development Bank of Southern Africa which will be concluded by the end of the financial year. Hon Mackenzie: Review of the speed to meet international standards from 10 Megabytes to 100 Megabytes.

[Interjections.] There is nothing I can do and you just decide to be like that. [Interjections.]

Hon members, present today here are our young e-gamers and e-sport enthusiasts from TA or Time-Attack gaming. This is one of the fastest growing sectors, enabled by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, that presents an opportunity for young township entrepreneurs to enter into this multibillion industry that refuses to transform.

Sifikile manje. *(Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.)*

[We have arrived.]

Huawei has partnered with these young entrepreneurs to ensure that young people in townships and rural communities are exposed to and capacitated to compete in e-sports. The department is also working with the Small Enterprise Development Agency, Seda, to assist term gaming to offer training in township and rural areas.

Now, listen carefully as we talk about growing the economy and building SMMEs. One hundred SMMEs and individuals will be trained in fibre and Wi-Fi deployment skills in partnership with the Wireless Access Providers' Association so that every time we put a billion into infrastructure our people get to benefit. One

hundred and eighty SMMEs will be capacitated on cellphone repairs and other key business management skills.

Singazi apha sifike sithi ... *(Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.)*

[We mustn't come here and ask ...]

... our people continue to consume. You have to give them skills if you can't produce for now the devices that must be used.

[Applause.] The programme will be implemented in partnership with the Technology Innovation Agency, the National Electronic Media Institute of SA, or Nemisa, and the Small Enterprise Development Agency, or Seda. Our entities and all of them under the portfolio of communications and digital technologies will spend 40% of their budgets in terms of procurement services in youth-owned SMMEs. That is a non-negotiable. [Applause.]

Of course, having said all of that, hon members, let me thank the portfolio committee members for their ongoing support and robust engagements. Let me thank my beautiful sister, the Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies. Let me also thank the department, as led by the two directors-general, for continually compromising and sacrificing their lives with their

partners and children to make sure that the people of this country get the best they can get. [Applause.]

Let me thank, again, the people of South Africa who continue to pray for this country and pay their TV licences without fail. We need that. If you love the SABC, it starts there - pay your TV licence. [Applause.] Of course, I have to thank my dear husband who continues to support me through all times even though he gets to be alone most of the time.

Allow me to conclude by making a clarion call under the theme of "Khawuleza" which must define our work now and in the future. As Mama Winnie Mandela said, "Singayisusa sithanda."

The youth of our country cannot wait anymore. The good thing about belonging to the governing party is that you cannot be removed by the opposition. Of course, in dreamland they can continue as shadows, continue to wish that they could remove you. The youth of our country cannot wait anymore. We must never test their patience. Let us all khawuleza to build the South Africa we want.

Ukwenza nje malungu ahloniphekileyo, iyabulela inkosazana
yamaMpondo, enguthandiwe wamaZulu. Ndiyabulela Sihlalo weNdlu.

[Kwaqhwytywa.] (*Translation of isiXhosa sentences follows.*)

[By doing this, hon members, as a Pondo princess, I thank you,
Zulu people like me. Thank you, hon Chairperson. [Applause.]]

The mini-plenary session rose at 18:54.