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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MINI PLENARY SESSION OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY**

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Members of the mini-plenary session met at Committee Room M46 at 16:31.

House Chairperson Ms Z Majazi took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

Debate On Budget Vote No 42 - Land Reform and Rural Development:

*IsiXhosa:*

UMPHATHISWA WEZOBUYEKEZO LWEMIHLABA NOPHUHLISO LWAMAPHANDLE:

Kutheni nangaqhwi nina, aniyonxalenye nam?

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*English:*

Chairperson, Members of Parliament, distinguished guests, all the stakeholders who are providing us with so much support, it is a singular honour and privilege for me to address you today to present Budget Vote No 42 of the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development for the financial year 2025/26. This budget is a commitment to restoring equitable access to land for all and improving the lives of our people, especially those living in rural areas. Land is a foundation of identity, dignity, and economic prosperity. Land is a key component of the factors of production. Therefore, without land, any aspiration of social economic development remains just that, aspirations.

The thirty years of democracy in our country, land reform and land ownership remain a highly contested and an emotive subject. Without a doubt, land reform is an engine for propelling inclusive growth, reducing poverty and unemployment, and fostering the expansion of the national tax base. It is therefore with this in mind that we welcome the current trend of convergence in the national discourse on the land question among those of us who suffered dispossession and oppression.

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*IsiXhosa:*

Sasikade sisodwa kule nto. Siyavuya kuba sonke ngoku sithetha ngayo le nto yomhlaba.

*English:*

We must never grow weary of reflecting on our past so that we may understand how we were as a country in order to move forward with greater clarity and purpose. The legacy of both violent and legislated dispossession is manifested in the poverty, inequality, and underdevelopment that still plague our communities to this date.

The Native Land Act of 1913 was a calculated, cruel instrument and strategy of mass dispossession that consolidated the historical dispossession that our forebears fought bravely against, and it successfully entrenched racial segregation and economic inequality. This Act restricted South Africans to only 7% of the land, reserving the rest to white ownership. Indeed, this 7% was only later increased to 13.7% with the passage of the Native Trust and Land Act in 1936.

Land reform must thus speak to the need to access land for residential, small-scale farming, industrial, grazing,

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recreation, heritage, conservation, and commercial agriculture. Therefore, the implementation of a meaningful land reform programme requires a co-ordinated approach to enhance integrated and sustainable interventions.

We would therefore like to commend the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Land Reform, chaired by the Deputy President for the role it is playing in co-ordinating the various efforts to avoid overlapping and duplication of efforts on land reform. This will enable us to accelerate efforts to address the land issue of historically dispossessed communities and assist the poor and landless to access land.

Chair, among the top priorities that we have been driving since we assumed office is the development of the Equitable Access to Land Bill and the Communal Land Tenure and Administration Bill, which will serve as key mechanisms to address the constitutional imperatives set out in Section 25(5) (6) of the Constitution, respectively.

We will encourage South Africans to participate in the development of these historic pieces of legislation as they will redefine the legislative framework on access to land and

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on equitable basis. I have no doubt that this will be a subject of discussion during the National Dialogue.

We are on record in a number of forums as having emphasised that provision of land and supporting the beneficiaries of all land reform programmes are two sides of the same coin. Since taking office, we have particularly focused on addressing the phenomenon of poor implementation of land reform projects and inadequate support to beneficiaries before and after settlement. This is indeed a concern that has also been raised by a number of stakeholders.

The overall budget of the department for the 2024/25 financial year is R9, 820 billion. Relative to the total allocation, Land and Tenure Reform and Restitution have received the largest share, amounting to R168 billion, or 63% of the total allocation. This demonstrates that our budget is grounded on our core mandate.

The Land Redistribution and Tenure Reform branch has been allocated a total budget of R1,073 billion. With this budget, a total allocation of R559 million has been set aside to acquire and allocate 44 000 hectares of land. The department

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continues to process applications for awards of land to labour tenants, which were lodged not later than 31 March 2001. It should be acknowledged, though, that the area of tenure security for labour tenants, including the continuing spate of illegal evictions, remains an unacceptable situation.

The department is implementing a comprehensive plan to address historically inefficiencies relating to the management of state land. This includes calling for accountability from some reluctant client officials and ensuring consequence management. Our department is also addressing the challenges related to community and communal property associations, particularly their dysfunctionality. To address this challenge, the department is implementing measures that include the establishment of an independent Certified Public Accountant, CPA, office, which is currently headed by an acting registrar. Furthermore, a continuous process of training the executives of those structures on governance, financial management, land management and related skills and capabilities is currently underway. A series of roadshows that will culminate with a CPA endeavour has also been planned for.

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The Commission on Restitution of Land Rights has been allocated a budget of R3,7 billion for this financial year. The speed with which the claims are settled is heavily reliant on the allocated budget year on year. To address the challenge of expediting the pace of settling of old-order land claims, that is those lodged before the original cut-off date of 31 December 1998.

The commission is streamlining processes underwritten by new policies and standard operating procedures as part of an acceleration strategy. That said, however, additional financial and human resources will be required, and in general terms we have to focus on enhancing the efficiency of the offices of the Land Claims Commission in the whole country. It is unacceptable that our rural areas continue to carry the burden of extreme poverty, disease, rampant criminality, including drug abuse, underdevelopment and ignorance. This remains a blight on our constitutional promise of equality and prosperity.

As a department, we are committed to work with our people in these areas to turn their misfortunes around, acting in solidarity with them, harnessing skills and capital for shared

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prosperity, and communicating unequivocally that the time for oppression is over and freedom is nearer.

It should be borne in mind that the Rural Development Functional Area, which in the budget for the current financial year has been allocated R891, 7 million, or 9% of the total, is a multisectoral undertaking that should not be equated to agriculture, and that should also not be reduced or limited to the provision of basic services. Its critical objective is also to empower the inhabitants of the rural areas at the household and community levels to rise to an extent of becoming meaningful producers who can also engage in entrepreneurial initiatives and in a range of income-generating activities. All that we have to do is to provide the democratic space and essential tools to support these long-suffering communities to reach their full developmental potential.

Chair, the Land Administration has received R792, 3 million, or 8% of the budget for 2025/26. In line with the Medium-Term Development Plan, our department's plan for 2025/26 financial year includes the development of a framework known as the National Spatial Development Framework, NSDF, which will

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provide a roadmap for establishing a centralised platform to track spatial planning implementation. It will also support data-driven decision-making. As part of our strategy driven to realise a spatial just and inclusive South Africa, the department is leading reforms and institutional programmes aimed at strengthening spatial governance across all spheres of government. Similarly, a process of enhancing the participation of traditional and Khoisan leaders in spatial planning and land-use management issues that is currently underway is gaining traction.

The NDSF, remains our long-term blueprint for reshaping spatial logic and guiding co-ordinated public investment towards equity, resilience and productivity. Our efforts towards implementing the NDSF in the 2025/26 financial year will include finalising regional spatial development frameworks for Greater KwaZulu-Natal, the Greater Cape Region, the Eastern Escarpment and the Musina Makhado Special Economic Zone and convening a national regional planning conference to enhance inter-governmental and inter-sectoral spatial planning co-operation under the District Development Model.

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The National Geomatics Management Services, NGMS, maintains an integrated geospatial reference system which is linked to the global reference system to secure accurate positioning. This is linked to the integrated survey system which contributes to unambiguous positioning, speedy and orderly development, while the mapping and associated products facilitate sustainable development as part of efforts to modernise the land administration system.

The department has taken a revamp of the cadastral information system. The data base sets produced and maintained by NGMS play a key role in land administration in the country, especially for land development and the promotion of security of tenure as well as evidence-based planning. The network continuously operating global navigation satellite systems reference stations called TrigNet allows for centimetre level accuracy positioning across the country. The TrigNet network has seen significant growth in users and applications, serving not just the surveying and construction sectors but also increasingly finding applications in space, weather, precise agriculture, mining and a rapidly growing drone industry.

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South Africa, through the department is also proud to be the host of the African Geodetic Reference Frame. The service makes Global Network Systems, GNS, data from across African continent central accessible to all the various geodetic and scientific applications. The department will continue with systematic acquisition of high resolution digital aerial imagery over the republic which is available as national geospatial infrastructure.

The implementation of the Electronic Deeds Registration System, e-DRS, marks a transformational leap in the modernisation of our property registration systems. The EDRS also promotes the inter-operationality of e-government platforms and reduces the Deeds Registration turnaround times from seven to three working days. From 01 August 2025, all conveyancers will be able to use the system after registering their profiles on the systems and can now lodge from anywhere in the country to the special registration office without having to use a correspondent.

The EDRS system will also facilitate the interface with various government departments and institutions including the Department of Justice and Constitutional Developments, the

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Department of Home Affairs and the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission. This intervention will contribute immensely to reducing fraud and corruption.

Chairperson, the department's entities namely the Ingonyama Trust and the Office of the General Counsel, which is a legal department found in various organisations, have been allocated amounts of R22,847 million and R65 440 million respectively. In addition, we appreciate the need to strengthen our capacity to deliver on our mandate by creating a conducive environment for the employees of the department from their duties, as expected by, among other interventions, completing fit for people, structure.

In this financial year, the necessary resources will be delivered from the budget of R1,968 billion or 20% that has been allocated under program one, that is administration. As a department, we are committed to work with our people in these areas to turn the misfortunes of our people around so that one day we can recite the words of the poet Alfred Temba Qabula when he said, and I quote:

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The wheel is turning, and there shall be no mercy for those killing innocent children, the wheel is turning, freedom is nearer our strength and our dignity increasing we shall conquer as the time for the oppressor is coming.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Minister comrade Stanley Mathabatha, Acting DG, Mr Clinton Heineman and the officials of the department for the support they have given me during my first year in office.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you, hon Minister. Before I call on the following speaker, can I address hon members? We know that when we have sessions, if you are from this side, when you move, you move across the Parliament staff, but we do not cross here in the centre. So, can you please adhere to those rules, and we need not to address that again?

*Swahili:*

Asante sana. (Thank you, very much)

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you, hon Minister, before I call on the next speaker, I would like to address

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you, hon members. We know that when we have sessions, if you are from this side, when you move, you move across the Parliament staff, but we do not cross in the centre. So, can we please adhere to those Rules and we need not address that again. I will now recognize hon Adams.

Ms R C ADAMS: Hon House Chairperson, hon Minister, hon members of the portfolio committee, members of the House, and the officials of the department, distinguished guests, and fellow citizens, good afternoon. My theme for the land reform of Rural Development is "Land Redistribution Support Ecosystem for Sustainable Economic Production and Food Security." As I rise on this important occasion of the debate of Budget Vote 42 of the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development, I am reminded of the novel of the renowned writer, Alan Paton, in 1948, *Cry the Beloved Country*, which paints the gapping racial and economic divisions that are threatening to split the country. This edifice of this racial and economic inequality is obtained in the inequitable distribution of land as a factor of economic production. This racialized inequality is not natural or a consequence of racial superiority, it was engineered by successive regimes of colonial and apartheid system. Land dispossession and economic deprivation were

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systematically implemented by the abhorrent colonial apartheid regime. This is the legacy we must reverse, for this legacy continues to divide the country. The journey to reverse this legacy will not be uncontested by the beneficiaries of this unjust system. This is why we are not surprised by the manoeuvres of the forces of reaction who run to the imperialist centres to oppose transformation. We make no apology in wanting to ensure that the land is shared amongst those who work for it.

The restoration of land to the rightful owners must be intensified, hence, as the ANC, we declare our support for the implementation of the Expropriation Act, as well as the long overdue promulgation of the Equitable Access to Land Bill, which the department will introduce this year ...

[Interjections.] ...

Hon House Chairperson, the Kgalema Motlanthe's High-Level Panel Report, identified sources of inequality being the income, asset, and wealth inequality. Therefore, I want to underscore that land is a factor of production and is critical in addressing these sources of inequality. Productive land gives people income, assets-based, and wealth. It is on this

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basis that we believe in the significance of the Inequitable Access to Land Bill. We also firmly support the Bill as we advance the findings of the recommendations of the High-Level Panel Report, which argues that to ensure the land reform delivers the land rights set out in the Constitution, the panel recommends that Parliament enacts framework legislation that addresses the deficiencies of law and policy. No law currently exists to give meaning to all set standards for measuring whether land reform enables citizens to gain access to land on an equitable basis.

Hon Minister, we know that we are now under the conditions of the Government of National Unity, GNU, and the shop stewards of the beneficiaries of the unjust laws of apartheid will object and campaign against this Bill. You have our support from the ANC to fast-track the processes of the land reform. As the ANC, we appreciate that this Bill marks a departure from the previous Land Acquisition and Redistribution Bill in that it is not predicated on the market-based approach to land reform. This Equitable Access of Land Bill is grounded in section 25 of the Constitution, which mandated equitable access to land.

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The proactive acquisition is facilitated through the Agricultural Land Holding Account, ALHA, as a trading entity. It aims towards the acquisition of strategically located land, providing financial and technical support to farmers, and ensuring that farms with high commercial performance capability are supported with adequate infrastructure to realize their potential. Its target is to acquire 200 000 hectares of farm land and provide financial and technical support to 93 farmers at an estimated cost of R3,1 billion over the next five years.

We understand the need to be realistic, but to set a target of 200 000 hectares out of the required 15,5 million hectares over the same period - it falls far too short. I challenge you, Minister, to be a lot little more ambitious in this respect and revise the targets upwards and make a dent on the backlog. Another critical institution in the context of land acquisition process is the Office of the Valuer-General, which must implement the prescripts of the Property Valuation Act. It is responsible for the valuation of properties transfer identified for land reform, as well as monitoring and evaluation for such properties.

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In our interactions with ALHA, they indicated that the portfolio is not generating the expected revenue from rental lease, and therefore, there is improved revenue observation. This obviously goes hand in hand with effective property administration. We implore you, Minister, to pay particular attention to improving the institutional and technical support ecosystem system for the proactive land acquisition programme to thrive and participate meaningfully in the agro-processing value chains and international markets. The land must never be allowed to fall fallow when there is such a great need for food production.

The land distribution programme is critically important to the realization of the objective of building a growing inclusive economy and employment. The land redistribution programme is a critical programme for equitable access to land for women's settlement and agricultural production processes. The department is limited. The overlapping scope required between Department of Land Reform and Agriculture needs to be harnessed to provide better support tailored to the need for the small and emerging black farmers.

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The Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan aim to boost food security by supporting active agricultural production capacity, particularly for small and emerging farmers. It requires investment to support growth and overall transformation for the agriculture sector.

As I conclude, we must work hard to close the divide between large commercial agriculture, which is a result of mergers and market concentration to create monopolies in the agricultural sector. The agricultural companies of old ... [Time expired.] As the ANC, we support the Budget Vote 42. Thank you very much.

Mr J A MNGXITAMA: Hon House Chair, this Budget Vote is a betrayal of the landless. The MKP rejects this budget in total. We must tell the people of South Africa the truth. There is no plan to return land to its rightful owners. This Budget Vote is testimony to this claim. Our people must forget about land under this so-called Government of National Unit, GNU. The ANC under the GNU has stopped all pretenses of addressing the land question. The so-called GNU has given up, even achieving the limited 30% target of redistribution of agricultural land by 2030. This is a target set by the

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government's own National Development Plan, NDP. Thirty percent of agricultural land was committed to be redistributed back to black people by 2030. We must ask about the percentage, why not the full 100%? Thirty percent is timid, it's showing the fear of land thieves, but that is the thinking of the GNU.

We need to remind the nation that this 30% was first promised by the government of Nelson Mandela in 1994 to the Reconstruction and Development Programme, RDP. The promise of the RDP was that 30% of agricultural land shall be redistributed to black people in the first five years. That was supposed to happen between 1994 and 1999. The very trusting President Mandela gave this task to an Afrikaner son of the land thief, Derek Hanekom, the first Minister in post-1994 who betrayed Mandela and the nation by delivering only less than 1% of the targeted land redistribution by 1999, worse, he developed the land reform programme that is in place today, which is based on the willing buyer, willing seller principle. The same Hanekom, who has called the land expropriation without compensation, nonsense. This was Mandela's mistake, we don't have to repeat it.

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The 30% agricultural land target set in 1994 has been pushed to 2030. The annual performance plans, APPS, of the department commit to redistribute, listen to this, 200 000 hectares in the next five years. What is the hectares that are needed to be delivered to meet the 30% that we're complaining about? It's 14 million hectares. The department is planning to fail, deliberately. How can you put a target of 200 000 when you need to meet 14 million hectares? So, it is clear from this, and in fact, I should sit down after saying this, that the department has planned to fail, and the department has no plan to meet the target set by the National Development Plan, NDP. No, I'm not going to sit down, I'm going to educate you. [Applause.] The lenders arbitrate. We say nothing about the new order restitution claims, which have not been touched. It might take up to 100 years to address those.

The restitution programme was the first piece of legislation of the Nelson Mandela government. It was based on the distortion of the land dispossession reality. The Restitution Act simply says, blacks can only claim land lost after 1913. By 1913, Africa had already lost most of the land. That is why the MKP Private Member's Bill seeks to put land dispossession to its correct date, 1652. So, the cornerstone of the post-

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1994 land reform programme was based on accepting the colonial land theft. This was further entrenched in section 25 of the Constitution. That section, also known as the property clause, legitimizes land theft. It basically legalised the colonial land theft. Now, if you want our land back, we must buy it from the land thieves.

Minister, your new pieces of legislation are not going to be able to give us land back because the theft is entrenched in the Constitution. Until you amend section 25, you are not going to be able to do anything to redress the land question. This is just time-wasting mechanisms, once more. The Restitution Act is aimed - you are a land thief, or you support land thief - the Restitution Act is aimed ...  
[Interjections.]

Mr W A S AUCAMP: On a point of order, Chairperson.

Chairperson, the speaker just called me, specifically, a land thief. He referred to me, calling me a land thief. I've never stolen the land, the land I've got I've bought. He must please retract that statement. Thank you.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majози): Hon member, I did not hear the speaker on the podium identifying a name and saying, hon member, so-and-so, you are a thief. So, he was rephrasing his own speech and because of there's no identification, we cannot then sustain that order. Please continue, hon Mngxitama.

Mr J A MNGXITAMA: If the shoe fits, wear it proudly. The Restitution of Land Rights Act is aimed at addressing the calamity of 1913 Land Act. Whites have shown their true nature of being an inhumane. Imagine, they created a fake majority in a white-only Parliament to enact an evil piece of legislation that they called the Native Land Act of 1913. The progeny of the British and the Boere, made peace on the blood and dispossession of Africans. Thieves fighting each other over the stolen bounty decided it was best to unite on the backs of Africans and find peace on a piece of stolen land. The Boere and the British are equally guilty of land theft. So, brutal was the impact of the Land Act that Saul Plaatjie was to observe that on the day after the enactment of the Act, natives woke up, and I quote, "not only slaves, but pariahs in their land of their birth." Thirty years later, after democracy, black remains pariahs in the land of their birth.

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The colonisers went into a Parliament of land thieves, and without shame, decided to take 97% of the land to themselves, and only later, did they take 87%. Land thieves are adamant that they are keeping the land, and the GNU is doing nothing to return the land to its rightful owners. Farm workers and labour tenants are not even mentioned in these plans of the department. These are slaves who produce food for the export markets, but they themselves are hungry. What an evil system. Landlessness creates vulnerability. The landless build their homes in areas prone to be flooded. The landless have no protection of the law, that is why white farmers can murder and feed victims to their pigs. Landlessness breeds hunger and indignity. We learn from Frantz Fanon, and I quote, "for a colonised people, the most essential value, because the most concrete, is first and foremost the land." The land which will bring them bread, and above all, dignity. The systematic refusal to retain land to black people provide license to white racism. This is this refusal ... [Interjections.] ... The MK Party rejects this budget. [Applause.] [Time expired.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Nhanha.

Mr M A NHANHA: Chairperson, ...

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majози): No, I want you to switch off your mic. Before you raise a point of order, you raise your hand. So, I can recognise you because once you open your mic, which means I cannot recognise you. Hon Nhanha.

Mr M A NHANHA: Chairperson, on a point of order: Out of respect, I did not want to interrupt the hon Mngxitama. I have realised that some members in the gallery are taking part in this debate. It is customary that members in the gallery are not supposed to take part. Please can look into that. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majози): The people that are in the gallery, whether it's officials or officials of political parties, you are not hon Members of Parliament, so you are not part of the debate. Can you please refrain from clapping hands or making any sounds? You are here at our discretion, so please respect that. Thank you very much. Continue, hon Madikizela.

Mr B S MADIKIZELA: Chairperson, colleagues, the Minister and the Deputy Minister in his absence, the land question has dominated the political landscape before and after the advent

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of democracy? One would assume that this issue would be treated as a top priority, not only to address past injustices through restitution, but to also correct the deeply skewed patterns of land ownership that persist.

The national government Budget stands at R2,58 trillion for this financial year and is projected to reach R6,69 trillion over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period. Yes, this crucial department has been allocated a mere R9,8 billion, or just 0,3% of the total Budget. While I'm fully aware of the country's fiscal constraints, this measly allocation clearly reflects a lack of political will to tackle one of South Africa's most urgent historical and developmental challenges.

The High Level Panel Report that was chaired by former President Kgalema Motlanthe, made it abundantly clear that the failure of land reform is not due to constitutional constraints, as some would like us to believe, but rather to poor implementation, corruption, and lack of urgency by successive previous governments. That sobering truth still holds even today. For over 30 years, the government has failed to resolve 80 000 Old Order claims, and some of my colleagues have spoken about this. Now, we have over 5 400 remaining Old

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Order claims, requiring about R70 billion to finalise. At the current pace, and with the current budget, it will take no less than 30 years to complete just those claims. Now, between 2014 and 2016, more than 163 000 new claims were lodged.

Now, this backlog means that the old order claims combined with the new order claims will take no less than 100 years to resolve. Now, that is not an indication of a government that is serious about such a crucial issue. Through you, Chair, Minister, I urge you to convene a Land Reform Acceleration Indaba and invite both social and potential funders to explore creative ways to find financing model for this crisis. Because as things stand, relying solely on the government grants has turned this into a pipedream. When the Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Act was introduced in 1996, nearly 30 years ago, the expectation was that the government would swiftly initiate legislation to give effect to section 256 of our Constitution, as you rightly said. This section compels Parliament to ensure that people in rural areas enjoy security of tenure so that they can own the land that they reside on. After the withdrawal of the Communal Land Rights Act, the Communal Land Tenure Bill was introduced in 2017. Eight years later, still no urgency to finalise it. It's one of the Bills

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that you've mentioned, Minister, and would want this Bill to be sped up. So, I want to urge you then, Minister, that please liberate our people. Let them become landowners, not just tenants of the state. Let them participate in a property market that is worth trillions.

Let us create a tenure system that attracts investment, grow the rural economy, and foster entrepreneurship and job creation in rural area. Minister, through you, House Chair, let us be honest, South Africa does not have a comprehensive rural development strategy. What we have is a patchwork of isolated projects managed by different departments with little co-ordination, and with no impact. These fragmented efforts do not amount to real development. Rural municipalities are struggling. They cannot even collect sufficient rates or generate local revenue. The recently introduced Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Bill aimed at restructuring municipal funding, I'm afraid, will not solve the problem. What we need is a cohesive outcome-based rural development framework. Land tenure reform must play a leading role in this. We need to use land as an asset to attract investment and generate capital. When individuals own their land, they gain leverage. They can lift themselves out of poverty and

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transform their communities into thriving economic hubs. And as we have seen with the challenges with the Ingonyama Trust as well, Minister, your intervention is very important there because with the current legislations that pits the Minister, and His Majesty, which result in ordinary people suffering who should be benefiting from that, those people will not see the benefits as long as you still have the existing legislation that is governing the Ingonyama Trust.

Since 1995, over 5,3 million hectares of land has been redistributed to more than 315 000 beneficiaries. Many of these people have formed communal property associations or CPAs. Currently, there are 1 748 CPAs operating across the country. Given the value and scale of land and resources, these communities manage, it is now essential to appoint an independent body or service provider to assess the status and functionality of these CPAs because the truth is many of them are dysfunctional. Few CPAs that have partnered with experienced commercial farmers and secured finance are the only ones that seem to be making progress. There are serious gaps in post-settlement support as well, which leaves members vulnerable to manipulation, extortion, and exploitation by a small group of politically connected individuals, often at the

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expense of broader community who are rightful beneficiaries. And I also do not believe, Minister, that the recent amendments to the Communal Property Associations Act are moving in the right direction. We begrudgingly support this Budget, Minister, but please resolve these challenges that we spoke about.

Mr N S MATIASE: Thank you so much, hon House Chairperson.

*Sesotho:*

E re ke dumedise mopresidente wa rona, molaudi ya ka sehloohong, Julius Malema - mookamedi wa mabotho! Mohale wa marumo! Petswa majweng! Maqataole wa kgoro di qatilwe! Moshabi wa marumo!

*English:*

House Chair, let me speak plainly and with urgency. Land reform in South Africa is in crisis. There is an urgent need for a coherent agrarian strategy. Unless we take bold, coordinated and honest steps, we are at risk of betraying the Freedom Charter's aspiration that calls for everyone to share in their country's wealth, for the land to be shared among

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those who work it, and for all to have work and security and be treated equitably with dignity.

These aspirations are articulated through the seven non-negotiable cardinal pillars of the EFF Founding Manifesto, particularly the expropriation of land without compensation for equal redistribution. The high-level panel chaired by the former president told us what we already know: That there is no coherent legal framework for land reform in this country. Instead of one unified strategy, we have a mass of fragmented, outdated and conflicting laws zigzagging from one ministerial term to the next. We have programs that do not talk to each other, departments that pull in different directions and officials who are unclear about their mandates.

We cannot continue like this. Land reform must be embedded into a wider gradient reform strategy, not as a side issue, but as a heartbeat of rural transformation. We need a bold, holistic approach that brings together land infrastructure, finance extension services, food production incentivisation and justice into one vision for rural South Africa.

*Afrikaans:*

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Agb Boshoff, laat ek nou vir jou sê, ons benodig 'n billike benadering tot grondverspreiding en landbouontwikkeling, nie Orania nie.

*English:*

Let me now speak of the distribution. The constitutional obligation under section 25, with the false promise that it will enable land transformation, is nothing else but fiction. It shall not be realised. For 2025-26, the department has budgeted R6,1 billion for land reform and restitution, but when we strip that away through inflation, the real increase of about 3,3% - a drop in the ocean.

Can we honestly say we are serious about redistribution with such numbers? To meet the 2030 target, the state will need to acquire 15 million hectares in land for the next five years. Where is the plan to achieve this? Where is the strategy? We have been taken for a ride, and all of the while, land prices keep rising as land is held in for holding and speculative purposes, making accusations harder every year. Redistribution by 2030 is becoming a pipe dream, and we are watching it slide through our fingers.

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Comrades on their side, every time we raise the crisis of redistribution, some racist fanatics and apartheid apologists - all of them coalesced in the GNU - waived the Expropriation Act in our faces like it is a magic wand. Let us be clear: There is no legal framework in place for expropriation without compensation because of the ANC treacherous capitulation. The regulation and administrative systems needed to implement the Act are nowhere to be found and will not be introduced anytime soon.

The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure must act with urgency to introduce these regulations. Further delay undermines the credibility of the entire reform agenda. As we speak now, over 5 400 or pre 1998 claims remain unresolved, out of 80 000 submitted. The reopening of the claims in 2014 led to 160 000 new claims. This program must be phased out as it saves no progressive cost because it is purpose unfit, creates unrealistic expectations and leads to capture by elites' interest.

The department's plans also diminish the constitutional status of tenure reform in terms of section 25(6). There are no measurable targets and indicators for communal tenure reform

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and land tenure claim settlements, despite the *Mwelase and Others v Director-General for the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and Another* (CCT 232/18) [2019] ZACC 30; 2019 (11) BCLR 1358 (CC) ; 2019 (6) SA 597 (CC) (20 August 2019) Constitutional Court ruling and the appointment of the Special Master, as well as the *Rahube v Rahube and Others* (CCT319/17) [2018] ZACC 42; 2019 (1) BCLR 125 (CC); 2019 (2) SA 54 (CC) (30 October 2018) court judgement that protects and addresses the plight of tenure for women in urban areas, whose tenure rights is vulnerable and insecure due to past racially discriminatory laws. Similarly, women rights to equality for conversion purpose of land rights in terms of ULDR continue to be violated.

Hon Minister time for tinkering at the edges is over. We urgently need a state custodianship of Land Bill, which will decisively resolve, once and for all, the land and ownership question. A state custodianship of a Land Bill that will be anchored on the bold integrated agrarian reform strategy, one that sent us the landless, the rural poor, the human and peasant workers.

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Let us move with speed, clarity and conviction. Let us build a rural economy that uplifts the majority of our people, and not the privileged few. We ought to envision the possibility of the impossible because land reform is not just about hectares; it is about restoring hopes, justice and the future of this nation.

*Sesotho:*

Moafrika, Nyhontso ...

*English:*

... how can you be remembered after your tenure? It is not by shouting slogans, such as,

*IsiZulu:*

Izwe lethu ...

*English:*

... but is by expropriating the land. [Time expired.] Let me tell you now because your budget offers nothing. The EFF rejects it with the contempt it deserves. Thank you so much. [Applause.]

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Mr M A MNCWANGO: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister and hon colleagues, the IFP rises to note the crucial need for land reform as it carries the weight of our country's historic injustices, yet, still holds the promise of inclusive growth and meaningful redress. The 2025-26 total budget allocation for the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development, of R9,82 billion, reflects an increase of 8,13% compared to the adjusted 2024-2025 budget of R9,08 billion.

While this increase is welcomed, the IFP has noted with concern that this allocation represents only 0,3% of the total national appropriation for 2025-26. This suggests that Land Reform and Rural Development continue to be underprioritised in the broader national agenda, despite their critical importance in addressing poverty, inequality and deeply entrenched special injustices of our past.

Land reform is not just about transferring hectares; it is about restoring dignity, correcting historical injustice and unlocking economic participation for the majority. Yet, many land reform beneficiaries continue to face systemic failure due to inadequate post settlement support, poor infrastructure and limited market access.

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We note the department's commitment to social economic development and job creation in rural areas. However, in practice, rural communities remain structurally excluded from the mainstream economy. Infrastructure backlogs, youth unemployment and poor service delivery are still the defining features of rural life in many provinces. The IFP calls for relatively development to be elevated from a policy ambition to a budgeted, measurable and well-co-ordinated national priority.

Regarding the Ingonyama Trust Board, the IFP reaffirms its support for the role of traditional leadership in custodianship of communal land. We remain vigilant against any attempts to undermine Customary Land Tenure or the cultural integrity of rural communities. At the same time, we support stronger financial governance within the Ingonyama Trust Board, ITB, in line with the findings of the Auditor-General. Transparency and accountability must go hand in hand with protection of traditional land rights.

In conclusion, the IFP supports this Budget Vote, and we insist on stronger delivery, deeper transformation and more consistent political will. Let this budget reflect where land

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reform is a lived reality; not just for the policy books, but for the people on the ground. I thank you.

*Afrikaans:*

Mr S H M VAN WYK: ... bemagtiging vir ons mense.

Ons ondersteuning kom egter met 'n versoek vir aanspreeklikheid, deursigtigheid en streng nakoming van die korrekte bewilliging van fondse. Die rede vir hierdie vereiste is soos ek vroeër in die Huis bekendgemaak het, dat daar gemeenskappe in ons land is, wat nie die voordeel wat hulle toekom, gekry het nie. Daar is plekke in ons land soos Richtersveld, Steinhoff, Knoflokskraal, Butana, en Oppermansgronde wat nog nooit ondersteuning gekry nie.

*English:*

Land reform is not merely a policy; it is a moral and constitutional obligation to redress the injustices of the past and ensure that our people and the historically disadvantaged have access to productive land for sustainable livelihoods. The success of this budget depends not only on the figures allocated, but on the effective corruption-free

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implementation of projects that truly uplift rural communities.

Therefore, the PA calls on the department to ensure strict financial oversight that every Rand allocated to land redistribution, agricultural support and rural infrastructure is spent according to the intended purpose with zero tolerance for mismanagement of funds.

*Afrikaans:*

Twee, ten opsigte van projek-gebaseerde aanspreeklikheid, hierdie befondsing is gekoppel aan meetbare inkomste met parlementêre verslagdoening oor die vordering, uitdagings en regstellende aksies.

Drie, ten opsigte van die betrokkenheid van gemeenskappe, die begunstigdes en landelike gemeenskappe moet aktiewe deelnemers aan die ontwikkelingsproses wees, om te verseker dat projekte aan hul werklike behoeftes voldoen, eerder as om politieke belange en die elite se belange te dien.

*English:*

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The PA supports the budget, because we believe in land justice and rural development. Thank you.

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Hon House Chair, hon Minister, I am going to speak some English today. The mandate of this department is to put right the past with an amount of R10 billion a year. Quite impossible, actually, but that is the mandate. Now, if we want to put something right, we have to say what is wrong.

And I would like to start this narrative or this story in 1994, when the present settlement, according to which we are functioning at the moment, was constituted. Now, that settlement actually brought the majority of South Africans and the minority, who used to rule the country to a point at which they had to settle with one another on politics and land. What the majority had to come to terms with is, if they wanted power immediately, they would have to accept the slow reform of land.

The minority, on the other hand, said, well, we can give away our self-determination, our freedom, as such, because, at least, we retain our property. That's what they decided. It is a very dishonorable decision from the minority, at that stage,

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to say we trade our freedom for property. Now, at that stage, Afrikaners, as a nation, as a collective, was actually deconstituted.

It brought along the end of minority rule, which is a good thing. That should have happened long ago. But it came at a certain price, and that price is that no land in South Africa is white land anymore, or Afrikaner land anymore; it is just individual land of people who happen to speak Afrikaans and to go to an Afrikaans church and to have ... It is indeed legally the truth.

Now, what is evolving at the moment for South Africa is an Afrikaner problem, because the narrative is that Afrikaners are nothing but land thieves who contributed nothing to South Africa, but oppression. That has been verbalized repeatedly today.

Now, if you ask the Jews about the 1930s in Germany, when you are criminalised, as a nation, as a cultural group, as an ethnicity, then you are very near to danger, and that is time to secure yourself. Now, there are two ways in which we can secure ourselves. We can entrench individual ownership,

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individual property, and that is what is happening, and that is what is frustrating the land reform process.

The other possibility is to entrench ourselves as a collective, to recognise our own collective identity, and to demand recognition of our collective identity, as Afrikaners, also with a right to land. Now, there are some problems in the world, which can only be solved by self-determination. The Sahrawi problem in Morocco, the Palestinian problem in Israel, and the Afrikaner problem in South Africa can only be solved by, ... I am not, I am from Africa, and I have freedom, and I demand it.

Dr T K S LETLAPE: Chair, how do I follow a speech like that? Chair, Minister, and all the officials here, you know, I ask myself a question: As a descendant of indigenous people, were we ever owners of land? Because in the programme that you have seen, we talk about tenants, we talk about laborers, we talk about farm dwellers, but you never talk about landowners. And I come from a royal family that were landowners, that were custodians on behalf of a community, that put in a land claim in 1995. And we are still waiting, because suddenly, you cannot claim under the basis of being an owner.

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You can only claim on the basis of having been a labourer, a dweller, or a tenant. And that is where the problem lies. So, the discussion needs to be resolved. And I hear about the conversation and the terms of reference of 1994. And 30 years later, we have seen that it takes us nowhere. We need to get back to the table and recognise that Africans were owners. And you cannot start where we are suddenly dwellers, tenants, or labourers. There is something wrong with that discussion, Minister. And it needs to be reset.

We have to understand that we are an African civilization. And under African leadership, land is priceless. It is therefore allocated for productive use, not for ownership, and you sit on it, and you don't produce for the nation.

So, we had an advanced civilization. And if you cannot go back to humanising us as Africans, this problem will never be solved. Now, in terms of the values of where I come from, the royal family is custodians, not owners. They are custodians on behalf of the tribe. And they deal with land properly and appropriately.

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The issue of today is that, under the current rules and reforms, the only Africans that are getting fed on the land issue are the officials. Minister, we need lifestyle audits on all officials at national and provincial level. In terms of our Constitution, everything says, refer back to the Constitution. One of the things that need to be part of the discussion is the fact that there can be no restoration of land and land rights without reformation.

Our Constitution talks about human rights and gender equality. Now, you will see that when there is land reform, women are left behind. When there are discussions on land issues, where I come from, they say, ...

*Sesotho:*

... basadi ha ba tle lekgotleng.

*English:*

So, we need to ensure that, as we fix the issue of land, women are recognised. We have many single-mother households. Why cannot they own land? How do we move forward, if we do not recognise and restore the rights of women? So, for us to support this, you have to make those major reforms. So, in its

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current form and with your current mandate, we cannot support it. Make it right. Recognise women, recognise Africans as owners, and then we can talk. Thank you.

*Xitsonga:*

Ttn S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu, ndzi fanele ku xeweta na Mhani Khawula. Holobye, ku laveka misava. Misava i rifumo. Misava i rifumo. Loko muchaviseki Dkd Letlape va ri karhi va vulavula a ndzi twa onge ndzi nga va nyika timitete tinharhu ta ku va engetela.

*English:*

... so that he can continue, because sometimes we forget about where we come from. There is that temptation to think that that which was done over centuries can be undone in 30 years. This afternoon I want to rise for the families who were removed from District Six as a child and have never seen the loss of a childhood home and their family land be recognised. I rise for the farmers in the Eastern Cape who have given their lives to a communal farm but have no security of tenure. I rise for all those who have been left behind and forgotten by our land reform restitution.

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As Rise Mzansi, we remain committed to building a safe, prosperous, equal and united South Africa. However, we can only prosper Holobyne [Minister], we can only prosper if, and when we address the inequalities of our past and a key way to do so is through land reform. As author and agricultural economist Mr Wandile Sihlobo has said that the current agricultural land reform regime has seen its successes. However, if it continues to treat land reform as a group project, it will not succeed in empowering rural farmers. We have seen several instances where the state acquires land and leases it to a group of black farmers. However, this leaves farmers without the security of title deeds and disincentivises them from investing in the land.

We need to rethink, Minister, we need to rethink the co-operative model and place more trust in individual farmers. Additionally, the state of land restitutions, as you know, it is deplorable. How is it that 31 years later we are still processing land claims instituted under the Restitution of Land Act? How is it that with the current budget allocations it will take another 30 years before the remaining 5 400 claims are settled? That is not even addressing the claims instituted after 1998.

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We must not only see land reform as a rural matter or the exclusive jurisdiction of this department, but we also need to reorientate spatial planning to take account of the rate and nature of urbanisation to further empower people. It should be the norm that every stand, rural or urban must have piped water to enable sanitation and food production. Let us act now to bring liberation to those who have been left behind. Let us act now to restore, Minister. Let's restore what was lost and to empower the rural farmers.

*Xitsonga:*

Ndzi khensile, Mutshamaxitulu.

Mr L W MAHLATSI: Thank you, Chairperson.

*Sesotho:*

Kgotso, Maafrika!

*English:*

Let me start by congratulating the Deputy Minister on the journey he's taking. We are gathering here today to debate not just a budget, but a very soul of Africa, the land. The Budget 42 reveals the continued betrayal of the landless. The

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department may be allocated billions, but it is not guided by a revolutionary purpose. Justice is delayed, distorted and denied because the land remained in the hands of the few and the pain of the majority deepens.

Let me state without ambiguity. As long as 1913 remains a benchmark for land reform, the United African Transformation will never support a government that pretends to answer the land question while preserving the colonial land architecture. Furthermore, weak institutional capacity sabotaging transformation from within. The department suffers from high vacancy rates at senior management, including prolonged absence of the permanent director-general. Delays in finalising fit for purpose organisational structure and a nonfunctional office of the Communal Property Association, CPA, leaving the land beneficiaries abandoned without government support. How do we expect the land reform to succeed when the very institutions meant to lead are in disarray?

The land acquisition programme underperformed yet again. In 2024-25, the department targeted 120 000 hectares and managed far less. The reliance of the willing buyer, willing seller

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model is not just flawed, it is a neoliberal fig leaf that protects white privileged at the expense of African majority. We should ask who benefited from the farm allocation? What criteria was use? How much was paid? Where that money went? The restitution of land rights continues to be a painfully slow. Thousands of claims remain unresolved decades later despite budget increases. It is not money we lack. It is a political will and ethical leadership.

Chairperson, land is not just about agriculture, it is about identity, sovereignty and spiritual belonging. Without a land there is no true freedom. As the UAT we call for amendment of section 25 and the removal of 1913, as a benchmark. Our land reform programme is confronted by crony capitalism which will further deprive the true subaltern interest. The full operationalisation and resource of the office of the CPA and the Rural Land Institution fast-track settlement on land claims with robust post settlement support.

*Xitsonga:*

Khanimambo! [Nkarhi wu herile.]

*IsiXhosa:*

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Mnu. M A NHANHA: Ndiqalise Sihlalo?

*English:*

Hon Chairperson and hon members, good afternoon. I rise on behalf of the Democratic Alliance in this important debate of Budget Vote 42 to affirm our unwavering support to meaningful, just and empowering land reform. However, I must begin by sounding alarm of a troubling regulatory development, Minister, one that risks undermining the very principles of dignity, freedom and equality that should guide land reform in a post-apartheid South Africa. I refer to the regulation that compels individuals to declare their race and gender when transferring land, a measure as draconian as it is unnecessary.

In fact, it reeks of every bureaucratic racialism that once defined our darkest past. Let us remind this House and the country that land dispossession in South Africa was legalised and enforced through a ... [Inaudible.] ... of apartheid and colonial laws. Forcing South Africans in 2025, to disclose their race and gender when transferring land does not advance redress, Minister, it undermines it. It treats citizens not as individuals with rights and dignity, but as a demographic

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category in a spreadsheet. This is not transformation, it is regression.

The mandatory requirement to disclose race and gender as a precondition for exercising one's rights must be rejected outrightly. This new regulation uncomfortably smacks of an apartheid era during which South Africans were subjected to mandatory racial classification for purposes of discrimination, control and exclusion of most of the population. We are now 31 years into the democratic dispensation. It is disheartening and regrettable to see similar mechanisms being reintroduced, even though under a different pretext and ostensibly different objectives.

While we acknowledge the importance of an accurate and comprehensive land ownership data to inform government policy and ensure the equitable transformation of land ownership patterns in our country, the inclusion of race and gender as mandatory disclosure requirements in a property transfer process warrants careful consideration, as these may violate individual dignity, privacy and constitutional rights. Surely, at this day and age, there is a lot of other mechanisms that

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can be used to collect data without violating citizens' constitutional rights.

We must ask a question, how can we claim to be building a nonracial society whilst we are introducing compulsory racial identification into our property laws? Hon members, the DA believes that land reform must focus on outcomes, not on identities. We must assess success by how many people have secured title or tenure, especially for rural women and labour tenants. How many farms are productive, sustainable and supported with infrastructure and financing they need to thrive? How many communities benefit from access to land for homes, farming and opportunities?

The department's continued obsession with race-based matrix, Minister, whilst state-owned land lies underutilised, and the restitution claims remain unresolved is a distraction from the real reform. The DA says yes to redress, but no to racial reclassification. I do realise that my colleagues, the diminishing so-called progressive caucus, has been quite well-behaved today, and shame, I do realise that they are feeling the cold outside the Government of National Unity, GNU, and they will be outside of that GNU for quite a while.

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*IsiXhosa:*

Kumnandi ngaphakathi madoda ...

*English:*

... you will remain outside and feel the cold.

*IsiXhosa:*

Kumnandi ngaphakathi madoda.

*English:*

Chairperson, let me be clear. The DA supports land reform but not when it is administered through unconstitutional devices and outdated tools. The DA supports this budget. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Mr M MRARA: Hon House Chairperson, hon members, distinguished guests, fellow South Africans, I must also salute the former members of the ANC here and the secret members of the ANC in this House. On this occasion of the debate of Budget Vote 42: Land Reform and Rural Development, I rise on behalf of the ANC to support it. This budget is a stepping stone in the journey of reversing centuries of grave and dehumanising injustice. Let us be clear, the entire process of land dispossession was

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extremely vicious, violent and also systematic. It was the colonial settlement and expansionism of the settlers into the eastern frontier and the interior that precipitated the brutal wars of resistance.

Following the Nine Frontier Wars, land dispossession was codified into law through the Glen Grey Act of 1894 and that was sponsored by the Governor of The Cape and the mining baron Cecil John Rhodes. The Glen Grey Act curtailed the extent of land and cattle ownership by natives, and I suppose this one is responding to what hon Boshoff raised here. It therefore can be considered a forerunner to and a template of the Native Act of 1930.

Let us take this moment on logic of Glen Grey Act as expressed by Cecil John Rhodes during the debate in the apartheid Cape Parliament. He said:

My idea is that the natives should be kept in these native reserves and not be mixed with the white man at all. Are you going to sanction the idea? With all the difficulties of poor whites before us that these people should be mixed up with white men. And white children grow up in the middle of

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native locations. In the interest of these white people who must never let this happen. White labour cannot compete with black labour in this country. Physical labour, I mean.

So, the racist philosophy of subjugating natives and keeping them landless was firmly intertwined with the interest of capital. To have access to an army of cheap labour in their reserves. What we call today, our rural areas. In short, this was a process of dispossession, deagrarianisation and proletarianization to serve the racist and accumulation interest of capital. The duty to reverse this historical and legitimate grievance of restoration of land to the indigenous people rests on the soldiers of the liberation movement. To restore the dignity of land ownership and the dignity of working land.

We must underline that the liberation movement does so under vastly different conditions, that is, entrenched capitalist mode of production and the judicial system based on Roman Dutch law. In the democratic dispensation, the government adopted the programme of land restitution as an integral component of the overall land reform process. From the outset, the government set a modest target of 30% for land

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redistribution in the first five years. This was a cautious approach and resultantly this target was not met and remains a target of the National Development Policy, Vision 2030.

The evident constraint that curtails progress is twofold. That is the entrenched capitalist mode of production in the malicious use of judicial system. To contest the claims and also the land value. The land value process is embedded in the capitalist mode of thinking, hence the escalating or highly inflated land price which undermine the progress in terms of land reform. In this vein, academics Wandile Sihlobo and Professor Johann Christian argued that since 1994, approximately 13,2 million hectares amounting to 17% have been transferred and if you add the 2,3 million hectares successfully earmarked for restitution but beneficiaries opted for financial compensation as a means of restitution, then the equivalent is 20% of land restored. As lawmakers we must ask hard questions and problematise the method of land reform as a whole.

But the question of land question constitutes the original sin against the black majority in this country. The ANC was aware; hence, it embarked on various vigorous struggles challenging

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the forces of darkness against our people. To be clear, Chairperson, lest I be misunderstood. There is modest progress in the land restitution programme. They are thriving black emerging farmers from the restituted farms and there are successful communal property associations that are producing a diverse range of products for domestic and foreign markets. What we seek to underline as the ANC is that these success stories need to be multiplied and be scaled. This leads to the financial withdrawal of the department to advance land restitution.

The land reform and the restitution budget under programme three shows an increase from an adjusted appropriation of R5,7 billion in 2025/26 to R6,1 billion in 2025/26 financial year. This reflects a nominal increase of 8,19% or 3,34%. In real terms, after adjusting for inflation. The Restitution Spatial Programme received the largest share, consuming 59% of the programmes budget, followed by the Land Redistribution and Tenure Reform sub programme at 21%.

We acknowledge that the land reform receives the lion's share of the budget and committedly the Restitution Spatial Programme enjoys 9% of the overall allocation. To finalise a

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targeted 844 land restitution claims R11,6 billion over the medium term is allocated in the Land Reform and Restitution Programme. However, it must be stressed that it remains insufficient to overcome the backlogs of pre-1998 claims. In this vein, hon Minister, the Commission for Restitution Land Rights as captured in the revised strategic plan, indicates that:

The CRLR has a total of 5 719 old order claims as of 30 September 2024. All these claims need to be processed for settlement. The 5 719 outstanding pre-1998 claims would cost approximately R46 billion excluding the running cost of the commission. This is a mountain to climb. Given the challenges we have indicated, particularly on highly inflated land prices.

The land, first and foremost is a factor of production and therefore its ownership and control define social relations of protection. We must improve the land reform delivery instrument and put measures in place to prevent the practice of restituted land being systematically captured or returned through dubious means to previous owners, thus frustrating transformation agenda. We must urgently establish and

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operationalize the registrar of Communal Property Associations, CPAs to protect and advance the benefit of restoration of land in our country.

Hon Minister, the President had already charted the path to resolve the land reform deadlock when he announced the need to establish the land reform and agricultural development agency. That is the solution and that is what we must exploit. Bold steps are required and as the ANC, we implore the government to increase the budget allocation for the land reform. Let us now turn our attention to agrarian question. Which is also a long outstanding. [Time expired.]

*IsiXhosa:*

Nisindile, bendiza kukhe ndihlomle kwaba bantu bebethetha apha. Ngabantu abasoloko bezilungiselela ukungayixhasi ivoti yohlahlolwabiwomali. Enkosi, Sihlalo.

*Xitsonga:*

HOLOBYE WA SWA NHLUVUKISO WA TINDHAWU TA LE MAKAYA NA MPFUXETO WA MISAVA: Inkomu.

*English:*

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Hon Chair, Hon Adams, we appreciate your emphasis on the need to intensify transformation, particularly in the areas of land restitution and equitable access. We also acknowledge your challenge regarding the expansion of the land acquisition target within the current fiscal envelope. The department will explore feasible options to increase the number of hectares procured in alignment with our constitutional and programmatic obligations.

*IsiXhosa:*

Ndiza kugqibela ngawe wena, Biko omncinci, Mngxithama.

[Kwahlekwa.]

*English:*

Hon Madikizela, we appreciate your observation that land reform requires greater financial investment. The department stands ready to effectively deploy any future budget increase to advance land tenure, security, and development. We will consider your proposal for a Land Reform Acceleration Indaba, and we are already acting to strengthen support to communal property associations, CPAs. In addition, Ngutyana [Madikizela clan name] I have instructed the department to convene a

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dedicated Rural Development Indada to address systematic constraints and fast-track co-ordinated interventions.

Comrade Matiase, Sam, through the application of the Property Valuation Act, the Office of the Valuer-General continues to moderate land prices in accordance with the constitutional principles. This includes curbing inflated valuations and preventing market speculation, thereby ensuring the public resources are used effectively and equitably. Upon my appointment, I gave the President my assurance that rural development would no longer remain peripheral on governance priorities. It is my commitment to ensure that it delivers meaningful impact, visible in the daily lives and lived realities of rural communities across the country. Chairperson of the committee, hon Boshoff, I advise you to raise your issues in the National Dialogue. There seem to be very ... [Interjections.] ... okay. Hon Letlape, I'm sure, Dr, you are going to change your mind just after I've informed you that we believe that the land belongs to indigenous people, and when I have informed you that 50% of the allocated land is allocated to women. Can you change your vote now? Those were the two conditions you gave me, Dr. We are already there. Hon Gana, we share your expectation that Parliament will prioritise the

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Equitable Access to Land Bill once formally tabled. Its timely passage is essential to advancing inclusive land access.

*Xitsonga:*

Ndza khensa.

*English:*

Hon Mahlatsi, son of Africa, my comrade, a PAC member, we reaffirm our full commitment to the ongoing struggle for land restoration. This work remains central to the department's constitutional and historical mandate. Hon Nhanha, we agree accurate and accessible land data is fundamental. It enables the state to monitor progress, target interventions, and ensure accountability in land reform. Thank you very much, comrade Mrara, ...

*IsiZulu:*

... gazi lami.

*English:*

Comrade Mngxitama, your assertion that the department has planned to fail is noted and appears to reflect a broader political perspective rather than the realities of ongoing

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institutional work. Fortunately, Parliament retains the constitutional authority to propose and enact amendments. We encourage those with such views to pursue reform through those channels. Our focus, however, remains on implementation and delivery. You promised to teach us, and you did teach us, but in your teachings, you forgot to educate us. How did it come about that President Zuma appointed hon Mulder, a Boer [White Dutch-speaking settler] in his Cabinet from 2009 to 2014? You seem to be more revolutionary than all of us. No, the point is he was in the Cabinet of President Zuma. It doesn't matter. The point is you can't be more revolutionary than us.

We understand this thing. We have been there. You sounded like me when I was not part of the government, when I could not understand the realities inside government. What you said, we've said it a long time ago, even before you came here. We understand the land question. We've been part of it. We were the only organisation in 1994 that was saying land first, all shall follow, and everybody else was creating mockery out of us. The land question remains at the centre of our politics. In fact, the President of the country calls it the original sin, and I called it the item of conflict, but there must be a way of resolving it.

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It doesn't help to come here and think that others understand land question more than others. It does not happen like that. We went to jail for this. We went to exile for this. We were hanged for this. We were mistreated for this when all others were saying you will never get the land. By the way, others were even taking the land with a wheelbarrow and giving it to us in our organisation and saying this is the land, what else do you want? Now today you are sounding more catholic than the Pope. Never. The land question belongs to us.

Debate concluded.

The mini-plenary session rose at 18:10.