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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The House met at 14:00.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, as you may now all be aware, we received the sad news of the passing of Mr Edward Mzikayise Ntshingila, last week Friday, 5 June 2026. On behalf of the presiding officers, I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to the family, his political party and friends. A condolence motion for Mr Ntshingila will be scheduled at an appropriate time. May we please rise to observe a moment of silence for Mr Ntshingila.

VISIT TO INDIA TO ATTRACT INVESTMENTS

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(Member's Statement)

Mr S C SEKOATI (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, the Deputy President of RSA, hon Paul Mashatile recently went on a working visit to India aiming to strengthen economic co-operation, attract investment into South Africa and expand trade relations.

The working visit bore positive outcomes which included investment commitments in key sectors of our economy. It also reaffirmed the growing partnership between South Africa and India. The investment demonstrated the importance of South Africa's foreign policy, which seeks to pull international relations to further advance our national development objectives and advance the lives of many South African people.

As key partners and fellow members of Brics, South Africa and India remain committed to deepening co-operation in pursuit of inclusive growth and sustainable development. Such a partnership is essential in supporting South Africa's efforts to drive economic development, create jobs but most importantly, stimulate economic growth.

This investment commitment is aligned with the objectives of the National Development Plan and the priorities outlined by

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government to attract investment, to grow the economy, as well as to expand opportunities for all South Africans. This crucial development further reflects the ANC's longstanding commitment to building an economy that advances transformation and development.

The ANC welcomes the outcomes of the Deputy President's visit and looks forward to the investments, which will contribute to the broader developmental agenda for South Africa and her people.

SUPPORT TO THE INVESTIGATING DIRECTORATE AGAINST CORRUPTION

(Member's Statement)

Mr D D KLOPPER (DA): I rise on behalf of the DA to ask this House to recognise that South Africa cannot be cleaned up while high-level corruption is allowed to outpace prosecution. During a recent oversight engagement, the Investigating Directorate Against Corruption, Idac, indicated that out of 151 cases received, only nine resulted in successful prosecutions. That number should concern every member of this House.

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We acknowledge the importance of the mandate of Idac as a permanent prosecution-led anticorruption unit within the NPA, but a mandate without right support, access to evidence, specialised skills and proper co-ordination is simply not enough. This House must therefore call for stronger support for Idac, better access to all information and evidence needed to prosecute complex corruption cases and greater co-operation among law enforcement agencies, the NPA, Sars, financial intelligences and other relevant institutions.

South Africans are tired of commissions, reports and promises. A capacitated independent NPA will ensure that consequences are enforced by guaranteeing that the corrupts are arrested, cases are properly prepared and South African lives are protected through crime deterrence. The DA's position is clear, catch the corrupt, convict the corrupt and clean up South Africa. I thank you.

THE REPORTING OF THE 2024 ELECTION RESULTS

(Member's Statement)

Mr N I NXUMALO (MKP): Hon Speaker, I rise on behalf of MK that this House notes that on 18 June 2026, the MK party will

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appear in a court proceeding, involving the Independent Electoral Commission regarding conducting an outcome of the 2024 general election. The MK party maintains that serious irregularities occurred during the election process, including concerns arising from interruption of election results transmission, and subsequent development in the reporting of the results. The MK party believes this matter warrants judicial scrutiny and determination.

The MK party will place evidence before the court in support of this case and remains confident that the legal process will establish the truth and ensure that the will of the people is fully respected.

This House must further note that the integrity of the election is the concern of constitutional democracy, and that any allegation concerning the electoral process should be thoroughly ventilated through the courts and other lawful mechanisms. I so move.

TITLE DEEDS TO COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH WEST

(Member's Statement)

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Mr S L DITHEBE (ANC): Deputy Speaker, the ANC welcomes the officiating of the land tenure rights and the handover of the title deeds ceremony by President Cyril Ramaphosa to the Gaesegwe, Barolong ba ga Rapulana, Barolong ba ga Phoi, and Barolong ba ga Seitshiro communities in the North West province on Friday, 29 May 2026. The event in the North West was unique in many ways.

It was not to just a hand over of one title deed or to celebrate one community, but three distinct programmes of land reform converged in one district addressing different dimensions of injustice and dispossession. Through the upgrading of the Land Tenure Rights Programme, the President handed over 368 individual title deeds to households at Setlagole and Madibogo. Let that sink in.

As part of the second programme, 20 farmers received title deeds across all four district municipalities in the province. The third programme was land restitution. More than a century ago in 1913, the Native Land Act stripped millions of black South Africans of their birthright. They were deprived of their land, their assets, their livelihoods and their community.

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In his message during the title deeds handover, the President proclaimed: "Never again will someone's land be taken away based on the colour of their skin, background or location." The ANC commends the government under the leadership of President Ramaphosa for restoring the dignity of our communities. The struggle to restore the birthright of our people continues. Amandla!

CONSTRUCTION OF A UNIVERSITY IN PRETORIA

(Member's Statement)

Ms B MATHULELWA (EFF): Deputy Speaker, today, in Pretoria, a private institution is constructing a R3,2 billion university on a 220-hectare campus. Within a few years, it has secured land, completed bulk earthworks, installed kilometres of fibre, infrastructure and water systems and began constructing laboratories, libraries, lecture halls and students' residents.

Meanwhile, six years after President Ramaphosa has first committed in the 2020 state of the national address to building a public university in Ekurhuleni and after repeating the promise again in this year's Sona, the Minister of Higher

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Education has informed Parliament that no site has even been identified. This is not simply a budget problem. It is a crisis of state capacity and implementation.

The Department of Higher Education administers a budget exceeding R130 billion annually, yet it has repeatedly underspent its allocated budget over consecutive financial years. At the same time, Setas and the National Skills Fund continue to hold and process large volumes of skills development funding, including uncommitted surpluses transferred through the systems. The EFF has repeatedly raised concerns against the inefficiency with financial controls and delays ... [Time expired.] ... across sectors. Thank you.

GROWTH OF UNREGULATED AND UNDOCUMENTED ENTERPRISES

(Member's Statement)

Ms B E MACHI (IFP): Deputy Speaker, the IFP notes with concern the rapid growth of unregulated and undocumented micro enterprises in our townships and rural areas. While South African entrepreneurs strive to comply with municipal bylaws and licensing regulations, they are increasingly crowded out by the businesses operating outside the law. This creates an

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uneven playing field, undermines fair competition, and erodes confidence in the rule of law. Measures such as the Spaza Shop Support Fund are welcome, but they cannot succeed in isolation. Without strict enforcement of municipal bylaws and a uniform licensing framework, financial support risk repeats the cycle in which South Africans are phased out of their own economy. Stronger regulations are therefore crucial to protect local businesses.

The IFP believes enforcement is not the duty of the government alone. Citizens must uphold these laws, report misconduct, and expose illegal dealings that compromise communities. Amid protests and demonstrations, we urge our people to remain safe, exercise restraint, and reject violence. Only through collective vigilance, decisive enforcement, and peaceful conduct can dignity be restored to township economies and ensure South Africans are not excluded from opportunities in their own communities. I thank you.

**GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES R300 MILLION FUND TO BACK WOMEN
ENTREPRENEURS**

(Member's Statement)

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Ms M L MMOLOTSANE (ANC): Deputy Speaker, the ANC welcomes the launch of Imbali For Her, a R300 million National Enterprise Development Programme targeting women entrepreneurs across South Africa. The fund was unveiled on 15 May 2026 in Kimberley, Northern Cape, by the Department of Small Business Development and the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency, Sedfa.

The fund offers individual entrepreneurs access to blended finance of up to R5 million per applicant. The structure combines a non-repayable grant component with a concessional loan. For women, 40% of the total facility is offered as a grant, with the balance structured as a loan at a rate of prime minus five percentage points. Women with disabilities qualify for a higher grant component of 50%, reflecting the additional barriers they face in accessing mainstream finance.

The consolidation of two small business entities was intended to eliminate the fragmentation that had long characterised government support for small businesses, creating a single institution through which entrepreneurs can access financial and non-financial assistance under one roof. Malibongwe!

MIGRATION-RELATED ISSUES

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(Member's Statement)

Rev K R J MESHOE (ACDP): Deputy Speaker, while the ACDP appreciates the President's address to the nation on Sunday concerning migration-related issues, his proposals, we believe, do not go far enough to curb the increasing frustration of South Africans regarding illegal foreign nationals in the country. The President should acknowledge that one of the main contributors leading to this situation is our porous borders, something the ACP has continued to highlight over the years. Some government leaders and politicians have frequently referred to an Africa without borders, but where would an oppressed, persecuted person run to for protection should the borders be removed and all countries operate under one administration? There are still dictators ... [Inaudible.] ... democratic rule running African countries. And so, their wish would not be viable.

In his speech, the President referred to the recruitment of 10 000 labour inspectors for this financial year. However, no mention was made of health inspectors, who are also desperately needed in townships. We know that our people are being sold unhealthy, expired food at some spaza shops being run by unregistered foreign nationals, which is stored in

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unhygienic conditions, making people sick. We also know that many of these shopkeepers even sleep and bathe in their shops ... [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, before we proceed, just a reminder for those members online. I know that we have not had an online meeting for some time. Please make sure that your devices are always muted, except if you are recognised to speak.

VIOLENT CRIME ON BIODIVERSITY

(Member's Statement)

Mr A D DE BLOCC VAN SHELTINGA (DA): Deputy Speaker, wildlife crime in South Africa is a silent crisis with voiceless victims. From pangolins to perlemoen, succulents to cycads, and abalone to rhino horn, criminals are looting South Africa's biodiversity. These are often the same syndicates involved in drugs, arms, and human trafficking. During our G20 Presidency, South Africa secured the unanimous adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Crimes that Affect the Environment. While South Africa is strong on commitment, we are weak on enforcement and prosecution. Criminals currently act without

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fear. Those that are caught are seldom convicted, and those that are convicted often pay paltry fines and are simply released. That is not good enough. We need dedicated police units equipped with modern technology and appropriate skills. Currently, the enormous backlog in wildlife forensics delays and prevents effective evidence collection. South Africa must invest in specialized environmental courts where cases can be tried both effectively and expeditiously. Our judiciary must be sensitized to environmental crimes and empowered to deliver strong sentences that will act as an effective deterrent. Renewed political will at the Border Management Agency, BMA, must be matched with funding to effectively intercept contraband. Sadly, environmental crime is also an inside job. Implicated officials must be identified and removed. Corruption cannot be tolerated at any level. We must catch offenders, convict criminals, and clean up our administrations. Let us honour our G20 legacy by practising what we preach. If we do this, we can give a voice to the voiceless and protect our precious biodiversity. I thank you.

INDIVIDUAL OVERSIGHT BY A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

(Member's Statement)

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Ms S FRENCHMAN (NCC): Deputy Speaker, the NCC would hereby like to draw the attention of the House to an affidavit that was submitted to the Political Killings Task Team, PKTT, by the hon Ian Cameron, in which he states that Mr Fidel Adams was not tasked or ordered by Parliament to visit and conduct any parliamentary duty at Westville Prison. He also stated that whatever hon Adams went to do at Westville Prison, he was not acting in his personal capacity and not in his official capacity. Now, we would like to inform the hon Ian Cameron that the Constitution mandates Parliament oversight on all organs of state. And when you look at the Parliament's oversight mechanisms, you will note that constituency work affords Members of Parliament the greatest opportunity to conduct individual oversight. Constituency work provides the closest form of interaction between Members of Parliament and the public. So, hon Ian Cameron, you do not have the power over who does oversight, where, and when. You are a liar, and you will have to answer for misrepresenting Parliament in your affidavit. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, you have accused another member of lying. That is against the Rules. I now request you to withdraw.

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Ms S FRENCHMAN (NCC): It would be an injustice to do so, Madam Deputy Speaker, but I withdraw.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon members, I remind you of the Rules again. We cannot accuse other members of lying or casting aspersions.

ILLEGAL MINING JOINT LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATION

(Member's Statement)

Mr M M SOKOPO: Deputy Speaker, the ANC welcomes the decisive, highly successful joint law enforcement operation conducted by the SAPS and the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, in Gauteng between May 25 and May 31st, which resulted in the arrest of 36 individuals involved in illicit mining activities. The seizure of unlicensed firearms and hundreds of rounds of live ammunition during this operation underscores a chilling reality that illegal mining is no longer merely an issue of economic survival, but a highly organized, heavily armed crime enterprise that directly threatens our national security and the sovereignty of our communities.

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The ANC commends the brave men and women in uniform who continue to put their lives on the line to reclaim our communities from the grip of these criminal syndicates, colloquially known as Zama Zamas. This operation stands as a testament to the effectiveness of the integrated multidisciplinary approach championed by the ANC-led government to combat sophisticated crime. Communities across Gauteng and other mining provinces have lived under the shadow of violence, environmental degradation, and infrastructure sabotage caused by illegal mining activities for many years. The presence of military-grade weaponry in these illicit networks poses an unacceptable danger to innocent citizens. By removing this ... [Time expired.]

UNFAIR EQUAL TREATMENT

(Member's Statement)

Mr W M DOUGLAS (MKP): Hon Deputy Speaker, there are two South Africas. One South Africa is for the poor. If you are accused of a wrongdoing, you are investigated and compelled to step aside. If evidence emerges against you, you are disciplined. If questions are asked, you must answer or face jail.

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The other South Africa is reserved for Mr Cyril Ramaphosa and the elites. An independent section 89 panel chaired by the former Chief Justice, found *prima facie* evidence that Mr Ramaphosa may have committed serious violations of the Constitution and serious misconduct. Instead of accountability, the ANC-led Parliament shielded him. Instead of scrutiny he received a corrupt political cover. Instead of answers, South Africans received excuses.

For years, Parliament was turned into a human shield for one man, but the Constitutional Court has now torn through that shield. The question is no longer whether there is a case to answer. The question is how deep and how wide is the rot. It is not surprising that Mr Ramaphosa is running to the courts to avoid his day before the impeachment committee.

What is he afraid of? What is there to hide? If Phala Phala is a hearsay fiction: Why not face the impeachment committee and set the record straight? Today, marks 31st day since the Constitutional Court ordered that the impeachment committee should be seized with section 89 panel report. Yet all that has happened thus far is a 20-minute job to elect a fellow traveller of the so-called government of national unity, GNU,

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as chairperson of the committee. Contempt of the Constitutional Court order is loading. I thank you.

NO SHOW FOR DESIGNATED GROUPS

(Member's Statement)

Mr E MTHETHWA (EFF): Deputy Speaker, the EFF notes with grave concern that Minister Buti Manamela, often presented as the youth face of the Department of High Education and Training, is presiding over a skills development system that has largely excluded young people from decision-making. In the recent parliamentary reply to a question asked by the EFF, the Minister confirmed that 14 Sector Education and Training Authorities, Setas, including the Agriculture Sector Education and Training Authority, AgriSETA, the Banking Sector Education and Training Authority, BankSETA, the Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority, CathssETA and others - 14 Setas - have zero youth voices. The institutions are responsible for skills development, learnerships, apprenticeship and preparing young people for the world of work. Yet young people have no seat at the table.

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The Minister further confirmed that most Setas also have no representation of people living with disabilities. The EFF asks a simple question: How can institutions designed to serve young people be governed without youth?

South Africa does not suffer from a shortage of talented young people. South Africa suffers from a shortage of opportunities afforded to young people.

As the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority, LGSETA, the Construction Education Training Authority, Ceta, and the Services Sector Education and Training Authority, ServicesSeta, emerged from administration and appoint new boards, Minister Manamela has an opportunity to break with the failures of the past. Appoint young people, appoint persons living with disabilities and stop recycling the same individuals for the longest time. [Time expired.]

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

(Member's Statement)

Ms F L SHABANGU (ANC): Deputy Speaker, the ANC welcomes and celebrates the historical recent launch of 100 000 national

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youth service opportunities. This massive co-ordinated activation represents one of the most ambitious youth development interventions in our country. It is a direct and powerful manifestation of the ANC's unwavering commitment of treating youth unemployment not just as a statistical challenge but as a national emergency that requires a state-led solution.

The ANC has always regarded the National Youth Service as a cornerstone of our vision for social cohesion and radical economic transformation. This initiative actively rescues a generation from the margins of economic despair, providing 100 000 young South Africans with dignity and stable stipends.

For the young person in a rural village or an under-resourced township, lack of prior work experience has long been a punitive barrier for entering the job market. Through this programme, they are not merely receiving a stipend. They are becoming frontline builders, environmental defenders and child-care support network of their own communities, gaining an undeniable competitive edge for future careers.

By channelling the vibrant energy, talent and intellect of 100 000 young South Africans into a public good project, the

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democratic state is reinforcing the civic fabric of our society. [Time expired.]

FREIGHT RAIL SUPPORTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(Member's Statement)

Mr S G VILAKAZI (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, South Africa's unemployment crisis remains one of the greatest challenges facing our country. People cannot find work if businesses cannot grow. Businesses cannot grow if they cannot get their goods to customers quickly and affordably.

This is why fixing our freight rail system is a jobs issue. The recent announcement that 11 private operators will be allowed onto Transnet's freight rail network is a welcome step, but it is not enough. For years, broken rail lines, delays and poor management have made it harder for South African businesses to move goods to our ports and markets. This has reduced exports, discouraged investment and cost our economy jobs.

South Africa needs a rail system that helps create jobs instead of holding job creation back. The government must move

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faster to bring in private sector partners to run and maintain key freight rail routes through transparent and competitive concession agreements. This will help attract investment, improve performance and move more goods across the country. When more goods move, businesses grow. When businesses grow, they hire more people.

If government is serious about economic growth and creating jobs, it must move faster and further in opening freight rail to meaningful private sector participation. I thank you.

SERVICES SETA SUPPORTS HIGHER EDUCATION LEARNING

(Member's Statement)

Ms L E LIGARABA (ANC): Deputy Speaker, the ANC welcomes the roll-out of the historic R520 million bursary scheme by the Services Sector Education and Training Authority in partnership with the universities of South Africa. This transformative intervention will immediately fund 5 200 first time students entering undergraduate studies across all 26 public universities, making another decisive victory in our ongoing struggle to completely decolonise and open the doors

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of higher learning to the children of the working class and the missing middle.

This initiative is a direct manifestation of the ANC's commitment to the national democratic revolution, which recognises education as the ultimate equaliser in correcting the structural and socioeconomic legacy of apartheid.

By executing upfront elite disbursements directly to our public universities, this funding model decisively dismantled the administrative nightmares and registration bottlenecks that have historically triggered campus anxieties. Our students can now step into the lecture halls, focussing entirely on academic excellence, completely liberated from the trauma of historic debt or financial exclusion. The ANC has always... [Time expired.]

CRIMINALS CONTROL POLICE SERVICE

(Member's Statement)

Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA (Rise Mzansi): Mutshamaxitulu ...

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English:

... and hon members, we can all agree that the top ranks of the police are deeply compromised by a pattern of disturbing relationships with organised criminals. These revelations come out of the Madlanga Commission and already a number of senior officers have been suspended, charged or dismissed.

Apart from the concerns about corruption, the real question is that given that this high number relates only to a small number of cases: Does the government has any idea how many cases we do not know about? How many Cat Matalas are there or how many Julius Mkhwanazis are there? How is the problem in Cape Town, Buffalo City, Nelson Mandela Bay or the Western Cape? More disturbingly, how many senior officers are on the payroll of foreign governments with security clearances they do not deserve?

This is a profound failure of counterintelligence. That failure needs consideration by Parliament and the executive. It may need a specific commission of its own, a commission on the failure of intelligence. It cannot be business as usual. When our national security is being sold piece by piece in exchange for Gucci bags and motorbikes.

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Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa, Mutshamaxitulu.

VIOLENT CRIME ON BIODIVERSITY

(Minister's Response)

The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT:
Deputy Speaker, in reply to the member's statement by hon Andrew de Blocq, I would just like to say that I fully agree with him that environmental crime is a serious problem in our country and we have to take it head on and fight it. In that regard, I can say that where we have specialised courts or specialised prosecutors in place, it really works. For example, at Skukuza in the Kruger National Park, we have a prosecutor who really knows how to prosecute rhino poaching cases and that has shown us that it is very successful where it is implemented.

In Cape Town, with regards to abalone and the problems we have with our fisheries industry, I have formed a ministerial task force that consists of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Sanparks, the City of Cape Town, as well as the SA Police Services that came together and

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collaboratively are taking it on the crimes that we are experiencing on our coastal borders here. We have made officers available, I have appointed somebody that oversees that and the collaboration that we get really shows us that where we work together, we can take on environmental crime. We hope that that is something we can expand but environmental crime definitely is something that we need to look more seriously at, and I think that the conversations that I, together with my counterpart in the Police, hon Cachalia, already had and will continue to have in this regard will help a lot. Thank you very much.

EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW APPLIES TO ALL

(Minister's Response)

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: I want to react to one issue. Our colleagues from the opposition benches believe that there is law for the ANC and law for others.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, may I just interrupt you? You are not really visible. If you could perhaps just focus on your camera.

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The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES I don't know how to focus it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is better. Thank you. Yes, thank you. Please proceed.

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES: Okay. Regarding this ANC law, our colleagues deliberately ignore the fact that former President Zuma has been in court for years, avoiding the arms deal from being heard in court. Our colleagues forget that the president of the EFF has appealed a conviction in the court and he is using his right to appeal. But when it is Ramaphosa, he is expected to subject himself to an ANC law that is not applying to the rest. I think this thing of playing to the gallery doesn't help the cause and people must begin to react in a way that helps the cause rather than being very emotional and playing to the gallery. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We cannot hear you. Please try to move a bit or try again.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT: Can I put my camera off?

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That's slightly better. Proceed, please.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT: I was saying to the hon ...
[Inaudible.] ... The issue that she is already raising, things
that we are already doing in the Department of Transport
alongside the private sector participation unit in the
Development Bank of South Africa. ... [Inaudible.] ...
operators who begin work on our ... [Inaudible.] ... ends on
April 27th. [Inaudible.] The turnaround time in our ports and
in so far as the ... [Inaudible.] ... movements and grain
crossing movements.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, if you can pause for a
minute. Hon Douglas?

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Minister is not
audible. We can hardly hear what he is saying, so if you could
just perhaps rectify that technically because we can't hear
the response. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Deputy Minister, you are not
very audible. I tried to decipher what you are saying, but
perhaps if you can just move a bit, we will give you a chance.
You still have two minutes left. I will give another Deputy

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Minister an opportunity to speak now. Try and see if you can perhaps correct and improve your connection there. Deputy Minister Letsike?

LAUNCH OF 100 000 NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
COMMENDED

(Minister's Response)

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Deputy Speaker, I welcome the statement by the hon Shabangu and would like to commend the launch of 100 000 National Youth Service opportunities as a significant investment in South Africa's young people. As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1976 youth uprising, we are reminded that the struggle of young people has always been more than political freedom. It has been about access to opportunities, dignity and economic participation.

Today, youth unemployment remains one of the greatest challenges confronting our democracy with millions of young people seeking pathways. So, the National Youth Service is therefore not merely a job opportunity programme; it is a national building intervention that equips young people with

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skills, work experience, civic responsibility and a sense of belonging.

It recognises that young people are not a burden to be managed, but a national asset whose talent, energy and creativity must be unlocked for the benefit of the country. At the same time, we must be honest that government alone cannot defeat unemployment. This challenge demands a whole-of-society response.

We therefore call on business, organised labour, educational institutions, civil society and every sector to join national effort by creating opportunities. As the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, alongside the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, and other partners, we remain committed to ensuring these opportunities reach young women, rural youth and persons with disability who often are left in the margins. Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Minister. The next speaker is Deputy Minister Nzuza. Deputy Minister? I think we have a problem there. We will go back to Deputy Minister Hlengwa if you can perhaps ... Let's see if you can be able to proceed.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT: [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Minister, I don't think that we will be able to listen to you today, unfortunately not. Let's go back to Deputy Minister Nzuza. Deputy Minister Nzuza, please unmute.

**INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION EMPHASISED AS A WORLD-CLASS
INSTITUTION**

(Minister's Response)

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Hon Chair, I must indicate with regards to the question that has been asked by the member of the MK, that the Independent Electoral Commission, IEC, remains an independent, world-class organisation. The matters that they are raising are currently in court and they will be ventilated in court and ultimately, the decision will be taken by the court. The IEC is a cornerstone institution for our democracy and as such we must avoid the statements that seek to discredit the IEC without any factual basis.

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We must reaffirm that we must stop the tendency of throwing stones before even the results are issued and even before elections are carried out. We have had faith in the IEC doing its work and we must have faith and we are not going to fall into the trap of these traditional counting methods that are being proposed. IEC remains a world-class institution that is independent. I thank you.

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE
ENVIRONMENT ON THE SIGNING OF THE BENEFICIATION SCHEME
FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON THE EVE OF KRUGER NATIONAL PARK
CENTENARY**

The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity. Last weekend, on the eve of a truly historic occasion, that was the centenary celebrations of the Kruger National Park, we witnessed another landmark moment in our democratic journey as well as in the journey of the Kruger National Park. We signed the Beneficiation Scheme Framework Agreement with all claimant communities residing around the Kruger National Park.

This agreement is far more than a legal document. It is far more than signatures on paper. It represents restoration, it

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represents empowerment, it represents reconciliation and it represents a huge benefit to the Kruger National Park. Most importantly, it represents a shared commitment to ensuring that the benefits flowing from our natural heritage also reach the people whose histories, cultures and identities are deeply connected to these landscapes, and that their involvement will also be to the great benefit of the Kruger National Park.

The story of this agreement spans decades. The land claims associated with the Kruger National Park were lodged in the early 2000s. By 2008, Cabinet recognised the Kruger National Park as a strategic national asset and affirmed the need to balance the protection of this globally significant conservation area with the legitimate aspirations of the claimant communities for redress and justice. Formal negotiations commenced in 2012. Today, 14 years later, we stand before this House proud to say that the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, together with the SA National Parks, SANParks, claimant communities and many dedicated stakeholders have achieved a milestone that many have once believed is impossible to reach.

However, we do not celebrate this achievement without acknowledging the sacrifices that came before it. Some members

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of those claimant communities are no longer with us today. They were not there to witness this historic moment. We remember their perseverance, we remember their patience and we remember their belief that one day a democratic South Africa would find a fair and lasting solution. This agreement is also part of their legacy.

The road to this moment was not always smooth. There were delays, there were disagreements, there were frustrations, there were difficult conversations there were moments where trust was tested and there were moments where progress appeared painfully slow. But these challenges were not signs of failure, they were the realities of transforming systems that were never designed to be inclusive. They were the realities of building consensus in a democracy, and they were also realities of pursuing justice while simultaneously protecting one of the world's greatest conservation areas. What matters is that we never abandoned the process. All parties remain committed to dialogue. What matters is that we remain focused on finding common ground. Today that commitment has borne fruit.

This agreement demonstrates that meaningful redress can be achieved through partnership, through patience and through

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mutual respect. At a time when our nation continues to grapple with poverty, inequality and unemployment, this agreement offers a powerful example of what can be achieved when government, communities and conservation institutions work together towards a common purpose. It is in many respects a practical expression of the spirit of the government of national unity, GNU, a recognition that our greatest challenges can only be overcome when we build bridges rather than walls, and when we seek solutions rather than division.

The beneficiation scheme affirms a principle that lies at the heart of modern conservation, that is, that conservation must create value not only for biodiversity but also for the people.

In the past 100 years, the Kruger National Park was extremely successful. It balanced three things. It balanced conservation, it balanced scientific research and it balanced tourism. We are adding another leg to that table, and that leg is community involvement. I can promise you that a four-legged table is much more stable than a three-legged one. The future of conservation in South Africa depends on communities seeing themselves not as spectators, but as partners and beneficiaries. As partners, they will also have the best

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interests of the Kruger National Park at heart. One of the community leaders told me when we signed this agreement, and he said, Minister, now that we will benefit from Kruger, I can guarantee you that our communities will go out of their way to protect Kruger. I think that is commendable.

This agreement advances the transformation objectives contained in the White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use. It promotes inclusion, it strengthens participation and it opens pathways for meaningful economic opportunities. It acknowledges that protecting nature and uplifting people are not competing objectives, they are complementary objectives. When communities benefit from conservation, conservation itself will become stronger.

Let me be clear, this agreement is not an endpoint. It is a foundation, a foundation upon which economic opportunities, skills development, enterprise participation, tourism benefits and long-term partnerships will grow to the benefit of those communities and also benefit Kruger National Park. The true measures of success will not be found in the signing ceremony, it will be found in the lives that are changed, it will be found in the opportunities that are created and it will be found in safeguarding the Kruger National Park. This agreement

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provides certainty. It confirms that claimant communities understand that the Kruger National Park will remain a protected area, it will remain a national conservation asset and that residential occupation within the park will never be allowed.

At the same time, it formally establishes mechanisms through which communities can derive meaningful and lasting benefits from the park's success without it being handouts but creating opportunities. This is not a one-way street. This agreement will benefit communities, it will benefit conservation and it will benefit the Kruger National Park. Ultimately, this agreement will benefit all South Africans. Let us work together, let us implement this, let us make communities part of conservation and let us let conservation and tourism work for our communities as well. I thank you.

Mr S I GAMA: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Minister wants South Africans to believe and celebrate that the signing of the Kruger National Park Beneficiation Scheme Framework Scheme was a success. We are told that it was restoration, empowerment and justice. The MK party disagrees. We reject the attempt to present this scheme as a historic victory where the fundamental question of justice remains and unanswered. The

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Minister speaks of the empowerment, reconciliation and restoration. However, where is the restoration of ownership? Where is the restoration of land? Where is the restoration of economic control?

The descendants of those who were forcibly removed from their ancestral land are once again being told to celebrate promises of instead of rights. Let us be brutally honest the communities surrounding Kruger National Park did not lodge claims because they wanted a share of tourism revenue. They lodged claims because they wanted justice for stolen land. They wanted recognition ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, please pause for a minute.

Hon members on the virtual platform, please make sure that your microphones are muted. For it continues and you are again guilty of that I will have to ask you to be removed from the platform.

Hon Gama, my apologies, please proceed.

Mr S I GAMA: They wanted recognition that their ancestors were forcibly removed to create a conservation model designed

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during colonialism and apartheid. Today government is effectively telling them you cannot get your land back, but we will allow you to benefit from it.

The Minister proudly tells us that the community will benefit from Kruger National Park yet nowhere in his statement does he disclose the exact value of these benefits. Nowhere does he tell South Africans how much money will flow to each claimant community. Nowhere does he disclose what percentage of tourism revenue, concession revenue, hunting revenue accommodation revenue or commercial revenue will be transferred to the rightful landowners.

The MK party asks a simple question: How can Parliament celebrate a beneficiation scheme when the beneficiaries themselves do not know precisely what they will receive?

We have reviewed the department's annual performance plan, APP, and the SA National Parks, Sanparks, APP, and the Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report, BRRR, findings over several years. We find repeated references to transformation, community participation, stakeholder engagement and beneficiation. However, there remains the glaring absence of measurable targets showing exactly how much

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wealth is being transferred from conservation assets to historically disposed communities.

The Minister says this agreement took 14 years to negotiate. Fourteen years. That alone is an indictment on the state. Fourteen years of meetings, consultations ...

Mr V G REDDY: Hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

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

Hon Reddy, your hand is up. What is the point of order?

Mr V G REDDY: Hon Deputy Speaker, I do not want to disturb the speaker, but there are members on the virtual platform who I think they are now deliberately trying to blur the important points raised by the hon Gama. If he can be given extra time and identify those members doing this and remove them from the platform, please. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Reddy, hon members, hon Reddy, you have now used more of the time of your own speaker. So, please refrain from doing that.

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Hon Gama, my apologies that the hon Reddy now interfered with your speech. Please proceed.

Mr S I GAMA: We talk about 14 years of meetings, consultations, workshops and negotiations while communities surrounding Kruger National Park continue to suffer from poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment. Fourteen years later, government still cannot tell Parliament exactly how much financial value this communities will receive annually.

The MK party believes the people who historically owned this land should not merely be perceive recipients of benefits determined by Sanparks and government. They should be recognised as rightful stakeholders with substantial ownership interest in the economic activities generated by the land that was stolen from them.

The Minister claims communities have accepted that they cannot return to reside in the park. We ask whether that acceptance was freely negotiated or whether communities were simply presented with the conservation model that left them with no meaningful alternatives. Conservation cannot become a permanent justification for denying African people ownership

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of their ancestral land while the state continues to generate revenue from that same land.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the department's own APPs continues to speak about inclusive conservation, community development and socioeconomic transformation, yet many communities around protected areas remain among the poorest in this country. If conservation is truly benefitting people where is the evidence of significant reduction in poverty around Kruger National Park? Where are the figures showing how many jobs have been permanently created? How many community-owned enterprises have been established? How much revenue has reached household rather than consultants and intermediaries?

The MK party supports environmental conservation, but we reject conservation that perpetuates historical exclusion. We reject a model where government retains control, where Sanparks retains control, where tourism operators cannot retain control while indigenous communities receive only limited benefits and ceremonial recognition.

The Minister tells us this agreement is a foundation. We agree it is a foundation. It is only a foundation, yet foundations are meaningless if they are built without transparency,

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without measurable financial commitment and without genuine economic ownership for claimant communities. Before this House applause, the Minister must disclose the following: What is the total annual monetary value of benefits expected to flow to each claimant community? The percentage of Kruger National Park's revenue allocated to communities, the governance structures controlling these funds, the number of jobs and enterprises guaranteed under the scheme, the timelines for implementation and independent monitoring?

Until these questions are answered Parliament is been asked to endorse a framework without knowing its true value. For these reasons, the MK party cannot support the Minister's attempt to portray this agreement as a completed success story. We view it as an unfinished process whose real test would be whether it delivers tangible wealth and genuine empowerment to the rightful landowners of the Kruger National Park landscape. I thank you.

Ms P MARAIS: Hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to say a happy belated birthday. It was your birthday yesterday.

Hon Deputy Speaker the 31 May 1926, a hundred years ago, the Kruger National Park was established as a pioneer in the field

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of biodiversity conservation. Prior to it the Sabie Game Reserve was proclaimed as such by Paul Kruger in 1898. The setting aside of huge tracks of land for conservation was premised on two things at the time. The first fundamental factor was if dispossession of land from African people who call what we now know as Kruger their home.

The second was a conceptualisation of conservation as an extraordinary sector by one of the benefits as European settler's minority in this country. These fundamental principles governing conservation thinking in South Africa has not changed. The Kruger National Park Beneficiation Scheme Framework Agreement, with the national park which is the Kruger National Park conservation thinking in South Africa had not changed.

The Kruger National Park Beneficiation Scheme Framework Agreement is an essential attempt to assimilate African people whose land was forcefully taken into the frame of thinking, whose origins are premised on African dispossession. For 100 years communities of Ngiribane, Mathebula, Muyexe, Mahlanganusweni, Baphalaborwa ba ha Mashishimale, Selane, Mokushane, as well as Matika communities who were removed from their ancestral land have watched as wealth, tourism,

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investment and economic opportunities were generated from land that once belonged to their forefathers.

For 100 years, descendants of these communities carried the burden of historical dispossession while waiting for meaningful restitution. It is therefore necessarily to ask apart from giving the dispossessed community crumbs from a conservation framework that was used to dispossess them, what is substantively different from the beneficiation scheme framework?

Is it going to grant African people their land back? Is it going to ensure that the very least, Africans benefit from the land? Why is it made so explicit that the beneficiation agreement does not include the rights of those communities to reside in designated areas in the park?

The fundamental question before this House is whether the communities should benefit from the Kruger National Park. The fundamental question is whether communities that were dispossessed from their land will ever regain meaningful or ownership, control and authority over that land.

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Government present this agreement as a breakthrough after 10 years of negotiations yet after 10 years of discussions and one hundred years since the establishment of the park the land remain under state control while the residents of those who were removed are expected to celebrate access to opportunities of the land that was once theirs.

The community who lost the land were not fighting for bursaries, they were not fighting for procurement contracts, they were not fighting for concession opportunities, they were not fighting for restoration of their land, they were fighting for their land, dignity and historical rights.

The EFF nonnegotiating pillar on expropriation of land remains fundamentally centred on the thorny issue of land ownership by rightful owners. For the EFF, expropriation and restoration of land remains centred to the pursuit of justice. No amount of economic beneficiation can replace ownership. No amount of participation can substitute restoration.

We are also concerned about the government's arrangements surrounding the scheme. History has shown that well-intentioned programmes became vehicles for the elite enrichment while ordinary community members remain excluded

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from meaningful benefits. Government must therefore provide guarantees that benefits arising from tourism, commercial concessions, procurement opportunities and development initiatives will reach broader communities and not a select few individuals.

Communities must not merely be consulted, they must be represented, they must not merely be beneficiaries, they must be decision-makers. They must not be merely receiving opportunities they must receive authority over matters affecting their ancestral heritage.

As South Africa mark a one hundred years of Kruger National Park, we must ensure that the next century is not defined by some inequalities that characterise the last. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Vote EFF on 4 November 2026. Thank you.

Mr A K NGOBESE: Good day, Deputy Speaker and hon members. The IFP welcomes the signing of this Beneficiation Scheme Framework Agreement between the government, SANParks, and the claimant communities associated with the Kruger National Park. This agreement marks an important milestone in South Africa's ongoing journey towards restorative justice.

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For the IFP, land has never been just an economic asset. It is a source of identity, dignity, heritage, and belonging. It connects communities to their history and future generations.

This dispossession of land was therefore not just a loss of property but also a disruption of livelihoods, culture, and community life. We therefore welcome the recognition that conservation and redress need not be in conflict. The claimant communities, who have waited many years for this moment, deserve acknowledgement for their patience, resilience, and commitment to a negotiated solution. We also remember those who pursued this claim but did not live to see this day.

We have long maintained that communities must be partners in conservation, not just spectators. The sustainability of protected areas depends on ensuring that neighbouring communities share in the benefits generated by these national assets. The commitment to enterprise development, skills training, employment opportunities, and participation in tourism-related activities therefore represents a positive step towards inclusive conservation.

The real work begins now. South Africans have seen many agreements signed with great promise, only to be followed by

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delays and limited implementation. The success of this framework will be measured by whether it delivers tangible improvements in their lives, especially for ordinary people. Therefore, the IFP calls for transparent implementation, accountable governance, and equitable benefit-sharing.

As the Kruger National Park enters its second century, let this agreement become a model for how conservation, justice, and community development can advance together for the benefit of present and future generations to come. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Ms S M PETERS: Hon Deputy Speaker, the PA welcomes the signing of the Beneficiation Scheme Framework Agreement between SANParks and the claimant communities around the Kruger National Park.

For far too long, communities who carry the burden of historical dispossession have waited for meaningful recognition and tangible benefits from the very land to which they hold deep cultural and historical ties. Fourteen years of negotiations is a long time to wait for justice, but, today, we acknowledge an important step in the right direction.

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The PA maintains that conservation cannot exist in isolation from the people who live alongside our protected areas. Communities must not merely be spectators whilst tourists, corporate businesses, and government benefit from the wealth generated by our natural heritage. They must be active partners, direct beneficiaries, and owners of the land.

However, the true test of this agreement will not be found in speeches, ceremonies, or signed documents. It will be found in implementation. The people living around the Kruger do not need promises. They need jobs. They need tourism opportunities. They need access to enterprise development. They need skills programmes that empower young people to become guides, conservationists, entrepreneurs, and business owners. The PA therefore calls on the department and SANParks to ensure that the benefits outlined in this agreement are transparent, measurable, and felt by ordinary families.

We also believe this model should serve as an example across South Africa, where conservation and economic empowerment work together and where both nature and communities thrive. The Kruger National Park is a national asset, but it must also become a catalyst for local economic growth and poverty reduction. If implemented correctly, this agreement can

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demonstrate that conservation is not only about protecting wildlife; it is also about restoring dignity, creating opportunities, and building prosperous communities.

The PA will support every initiative that places people at the centre of development whilst safeguarding South Africa's natural heritage for future generations. I thank you.

Afrikaans:

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Adjunkspeaker, die denke oor bewaring en omgewingsbewaring reg oor die wêreld het 'n sekere patroon gevolg wat in Suid-Afrika ook die geval was.

Hier rondom die draai van die eeu na die 1900's het Suid-Afrika die ongelooflike merk bereik van 5 miljoen inwoners en die gedagte het posgevat dat ons sekere gedeeltes het wat ons eenvoudig moet uitsit en moet reserveer vir die natuur dat daar iets van bewaar kan bly. Dit het ongelooflik toegeneem tot die ondenkbare getal van 7,5 miljoen teen 1926, en dit is die stadium waarop die Kruger Nasionale Park met sy huidige grense geproklameer is.

Op daardie stadium het dit eintlik maar net gegaan daaroor om 'n stuk wildernis te beskerm soos daaroor gedink is, en die

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mense wat daar gewoon het, is as minder belangrik geag. Teen die 1950's het dit duidelik geword dat daar ook 'n ekonomiese aspek in sal moet wees. Hierdie gebiede wat afgesonder word vir bewaring sal tog ook ekonomies produktief moet wees.

Teen die 1980's het dit duidelik geword dat jy bewaring en ontwikkeling nie meer van mekaar kan skei nie. Jy kan nie sê hier waar ons ontwikkel, vernietig ons alles, en ons gee nie om wat aangaan nie – wat ons doodmaak in die proses, wat vernietig word – want daar anderkant bewaar ons nie. Nee, dit kan nie meer so werk nie. Hier waar jy moet ontwikkel, moet jy dit op 'n ekologiese manier doen. Daar waar jy bewaar, moet jy dit op 'n manier doen wat die ekonomie en ook die mense in die omgewing beskerm.

Dit is waar ons vandag trek met 66 miljoen mense in Suid-Afrika, waar daar eenvoudig nie meer ruimte voor is om te sê hier bewaar ons net, en daar woon ons net, en daar produseer ons net nie. Ons moet orals bewaar. Elke ontwikkelingspraktyk, elke ekonomiese praktyk, elke menslike aktiwiteit moet gekenmerk word daardeur dat dit die omgewing in ag neem, dat dit sorg vir sosiale, maatskaplike, en kulturele volhoubaarheid naas ekologiese volhoubaarheid en naas ekonomiese lewensvatbaarheid.

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Daarom dat 'n mens wel kan sien dat dit noodsaaklik is om dinge wat in die verlede verkeerd gegaan het, reg te stel, maar om iets reg te stel, kan nie altyd beteken om dit om te keer nie. Jy kan die horlosie nie terugdraai nie. Jy kan nuwe geleenthede skep. Jy kan sorg dat die ekonomiese enjinkamer vir Suid-Afrika, soos wat die Kruger Wildtuin is, dat hy werk nie net vir die mense wat dit kom besoek nie, nie net vir die mense wat direk vir die parkeraad werk nie, maar ook vir die mense omringend. Ek dink die departement het in hierdie geval daarin geslaag. Baie dankie.

Mr A D BEESLEY: Hon Deputy Speaker, Action SA welcomes the signing of the Kruger National Park Beneficiation Scheme Framework Agreement as a positive step towards ensuring that conservation and economic inclusion work together rather than against one another.

For too long, South Africans have been presented with a false choice, either protect our natural heritage or create opportunities for communities. This agreement demonstrates that both can be achieved when government, conservation authorities and local communities work together towards a common objective. The communities surrounding our national parks should not merely be spectators to the economic value

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generated by conservation. They should be active participants and beneficiaries through enterprise development, tourism opportunities, skills development and meaningful economic inclusion.

Action SA has been critical of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment where conservation objectives have not been matched by effective implementation. We therefore welcome this initiative while recognising that the signing ceremony is only the beginning. The true measure of success will not be found in photographs and well-delivered speeches. It will be found in the number of sustainable businesses created, the jobs supported, the opportunities unlocked for local communities and the continued protection of one of South Africa's most important conservation assets. We also urge the Department and the SA National Parks, SANParks, to ensure that the implementation of this agreement is transparent, accountable and protected from the risk of political interference or elite capture. If implemented effectively, this agreement can serve as a model for how conservation can deliver both environmental protection and economic empowerment. I thank you.

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Mr S N SWART: Madam Deputy Speaker, the ACDP would like to congratulate SANParks on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Kruger National Park. It is then fitting that this beneficiation scheme framework agreement has been signed at this time. We thus welcome the Minister's statement in this regard. We do understand that the land question is very emotive. It is a very emotive subject. We have always supported responsible land reform programmes as part of redress for the wrongs of the past, including the Restitution of Land Act of 1994. Align restitution with compensation.

The Kruger National Park land claims were lodged way back in the early 2000s and it was only in 2008 when the park was recognised by Cabinet as a strategic national asset. There was a very clear need for equitable redress in terms of the existing restitution legislation. It is always important to safeguard this natural heritage, whilst at the same time respecting and recognising the dignity of the claimant communities.

Negotiations began in 2012, way back in a number of years, which is why this framework is very important. But it is regrettable that it took so long to finalise. As indicated by the Minister, the process has not been without challenges,

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thus due to delays in the finalisation of the process, disagreements and legitimate concerns raised by various communities. It is very regrettable that a number of the claimant communities have passed on without experiencing the significant framework. We trust that the signing of this agreement will inspire others to work together and to have those difficult conversations and collaborate towards finding common ground on difficult issue.

This scheme affirms that conservation must deliver value not only for biodiversity but also for local communities. We share the view that the future of conservation must be one of inclusive stewardship where local communities are partners, where benefits are shared and where development and biodiversity protection reinforce each other. We want to stress that the benefits must be measurable to ensure that communities do not become disillusioned with the framework.

Given the high levels of poaching at SANParks, it is crucial that these local communities benefit as they will join forces with government in fighting poaching and other illegal activities. It is encouraging to hear the Minister referring to a member of local community saying they will now protect the park. I thank you.

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Xitsonga:

Tat S M GANA: Mutshamaxitulu ...

English:

... and Minister, when a scheme of this nature is designed to be owned by everyone, it ends up being owned by no one. Whilst we welcome the scheme itself, the beneficiation scheme, we must accept that it is only the first step because without individual share ownership in the scheme the success of this scheme will be very, very limited.

Schemes of this nature need to achieve two things, firstly, restorative justice and secondly, economic growth. From us as Rise Mzansi, it is an individual or household specific economic emancipation. What we would like to see, which is missing from your statement, is: How will individual households benefit from this?

Here is the thing. I am from Tzaneen, in Limpopo. In Limpopo there is the Makgoba Tea Estate. It was transferred to the community. Now it is a shadow of its former self because it was owned by no one. For those who are also from Limpopo like me, there is also the Zebediela Citrus Estate which was also transferred to the community. It was said to be a community-

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owned project. But because no one had a share in this scheme, it has now run to the ground.

When I read your statement, the one that you are celebrating today, I'm like: Where are the individuals? I hear the community. Usually, when you say the community you are referring to the chief and his people. Those will be the ones that will benefit. Where are the individual families? How is this scheme designed to benefit individual families? How will the benefits be passed from this generation to the next generation? The way you presented it is that the only way you can benefit from this scheme is only when you continue staying in those communities. For those that, because of economic emancipation, decide to go and reside in other areas cannot transact on this scheme that you have presented today.

Minister, on the surface it looks good but to the individuals that are not closer to the chief, they are going to benefit very little. I can tell you now. In two-years' time if you will still be in this position you will come here and tell us about the leadership disputes that are in this particular scheme. When you respond, please, respond in terms of how individual and households are going to benefit from this scheme.

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Xitsonga:

Ndza khensa swinene, Mutshamaxitulu.

The MINISTER OF LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Deputy Speaker, may I speak while my video is not on because of network?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed, Minister.

The MINISTER OF LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Minister Aucamp, today marks an important moment in South Africa's land restitution journey. The signing of this framework agreement gives practical meaning to redress for communities whose history remains deeply connected to the Kruger National Park.

For the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development, restitution is not complete when a claim is recognised or when a settlement is concluded. It must be felt in the lives of people. It must restore dignity. It must create access to opportunity. It must support livelihoods, enterprise, skills development, jobs and community development.

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The Kruger National Park is one of South Africa's most important national assets. Its conservation status must remain protected. That responsibility is clear. At the same time, communities linked to this land must not stand outside the benefits created through the park. Their history cannot be acknowledged only in principle; it must be reflected in practical outcomes.

This agreement responds to that responsibility, Minister. It provides a platform for claimant communities to participate in commercial opportunities, procurement, enterprise development, bursaries, skills programmes, employment pathways, and community projects. It also provides the governance structure needed to manage these benefits fairly and accountably.

We must acknowledge that this process has taken many years and that communities have carried the expectation with patience and dignity. Some elders who carried this struggle are no longer with us today. Their commitment must not be forgotten. That places a duty on all of us. The signing of this agreement must not become another document in the system; it must become a working commitment, followed by a clear action and visible benefits.

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I wish to acknowledge all those who were involved, the Ministers, SANParks, officials from both departments, and the claimant communities who stayed with this process through difficult years. Today we confirm that restitution, conservation, and development can be brought together when communities are treated as partners and when public institutions act with purpose. From this point, the focus must move firmly to deliver. Let this agreement improve lives. Let it strengthen trust. Let it show that land restitution can carry justice into practical outcomes for the people it is meant to serve. Thank you very much, hon Minister Aucamp. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Mr A D DE BLOCC VAN SCHELTINGA: Hon Deputy Speaker, the signing of the Beneficiation Scheme Framework Agreement with the last seven communities surrounding the Kruger National Park concludes a decades long process to restore dignity and deliver justice.

The Kruger is rightfully celebrated worldwide as a conservation and tourism wonder, but the forced evictions and dispossession of communities from their land are among its most painful chapters. Restitution in this regard was not just a constitutional prerogative, but a moral one. It was a long

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and frustrating process, but there is finally an agreement in place that does right by the affected families and communities while preserving the integrity of the park as one of the world's premier conservation areas and wildlife destinations.

We thank the Minister and the SANParks leadership, especially Chief Livhuwani Matsila, for delivering a just outcome and restoring dignity to the dispossessed. These agreements are strong examples of effective land restitution and true transformation in action as envisioned by our Constitution.

It must be said that the process took much too long and spanned no fewer than six Ministers of Environment. It is notable, therefore, that it was finally concluded under the Government of National Unity, GNU, with the DA entrusted with responsibility for this portfolio.

At the end of May, I had the special honour of being invited as a member of the relevant portfolio committee to attend the Kruger National Park's centenary celebrations in Skukuza. This was when these agreements were signed. Given the significance of both the centenary celebrations and the conclusion of these agreements, I had hoped to see broader participation from political leaders across all spheres of government. Several

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premiers, MECs, Members of Parliament, and mayors were simply absent. One dignitary that did attend was the Premier of Mpumalanga, and I think he captured the spirit of the event very well when he said, and I quote:

For Mpumalanga, the Kruger National Park is not just an environmental treasure; it is our economic crown jewel. It drives inclusive growth, creates vital jobs for our youth, and fuels our tourism industry. As we look forward to the next century, our provincial commitment remains unwavering. As Mpumalanga, we are proud that the Kruger National Park continues to showcase our province to the world.

These are powerful words which I wholeheartedly endorse. They also stand in stark contrast to his party's support alongside the MK Party and EFF for a motion in the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature to change the park's name. Kruger is internationally recognised as one of South Africa's most important tourism assets and supports thousands of jobs and livelihoods in a corner of South Africa where one in every two people cannot find a job. Risking their economic crown jewel, as the premier put it, for the sake of symbolism is not transformation. It is performative politics that runs directly against the interests of the people we represent.

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Fortunately, the power to implement such a name change lies outside the provincial legislature with the national Minister. As long as the DA is responsible for this portfolio, we will continue to put the interests of South Africans first. Symbolic battles do not deliver transformation. Practical outcomes do. Communities asked for opportunities, jobs, training, enterprise development, and a stake in the success of the park. That is exactly what these agreements will deliver.

At a time when South Africa continues to debate land reform, the Kruger agreements offer an important lesson. Restitution and transformation need not come at the expense of conservation, investment, or economic growth. Through patient negotiation and constitutional processes, land rights can be recognised while preserving assets that benefit both local communities and the country as a whole. This is what successful land reform looks like: Restoring rights while preserving value.

The signing of the beneficiation agreements marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. The real test now lies in implementation, as many of my colleagues have said. The benefits must reach ordinary community members in a

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transparent and accountable manner. These agreements show that constitutional land restitution, conservation objectives, and economic growth are not in competition with one another. In fact, they can strengthen one another.

Before I close, Deputy Speaker, I'd like to address some of the comments from the other speakers, particularly those from the MK Party and EFF, who came up here and said, reject, reject, reject, they should get this, they should get their land. You claim to represent those communities' views, but you know who didn't reject these agreements? The communities themselves. I was there, I talked to them, I saw the dancing, I saw the applause. The communities know what the terms of agreements are, and they are happy with them. I'll just leave you with the fact that it's not your job to stand here as an MP and tell the people outside what they deserve and what they want. It's your job to go out and listen to the people and bring that news back.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon De Blocq, please take your seat. There is a point of order. Yes, hon member what is the ... Hon member in front of ... [Interjections.] ... Hon members, there is member on the floor that I want to listen to. Yes, please proceed.

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Mr M P MOTUBATSE: Deputy Speaker, there are some things that we can take, but we can't take insults. To insult us on such a critical issue of land is ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, this is not ...

[Interjections.]

Mr M P MOTUBATSE: We can't be insulted, and this member is insulting us. He is insulting our dignity and our v=being as people and that cannot be accepted ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member ... [Interjections.]

Mr M P MOTUBATSE: ... and it must be known in this House that he does not know anything about the pain that we have suffered as a people ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member ...

Mr M P MOTUBATSE: He doesn't know that. He must not ...

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, I am speaking to you. That is not a specific point of order. You are now coming into a

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debate, and in this House we have robust debates ...

[Interjections.]

Mr M P MOTUBATSE: Deputy Speaker, we can't be insulted ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, I am speaking. You do not have to agree with any member. This is what debate is all about. That is my ruling. That is not a point of order.

Hon Nodada, what is your point of order?

Mr B B NODADA: Deputy Speaker, I am rising on a point of order on using unparliamentary language. The member may be insulted but they cannot accuse our member of being insulting to them when they are speaking the truth on the podium having gone to these communities. If he hasn't been to that community, maybe he must be on the ground and stop being insulted in the House here. Thank you so much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Nodada, that is also a point of argument, and I am not sustaining that point of order. We will now proceed.

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Hon member, do you have a new point of order because I have now ruled on this point?

Ms B MATHULELWA: Deputy Speaker, I just want to ask what is South African about the name Kruger National Park?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, it is not questions time. We are busy with statements. We will now proceed. Hon De Blocq?

Mr A D DE BLOCQ VAN SCHELTINGA: Deputy Speaker, he might feel insulted, but what is insulting is when people come up as political leaders and misrepresent their community's views.

The Kruger is now 100 years old, and the next century of Kruger will be defined not by dispossession but by partnership, not by exclusion but by opportunity, and not by division but by shared prosperity that should give all South Africans hope. I thank you very much.

Ms N MAKASI: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Minister and Deputy Ministers, hon members and fellow South Africans, the ANC has long declared in its "Ready to Govern" document that the central objective of our economic policy is to build strong, dynamic and balanced economy.

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The economy must be directed towards eliminating poverty and the extreme inequalities created by the apartheid system, while also advancing the democratisation of the economy and empowering the historically oppressed.

It is within this transformative vision that we welcome the signing of the Kruger National Park Beneficiation Scheme Framework Agreement. As the park approaches its centenary, this agreement represents a historic turning point not only for conservation but for justice.

For decades, conservation in South Africa has existed alongside the painful legacy of dispossession. Communities who were forcefully removed from their land have often remained excluded from the economic value generated by the land. Today, we take a decisive step towards correcting that injustice.

This agreement is not merely an administrative settlement, it is a practical expression of Goal 4 of the 2023 White Paper on the Conservation and Sustainable use of South Africa's Biodiversity, which calls for a transformed sector rooted in equitable rights, shared ownership and inclusive participation.

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The ANC views this beneficiation scheme as a cornerstone of restorative justice. It transforms land claims which have long been associated with trauma and exclusion into instruments of economic empowerment. It sends a clear message - conservation must no longer exclude but rather include, it must not only preserve ecosystems, but uplift people.

We are hopeful that through this scheme, historically marginalised communities will now be positioned as active participants, in the economic life of the Kruger National Park through these three key pillars, amongst others:

Concession, which refers to preferential access to eco-tourism opportunities. Enterprise development, which provides support to community-owned businesses to integrate into the SA National, SANParks supply chain. Direct investment, outlining mechanisms for claimants, communities to share in the revenue generated by the park's global brand.

Hon members, the success of this initiative will depend on implementation. The SANParks must continue evolving from a traditional custodian of biodiversity into a true facilitator of socioeconomic inclusion. This requires capable ethical and visionary leadership. Leadership that ensures strong

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governance and transparency, so that it benefits each legitimate community beneficiaries and are not diverted by intermediaries.

We need robust capacity building programmes to equip communities with the skills required, to meet the high standards of tourism and conservation industries.

Equally, we need effective conflict resolution mechanism to balance conservation priorities with the developmental needs of the surrounding communities.

Against this backdrop, the ANC calls for the clear plans and timelines. The signing of the Beneficiation Scheme Framework Agreement should not merely be a symbol of aimless intentions, but rather a demonstration of action-based transformation. We want to know when will the communities begin to see the tangible benefits? How will the support be structured to ensure that economic opportunities are sustainable and inclusive? And how will government ensure that this scheme delivers real change on the ground?

We support a vision that links a prosperity of communities directly to the health of our ecosystem. When communities

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benefit, they become the strongest defenders of biodiversity. Their livelihoods become intertwined with the survival of wildlife and natural habitats. In this way, conservation becomes not a burden, but a shared national asset.

Moreover, the scheme advances social justice. It restores dignity and acknowledges historical injustice. It also affirms the cultural and heritage rights of claimant communities.

As we commemorate the centenary of the Kruger National Park under the leadership of President Cyril Ramaphos, we mark a shift from a spectator observation to inclusive stewardship.

Importantly, the structure of the scheme recognises that while the land claimants under state-managed conservation, commercial and non-commercial benefits must flow meaningfully into the communities.

On the commercial side, communities should be able to gain access to wealth creation and job opportunities through tourism, business participation, and investment. While on the non-commercial side, we should see equally important interventions that strengthen long-term development, such as heritage preservation initiatives, where SANParks works with

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traditional leaders to document and project indigenous knowledge and historical sites within the park amongst other things.

Hon members, the true measure of this initiative will not lie only in revenue generated or hectares conserved. It will be measured in the strength of partnership built, opportunities created, and in the dignity restored to communities who have waited far too long to share in the world of this land.

This is the transformation we seek, a South Africa where conservation and development work hand in hand, where economic inclusion is not an aspiration but a reality and where our national heritage serves all our people. I thank you.

The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Hon House Chairperson, it is both disappointing ...

[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member on the virtual platform ... hon Betty, can you please mute your microphone? Please continue, hon Minister. I didn't call you Betty, but you may continue, hon Minister.

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The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Hon House Chairperson, it is both disappointing and revealing to witness the criticism directed at the Kruger Beneficiation Scheme by the MK Party and the EFF. These are the parties, the very parties, that repeatedly claim to champion economic empowerment, transformation and the inclusion of historically disadvantaged communities in the mainstream economy. Yet, when government implements practical programmes that do exactly that, they suddenly find a reason to oppose them.

Claimant communities were overjoyed with this outcome. Go and ask them. I don't think you have. I don't think you've spoken with them. You've got no mandate to speak on their behalf. And, if you do, you must at least do a bit of trouble and find out what their opinions are, and not enforce your own political ideologies.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Minister, will you just take a seat? Why do you want to be recognised, hon member?

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Hon Chairperson, I rise in terms of Rule 84. The Minister is misleading the House. He can't say that we're

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not consulting our members ... [Inaudible.] ... He and his people ... [Inaudible.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, that's not a point of order. Hon member, that's not a point of order. It's a point for debate. Please continue, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: House Chairperson, claimant communities were overjoyed with this outcome. It took them a long time to agree to the terms and the conditions because they had proper legal advisors. The question is whether the MK Party and EFF members speak on their behalf. As I said, you haven't consulted them. Or are you undermining the community's ability to conclude on their own behalf? Do you think you are the only ones that can speak on their behalf? No, you are not. [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Minister, will you just take your seat again. Hon member, what is the point of order?

Mr W M DOUGLAS: Again, in terms of Rule 84, the Minister is misleading the House. He cannot claim that our members have not been to that community. He has no knowledge of that, Mr

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Chair ... [Inaudible.] ... people are wanting our land back with ... [Inaudible.] ... these Government of National Unity, GNU ... [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, I've made a ruling in terms of ... Hon member, I now name you. I now name you. In terms of Rule 84, I've made and I've clarified the point that it's a point for debate. That ruling stands, and if ... No, that's not relevant now, hon member. If you continue in that vein, I will have to remove you from the Chamber. Please continue, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: If you were in those communities and if you spoke with them, you would've supported this because they do. So don't claim that you spoke with them, but, actually if you spoke with them, then you disagree with them. So, go and tell them that you disagree with them. Don't fight here with me and politically grandstand. They agreed to this agreement.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Minister, there's another point of order. In terms of which rule do you want to be recognised, hon member?

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Mr S I GAMA: I want to ask the Minister if he can take a question about why ... [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, hon member, you should know better. You first ask if the Minister will take a question and then thereafter you put the question. You don't just carry on with the question. Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Hon Chairperson, if they went to the community, they might ... [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question? If not, please proceed.

An HON MEMBER: Can he respond?

The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: No ... [Inaudible.] ... It seems as if political grandstanding is standing in the way of what is in the interest of communities.

So, whilst you are grandstanding and playing politics, my department and the SA National Parks, SANParks, will be there.

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We will implement this and we will act in the best interests of these communities.

The Kruger Beneficiation Scheme was established with a simple but important objective, and that is to ensure that communities living adjacent to the Kruger National Park derive meaningful economic benefits from the natural resources and opportunities that exist in their areas, of which they have been successful.

If you knew what went on, hon Gama and hon Marais of the EFF who are talking about land that must go back to the people. These land claims were finalised in 2013 already.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Minister, will you just take your seat, please? Hon member, why do you want to be recognised and in terms of which rule?

Mr M P MOTUBATSE: I'm rising in terms of Rule 84. The Minister is misleading ... [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, I've made a ruling. You are now challenging my ruling.

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Mr M P MOTUBATSE: No, no, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): I've ruled on the matter. I said it's a point for political debate and you are now raising ...

I mentioned to the hon Douglas that I'm naming him. The consequences of that is if you continue challenging that rule, I will also name you and ask you to leave the House. Okay? Thank you. Please proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Just to make it clear, these land claims were concluded in 2015 already. This is not about finalising a land claim. It's about finalising a condition to the land claim that's already been done. Should you have done your homework, you would've known that. But you don't.

So, what we see here are communities which already own certain portions of the Kruger National Park, that realise that the best thing that can happen with them is to form part of the benefit coming out of that and to realise that the Kruger National Park should be protected as an asset, and as a conservation area they don't want to go and live in there.

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They don't. They want the right to go and be there, to visit it, to collect things like mopane worms under the rules and guidance of the Kruger National Park. However, if you had studied it and if you had read through this, you would've known that. But you don't.

To give you another idea, this agreement was signed with all of the seven land claimant communities.

Mr M MANYI: Chair, please note my hand.

The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: A couple of months ago ... A couple of months ago, it was only four of the seven that wanted to sign. When the other three saw what was presented and when the other three communities ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Minister, there's a point of order on the virtual platform. Hon Manyi, why do you want to be recognised?

Mr M MANYI: Chairperson, will the Minister take a question?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Minister ...

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The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: No.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): ... are you at this stage ... This is the second time that the Minister has been asked if he wants ... a question. It seems to me he's not interested in taking a question at this stage. You will thus continue, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: So, there are seven land claimant communities, four of which, up to two months ago, were the only ones that were willing to sign this. When I entered into negotiations ... when we spoke with the other three, they came back to us and they asked us to be part of this. We would've gone ahead and signed with the four communities that were willing to be participants hereof, without forcing anybody to go into this. However, when those communities saw what was on the table, saw the benefits for those communities, saw the benefits for Kruger ... they came to us and asked to become involved in this. So, maybe you should go and speak to them before you criticise the decisions that they have made.

It is important that we now get to a point of implementation. I agree with you, hon Peters. I agree with everybody who spoke

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about implementation. A piece of paper is nothing. The results of that is what is going to determine the success of it. As the Kruger National Park, SANParks ...

I see that I'm getting a lot of ... I don't know whether it's support from the right.

However, as the Kruger National Park, SANParks and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, we will now do everything in our power to implement this. The success will be shown in the commitment and the success of the communities, how they derive benefits out of this, as well as how Kruger ... derives benefits out of their involvement.

Hon Gana, you said that schemes like this are often owned by no one. You underestimate the Kruger National Park, my friend. The Kruger National Park is owned by all of us. It's not ... [Inaudible.] ... or some tea plantation in Magoebaskloof. This is our heritage. These communities are not the same as those communities that you refer to. These were successful land claimant communities. They own certain parts of the land here. They are the owners. SANParks manages the Kruger National Park.

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If you go and read this agreement, you will see how this agreement refers to the individuals that will benefit out of this, the bursaries that will go to individuals, the opportunities that will be created.

However, you must be very careful, hon Gana, to again, not sideline the importance of traditional leadership. Those communities have their leadership. We will not only speak with the leadership. We will speak with the communities. However, don't act in such a way that you disrespect and disregard the importance of those traditional leaders.

What we have achieved here is not due to me. It's not due to SANParks alone. It's not due to the department or the communities. It has been a collaborative effort by a lot of people who want to make a difference. What is astonishing is that those who routinely accuse government of excluding black communities from economic empowerment are now attacking the programme that is delivering this.

This is a clear indication of what can be done if transformation and redress is done in the correct way. The people living around the Kruger National Park deserve more than political grandstanding. They deserve opportunities. They

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deserve sustainable livelihoods and a fair share of the benefits generated by one of our country's greatest environmental assets, at the same time also promoting that asset.

Of course, as I said, like any programme it must be implemented, and I would urge you to help us to implement it rather than stand and grandstand against it whilst you do not know what it is about. As the MK Party and the EFF, you must decide whether you genuinely support empowerment and transformation or whether those concepts are only useful slogans when they are done in opposition.

Government, we the builders, remains committed to ensuring that conservation delivers tangible benefits to local communities. We will not be deterred by those who criticise transformation when it moves from speeches into reality.

There's again a clear distinction between the builders and the breakers. The builders act on behalf of the community. The breakers act on behalf of themselves. And, if the shoe fits, you must put it on. I have not mentioned anybody who does that, but it's clear that every time I mention the term breakers, the responses from the MK Party and the EFF are

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resounding. I think they admit that they are. Let us be the builders.

Mr M MANYI: Chair, please note my hand.

The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Let us build stronger communities and not break them down by ...
[Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Manyi, why do you want to be recognised?

Mr M MANYI: Chair, the question is directed at you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, hon member, the Minister indicated that he is not intending to take a question.

Mr M MANYI: No, it's not a question to him, Chair. It's to you. I wanted guidance from you, Chair. Guidance from you, Chair. How do we heckle online?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, there's a solution for you. If you look at your screen in front of you,

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you can see there are different icons. Use one of the icons and you can heckle as much as you want. That is a good way to heckle online. I hope it answers your question, hon Manyi. Please continue, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT:
Again, let us be the builders. Let us not be the breakers. Let's build these communities. Let's not break them down by political grandstanding. I want to invite all of you to become part of that. Become part of the builders. It's actually very nice if you really contribute something.

If I listen ... around me, I've learnt a long time ago that a fool's camouflage is silence and for a fool to remain undetected he must remain silent. So, I would urge those that cannot give a meaningful contribution to rather not give any at all. Let's work and benefit our communities. Let's benefit the Kruger National Park. Thank you to everybody for your contribution in this regard. I thank you.

Debate concluded.

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**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONAL
SERVICES ON STUDY TOUR TO UNITED KINGDOM FROM 21 - 28 MARCH
2026**

Ms K A RAMOLOBENG: House Chair, hon members, as part of our resolution taken at our strategic planning session in September 2025, the committee resolved to undertake an international study tour to empower the members to be able to conduct oversight. The committee study tour was envisaged to be a benchmarking exercise with the aim of drawing lessons from other jurisdictions and to strengthen the committee's oversight role. The focus area of our study tour was on overcrowding, self-sufficiency, parole and probation, prison oversight bodies, including parliamentary committees and innovations.

The committee intended to draw lessons from its counterpart in the UK on how they conduct their oversight, look at innovations such as electronic monitoring devices for inmates, secure video call systems in prisons, step-through vests for officials, and the functioning and operations of independent prison monitoring bodies. The committee did a visit to the SA High Commission in London and met with the High Commissioner, Mr Mamabolo and his staff, who welcomed the delegation and

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provided us with a brief overview of the UK's political and governance system.

The committee also did a visit to the United Kingdom Parliament and met with Mr Ashley Fox, a member of the Justice Select committee, to exchange insight on parliamentary oversight of the justice system. Our discussion focused on prisons and probation, rehabilitation and broader correctional administration in both our countries. This engagement aimed to identify best practices and shared challenges, particularly in relation to overcrowding and correctional oversight.

Our delegation, together with the delegation of Portfolio Committee on Social Development, held a joint engagement with members of the Home Affairs committee from the UK Parliament. The engagement focused on how they conduct their oversight visit to various correctional centres and challenges associated with access to prison. Our delegation also had an opportunity to meet with the House of Lords, Justice and Home Affairs committee and received a report regarding the prison system in the UK. We also attended as the Select Portfolio Committee on Justice.

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We also met with the Minister of Justice, Mr Jake Richards MP, and during our engagement, we also highlighted our disappointment that we were not granted permission to visit any prisons as planned. On our committee observations and recommendations that we are putting to the department, on contraband, the delegation noted that the usage of drones is increasingly becoming a technological threat to smuggle contraband into correctional facilities in the UK. We noted that a similar threat may emerge in South Africa, and that requires a proactive mitigation strategy.

We therefore recommend that the department adopt a proactive, technologically-driven approach to address contraband smuggling. The UK has recently introduced a range of minimum sentences regimes to deal with overcrowding in their prisons. They have ensured that all offenders who committed minor and nonviolent offenses received non-custodial sentences. We recommend that the department, in collaboration with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, should intensify efforts to reduce overcrowding through alternative sentencing and improved case-flow management.

We also noted that the UK has introduced reintegration and release policies and a notable policy intervention in the UK

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is the prohibition of prisoner releases on Friday. We therefore recommend that the department should strengthen post-release support to ensure successful reintegration of offenders back to society. This can be done by increasing the number and geographical spread of halfway houses for parolees without family support. Electronic monitoring is utilised in the UK as part of offender management as opposed to minimum sentences of offenders into custody.

We therefore recommend that the department should investigate the effectiveness and credibility of electronic monitoring as an alternative to incarceration. The delegation was unable to visit any of the UK prisons due to miscommunication between the SA Department of International Relations and Co-operation and the UK authorities due to understaffing at the South African High Commission in London rather than an explicit refusal by the UK Government. We therefore recommend that should improve and strengthen its co-ordination on international study tours. I present this report on behalf of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services for consideration of adoption. I thank you.

Mr M M GASA: House Chairperson, we travelled to the United Kingdom to benchmark, to learn and to strengthen oversight. We

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met with MPs, the Minister and the Lord. We sat in the House of Commons and observed the Justice Committee, but we were not allowed to set foot inside a single UK prison, despite raising the request repeatedly. We declare without fear or favour that the UK prison system is not a model to be admired. It is a crisis dressed in parliamentary procedure. The UK has the highest imprisonment rate in Western Europe, over 87 000 prisoners, and it is expected to exceed 100 000 by 2029.

Prisons are overcrowded, outdated, some Victorians, and operate in a state of crisis. The offending sits at 80%. The Justice Select committee itself found a lack of clarity on purpose of prison, weak governor autonomy, the severe staffing crisis and insufficient purposeful activity. This is not a system we should copy; it's a warning. Criminal networks use drones to bend through plastic courtyard nets to drop drugs. The UK cannot block the signal because it will interfere with civilian medical devices, like heart monitors, kidney dialysis machines. South Africans must learn from this failure, before the same technology overwhelmed our facilities.

The Department of Correctional Services has been warned. The UK denied us access to prisons and the Department of International Relations and Co-operation failed us. The

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committee requested a prison visit. The UK Ministry of Justice first claimed short notice, then later they said, they never received a request. So, the visit did not materialise. The truth is that understaffing at the SA High Commission in London caused a breakdown in communication. The MKP declares this unacceptable. Parliament cannot conduct a meaningful oversight if our own diplomatic mission cannot co-ordinate visits.

The UK uses electronic tagging as an alternative to custody, but compliance is weak. Private contractors are poorly overseen, and probation services are overstretched. The MKP warns against rushing to expensive tagging systems without facing probation first. The UK prohibits prisoners to be released on a Friday so that released individuals access government services immediately. This low-cost common sense policy reduces homelessness and reoffending. The MKP demands that the SA Department of Correctional Services introduce the same rule within 90 days, and an immediate action on a full risk assessment on drone contraband.

The Department of Correctional Services must report to Parliament within 60 days on how it will prevent drone incursion before they become endemic. There should be no

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Friday release in South Africa; the UK policy must be implemented immediately, and there should be no more releasing offenders on a Friday afternoon to sleep on the street. The Department of International Relations and Co-operation must account, and it must explain why understaffing in London. ... [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

Ms N J NOLUTSHUNGU: House Chairperson and hon members, the study tour to the United Kingdom, UK, confirms that South Africa's correctional challenges are not unique. The UK continues to grapple with overcrowding, gangs, contraband smuggling, ageing infrastructure, and high levels of reoffending. However, one lesson stands out. The challenge of overcrowding cannot be separated from the challenge of recidivism. A correctional system cannot succeed if the same people continue to return to prison.

Across South Africa, from Pollsmoor to St Albans and Westville, officials continue to work under difficult conditions whilst offenders are released into communities still confronting unemployment, poverty, substance abuse, and gangsterism. The EFF maintains that a correctional system should not be judged by how many people it incarcerates. It should be judged by how many people leave prison and never

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return. The strongest correctional system is not the one with the most prisons. It is the one that produces the fewest repeat offenders. This is why South Africa cannot solve overcrowding simply by expanding prison capacity. Unless we reduce reoffending and strengthen rehabilitation, overcrowding will remain a permanent feature of our correctional system.

Countries such as the Netherlands have demonstrated that sustained investment in rehabilitation and reducing reoffending can reduce incarceration to the point where prisons have been closed. That should encourage us to think differently about success in correctional services.

The report also raises questions regarding private-sector participation in correctional services. The experience of the UK demonstrates that private management is neither a guarantee of better outcomes nor does it automatically resolve correctional challenges. Concerns regarding accountability, performance, and service delivery continue to arise within privately managed facilities.

This is particularly relevant as government prepares for the return of Mangaung Correctional Centre to public management on 1 July 2026. Whilst we welcome the return of Mangaung to state

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control, concerns raised in the portfolio committee must be addressed urgently. Parliament was informed that recruitment, information and communications technology, ICT, implementation, and other operational preparations were still under way. These matters must be resolved before the handover takes place. There can be no disruption to security or operations. The department must ensure that Mangaung becomes an example of a capable and effective public institution rather than an opportunity for critics of the state to advance old arguments against public-sector management.

The purpose of correctional services is not merely to keep people behind bars. It is to rehabilitate, reintegrate, and reduce reoffending so that offenders can return to society as law-abiding citizens. The EFF supports this report and the lessons learned from the study tour. Thank you.

Ms B E MACHI: Chairperson, the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services' recent tour to the United Kingdom has yielded useful insights for prison reform in South Africa. The findings in this report support what our party has consistently campaigned for, that prisons must be sites of rehabilitation.

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The report indicates that both South Africa and the United Kingdom face significant overcrowding in their prison systems due to high rates of reoffending. By improving behavioural intervention programmes, the number of reoffenders crowding the system can be reduced. To do so, there must be an increased focus on the establishment of counselling programmes for substance abuse, anger management, and other social issues.

The IFP supports this report but stresses the importance of translating it into real policy change. It is essential that we draw on the best practices of the United Kingdom and shift the focus of prisons from punishment to reform. Thank you, Chairperson.

Mr E HENDRICKS: Chairperson and colleagues, the PA notes the report of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services on its study tour to the United Kingdom from 21 to 28 March.

From our perspective, this tour delivered a message loud and clear. If you do not stay ahead of criminal innovation, you will fall behind very quickly. The United Kingdom, a country with advanced resources, is now battling a wave of contraband smuggling driven by drones dropping drugs, weapons, and

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cellphones straight into prison yards. Their experience is not entertainment for us; it is a warning. South Africa cannot afford to repeat their mistakes.

The PA insists that we urgently strengthen our defences. That means counter-drone radar, jamming systems – and a jamming system, hon Gasa, you can switch on and off; whilst those drones are coming, you can switch off – upgraded perimeter surveillance, and trained rapid-response teams. If drones can overwhelm a first-world system, then we must be even more prepared, hon Gasa, not less.

The tour also exposed something deeper. Technology fails when the basics fail. The UK struggles with outdated ICT, weak infrastructure, and staff shortages. These are the very same vulnerabilities we face at home. If we do not fix those fundamentals, then even the best equipment will become expensive decorations.

The PA's position is simple. A correctional centre must be a place of consequences, not a distribution hub for syndicates. Let me say it plainly.

Afrikaans:

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Ons mense is moeg vir 'n stelsel wat aan die slaap lyk, wat bang lyk, wat nie eens die hek kan oppas nie.

English:

We cannot allow drones to turn our prisons into delivery zones – not here, not ever. The PA supports the committee report. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Is there any speaker from the FF Plus?

Mr W W WESSELS: Chairperson, there is no declaration from us. We support the report. Thank you.

Ms D E JAMES: House Chairperson, I am astounded by the recent study tour undertaken by the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services to the United Kingdom. The so-called benchmarking exercise, conducted from 21 to 28 March, appears to have yielded no discernible new insights into the challenges facing our correctional system in South Africa. Incredibly, the delegation did not even visit a single correctional facility in the UK.

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The UK has approximately 87 000 inmates in its correctional facilities, whereas South Africa holds nearly 170 000 prisoners in facilities designed for only about 107 000. This represents severe and sustained overcrowding.

This crisis is driven primarily by two factors: approximately 27 000 undocumented foreign nationals currently held in our correctional centres at a cost of R17 000 per inmate per month and roughly 60 000 unsentenced detainees, constituting around 37% of the total prison population.

ActionSA has clearly identified the core problems in our correctional system: a deepening security crisis within our prisons, inadequate capacity, and a court system burdened by backlogs that must be urgently addressed. We need to extend and properly fund correctional infrastructure and ensure that court rolls are cleared efficiently and without delay.

Importantly, we must also address the issue of undocumented foreign nationals in our facilities, including strengthening arrangements for deportation or repatriation where legally applicable.

These are not complex problems. They require disciplined, consistent, and unglamorous work, not international travel. I

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see no discernible outcomes from the overseas trip, funded at taxpayers' expense, that has contributed any meaningful new solutions to address the deepening crisis. I thank you.

Mr S N SWART: Chairperson, the ACDP has taken note of this report. It is definitely regrettable that the portfolio committee was not able to visit a UK prison and this due to a miscommunication at the diplomatic level. I welcome the fact that speakers have requested that the Department of International Relations and Co-operation be held accountable for this, given the high costs of such an international visit.

It is heartening to learn that the portfolio committee did learn about drone incursions because this is something we definitely need to prepare ourselves for. One needs to enquire into the cost of jamming systems and other anti-drone technology, given the high levels of contraband smuggled into our correctional facilities at this stage. I think that was a very useful lesson to learn from this UK study tour.

Clearly, the UK is grappling with challenges similar to those of South Africa, with high levels of overcrowding, gangsterism, ageing infrastructure, and high levels of recidivism. As we are aware, we in South Africa experience

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high levels of overcrowding, which negatively impact rehabilitation and contribute to recidivism. Hopefully, lessons were learned from the study tour that will both enhance parliamentary oversight of our correctional services and contribute to prison reform.

At the very least, the meeting with UK members of parliament and the Justice Select Committee of the United Kingdom would have resulted in lessons to be learned that, hopefully, one will be able to implement and practically apply from an oversight perspective. I thank you.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Chairperson, the UAT notes the report of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services on the study tour to the United Kingdom. Whilst there is value in learning from international experiences, we must raise a fundamental question: Why does this government continue to look to the United Kingdom as a primary benchmark for South African democratic institutions?

Over the past years, we have witnessed a worrying trend. The judiciary has celebrated constitutional partnership with the United Kingdom. Parliament has benchmarked oversight mechanisms against the Westminster model. Today, Correctional

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Services returns from another study tour to Britain. One must ask whether this government is genuinely pursuing transformation or merely modelling institutions rooted in the colonial architecture of the Union of South Africa. The Union of South Africa was never designed to serve the African majority. It was a colonial project that consolidated power, land, and wealth in the hands of the minority. Yet, 30 years into democracy, the governing party continues to benchmark itself against the very same system that historically excluded our people.

Our prisons are overcrowded because of poverty, unemployment, inequality, substance abuse, and a criminal justice system that often fails the poor. These challenges require South African and African solutions rooted in Ubuntu, restorative justice, rehabilitation, and community reintegration.

Xitsonga:

Khanimambo!

Mr J ENGELBRECHT: Hon House Chairperson and hon members, we stand at a critical juncture as South Africa's correctional system which is currently gripped by a state of crises characterised by overcrowding exceeding 50%, failing

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rehabilitation efforts and a stubbornly high reoffence rate. The portfolio committee's recent study tour to the United Kingdom, UK, was not merely a bench marking exercise. It was a mission to find practical solutions to strengthen our oversight and reform a system that too often serves as a warehouse of crime rather than a place of correction.

The United Kingdom faces its own severe challenges with over 87 000 people incarcerated in England and Wales – the highest rate in Western Europe. Their prisons are currently operating in a state of crises. At this point I need to point out that they have 90 000 bed spaces. So, overcrowding for them and overcrowding for us is not the same thing.

They struggle with staff shortages, the alarming availability of drugs, and the economic toll of reoffending which cost their economy an estimated of R18 billion euros.

However, a key deference we have observed is their rigorous self-scrutiny, their own justice committee has been vocal about a lack of clarity regarding the purpose of prisons and a tick box nature of many educational programmes.

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From our engagements with the UK select committee under the Ministry of Justice, several transformative lessons emerged. We must prepare for emerging threats specifically the use of drones or smuggling contraband. In the UK inmates have become so sophisticated. They use flammable drones to burn through protective courtyard nets.

Furthermore, we learnt that simple signal jamming is often unfeasible because it interferes with civilian medical devices. South Africa must urgently conduct national risk assessments and pilot antidrone technologies.

One of the most striking findings was the UK's policy of prohibiting prisoner release on Fridays. This ensures that individuals are not released when government offices are closed. It prevents them from getting support and become homeless and they return to criminal networks. This is a cost-effective intervention we must consider for our own context.

To combat overcrowding the UK utilises electronic monitoring or tagging and noncustodial sentences for low risk and nonviolent offenders include community service. For this to succeed here we must expand our probation services and

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increase the number of parolees supervision offices to ensure credible enforcement.

However, it is critically important to note that no parole or probation system in a modern world can be implemented successfully without electronic monitoring. For South Africa, it is inexcusable not to have an established and functioning electronic monitoring system in place.

In the UK they currently have 246 000 people on probation versus a prison population of 87 000. We observed that for oversight to be meaningful, it must move beyond the meeting style briefings. We need to facilitate direct engagement with inmates and officials and prioritise unannounced visits to see the true state of facilities rather than the cleaned-up version prepared for scheduled tours.

Hon members, the committee also noted that the UK is also moving towards strengthening the powers of its inspectorate; allowing it to place failing prisons into special measures. Similarly, we must ensure the independence and authority of the judicial inspectorate for correctional services as it transitions into its new legislative framework.

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In conclusion, we cannot allow the study tour to become another dusty document. We have seen that even advanced systems struggle. However, they are reforming through accountability, innovation and a clear definition of purpose. We must now implement these recommendations from drone countermeasures, electronic monitoring, to Friday release policies, to ensure our facilities truly rehabilitate and protect the people of South Africa. Thank you.

Mr M M SOKOPO: Hon House Chairperson and hon members, the value of any study tour is not measured by the kilometres travelled or the institution visited. Its value lies in whether it equips this Parliament with insight that can assist us in addressing the real challenges confronting the people of South Africa.

Hon House Chairperson, as we consider this report, it is important that we do so with a clear understanding of our country's history and the principle that continues to guide our movement. The ANC met from a long and a difficult struggle against colonialism, apartheid, and all forms of oppression.

Our engagement with any country particularly those whose histories are intertwined with colonialism is therefore

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informed by a deep awareness of the historical injustice that shaped the world we inhabit today.

Our correctional system remains one of the most overlooked components of the criminal justice value-chain. Public attention often focuses on arrest, prosecution and sentencing. Yet far less attention is given to what happens after conviction. This is despite the fact that the effectiveness of correctional service has a direct impact on our society's safety, rehabilitation and the prevention of reoffending.

One of the most insightful engagements was on the United Kingdom's, UK's, extensive use of electronic monitoring and offender tagging as part of offender management and community corrections. While concerns were raised regarding enforcement and contractor oversight, the system nevertheless demonstrate how technology can be utilised to reduce pressure on correctional facilities while strengthening accountability and supervision. This is particularly relevant to our country. Continued discussions around a future of electronic monitoring with our own correctional framework.

Hon members, we were particularly struck by the emphasis placed on probation services as a central mechanism for

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reducing recidivism and throughout the various engagements, it became evident that the successful reintegration requires structured support, supervision and accountability long after an offender leaves the correctional facility.

Another important observation was related to an oversight itself. We note concerns raised within the UK regarding advanced notice being given provided before prison visit. It was highlighted that scheduled inspections often result in officials presenting their best run section rather than the actual lived reality within facilities. This reaffirmed our value of unannounced oversight visits, direct engagements with inmates and officials as a critical tool for parliamentary accountability.

We also engaged with the House of the Lords, justice and home affairs committees under the leadership of Lord Foster. Of particular interest we were found from an enquiry into the UK system which identified weak accountability mechanisms, inadequate staff models, insufficient purposeful activities of inmates, poor training arrangement and leadership failures within correctional institutions. What is significant in that many of these challenges mirrors those confronting our own country.

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The lesson is that correctional reforms is not simply about building more prisons, it is about strengthening leadership, improve accountability, invest in rehabilitation and ensure that prisons fulfil their purpose of preparing offenders for successful reintegration.

We were further alerted that emerging technology threats facing correctional systems. The UK is increasingly confronted with a sophisticated criminal network using drones to smuggle drugs and contrabands into correctional systems. These criminal syndicates are very adoptive to new technologies making it very difficult for the UK government to deal with drones by even developing methods to bypass protective netting installed over the prison courtyard. This is a warning that South Africa cannot ignore and rather we must learn from it. This is one of the things that we have learnt there.

While we were unfortunate unable to visit correctional facilities due to administrative and co-ordinating challenges, the various engagement nevertheless provided valuable insight into offender management, rehabilitation probation services, electronic monitoring, prison oversight and reintegration support.

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It is for this reason that the ANC support the adoption of this report. Confusingly, hon House Chairperson, the MK party seems to oppose the report but learn from it by even demanding that this House must consider a couple of things that we learnt from the UK. It looks like it is just within them to be opposing even though they are even making demands on what should be correct. I thank you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: Moved that the report be adopted.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE
AND PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS ON
OVERSIGHT VISIT TO VARIOUS MILITARY BASES AND SOUTH AFRICAN
NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE, SANDF, DEPLOYMENTS ALONG SOUTH AFRICA
- ZIMBABWE BORDER IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

Mr M D LEGOETE: House Chair, we are here to present the report of our portfolio committee. It's an honour for us to present this particular report of the visit we had to various military

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bases and the deployments along the South African border with Zimbabwe in the Limpopo province, which was conducted on 13 to 17 October.

It was essential for Parliament to assess firsthand the operational readiness of the National Defence Force, the state of its capability, the welfare of our soldiers and the effectiveness of the borders guarding the operations.

We must say, we went to Makhado Airforce Base where we observed professionalism and dedication of our pilots, technicians, support staff, who continue to deliver quality training and maintain operational standards despite severe funding constraints.

We also went to the 15 SA Infantry, SAI, Battalion in Thohoyandou where we engaged with our troops who recently returned from the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, under Operation Thiba. We commended them as the portfolio committee for their commitment and sacrifice.

We went to Operation Corona where we saw soldiers working closely with the Border Management Authority, BMA, the SA Police Service, SAPS, and the SA Revenue Services, Sars, to

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protect the territorial integrity, achieving notable successes in intercepting undocumented persons and ceased contraband worth of millions of rands.

The committee also noted several pressing challenges, including underfunding of the fighter capability, shortages of some critical spares and equipment, infrastructure backlogs and the difficult living conditions which our troops in the border find themselves in their deployment.

These issues, we must put into the House, the impact on our force's readiness, on the soldier morale and the SA National Defence Force's ability to fully exercise their constitutional mandate in terms of section 200 of the Constitution of the Republic.

These reports offer practical solutions driven by recommendations.

As the portfolio committee we are recommending that we must have a clear national defence policy direction. We must be very clear which direction are we taking. We know that the executive is currently busy with the journey to greatness as a policy position of the department.

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We want to urge Parliament and the House that we need to prioritise funding for essential capabilities. The warfare is modernising in the world. We no longer use soldiers on the ground like in the Second World War, we use drones, we use missiles, we use torpedoes. Those are the things that need funding. So, this House must assist us to get that particular funding.

Back to basic approach in soldier equipping. This, we mean, by soldier equipping, that your budget must be inconsumerate with the Gross Domestic Product, GDP, of the country because we are the only Department of Defence Force which the budget must be equated to the GDP. We are proposing 1,5% to 1,8%, which will take our national budget of the defence to R244 billion.

That will help you under number four to ensure that we safeguard the deployments in our borders. We need 22 companies. Currently, we can only afford to pay 13 companies. So, there is a lot of work that needs to be done in that particular thing.

Lastly, is to ensure that we do departmental co-operations of all the departments. But it's very key and important for South Africans and everybody to understand. We're not saying

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illegal, undocumented people must be in our country. The Geneva Convention must be respected. The Organization of African Unity, OAU, Convention must be respected.

Section 21(3) of our constitution says, the right of residence is only reserved for citizens. In number four, 21(4) in the Bill of Rights says, all of them must be documented.

Now, we don't want that to deteriorate, that private citizens must lead on it. We must lead as this government, as this defence force, as the police, to ensure that there's order in the country because anything can lead to a slippery rope.

Today we can start Mabahambe [they must go], tomorrow we may say hon Douglas is a European settler, he must go. The next time we will deteriorate as a nation.

Please be careful of the national question because the dynamics and the history of this country does not allow us to pursue other ... [Time expired.] ... don't be a populist.

We move that this report be adopted. Thank you very much.
Amandla.

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Declarations of vote:

Mr Z K A CELE: Hon House Chairperson, before all, let's consider food security as children die now and then through poisoned food. Let's save the children as we'll be saving tomorrow's leaders.

The MKP notes the report arising from the oversight visit by the defence committee to the Limpopo borders.

What is most striking is not what the committee recommended but what it admits.

Parliament has effectively confirmed what millions of South Africans have been saying for years. Our borders are not secured. The committee itself concluded that South Africa's borders are effectively open and that the country does not have functioning borders. This is a devastating indictment of the Government of National Unity, GNU.

Every administration that has desisted over the collapse of borders management ... the committee observed damaged borders' fencing, regular illegal crossing ports along the Limpopo River, severe shortage of personnel, inadequate vehicles,

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insufficient civilian technology and soldiers stretches across the hundreds of kilometres of borders.

Even more alarming is the finding that the departments responsible for border management are not working together effectively. The border management, SAPS, SANDF, Home Affairs and Sars, all operate within the same environment. Yet, Parliament found a weak and dysfunctional system incapable of protecting the territory, integrity ... [Inaudible.]

Chairperson, the report acknowledges that South Africa loses billions of rands through illicit trade, smuggling, vehicles theft, syndicates, counterfeit goods and unlawful movement across our borders.

It further acknowledges that criminal syndicates exploit this weakness daily. Yet, after making such damning observations, the recommendations are astonishingly weak. The committee merely proposed engagements, coordination, improved co-operation and calls for additional resources.

They are the same recommendations that have appeared in reports after reports for many years. There is no sense of urgency. There are no major targets. There are no deadlines.

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There is no consequence management. There is no accountability for those who have allowed this crisis to deepen.

The MKP believes that if Parliament has found that the borders are effectively open, then Parliament must also demand an emergency border recovery plan with specific timelines, performance indicators and quarterly reporting requirements.

The committee should have recommended a full audit of all vulnerable border segments. A comprehensive assessment of SANDF border safeguarding capacity and investigation into corruption facility, illegal crossing and report to Parliament on the effectiveness of Border Management Authority since its establishment.

South Africans are entitled to ask a simple question: if our borders are effectively open despite multiple agencies, billions in expenditures and years of promises, who exactly is being held ... [Inaudible.] ... accountable?

Yearly visiting similar problems. The MKP maintains that sovereign state that cannot control its borders places its security, economy and social stability at risk.

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The findings of this report are, therefore, not mere administration shortcomings, they amount to national security warning. The people of South Africa deserve more than another report. They deserve action. I thank you.

Ms B K DIALE: House Chair, the EFF welcomes this report. The findings reveal SADF committed to its mandate but crippled by chronic underfunding, ageing infrastructure, resource shortages and poor inter-agency coordination.

The Air Force Base, AFB, Makhado unfunded Gripen upgrades limited ... [Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): My apologies, hon member. Somebody from the NA Table ... the NA table, please mute your microphones.

Please proceed, hon member.

Ms B K DIALE: The findings reveal SADF committed to its mandate but crippled by chronic underfunding, ageing infrastructure, resource shortages and poor inter-agency coordination.

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The AFB Makhado unfunded Gripen upgrades, limited flying hours and aircraft cannibalisation undermined readiness.

At 15 SAI Battalion, soldiers face housing shortages, broken fences and inadequate support for deployment such as Operation Thiba in the DRC.

The border situation is dire. The committee's witness collapsed and breached Beitbridge fence, previously marred by Special Investigating Unit, SIU, exposed corruption.

Porous sections, falling exchange rates and unregulated river crossings enable smuggling, human trafficking and organised crime. Despite the dedication of SANDF members operating under Operation Corona, with limited resources, the border remains highly vulnerable. These failures stem from defence spending far below the required 1,5 to 2% of GDP, slow radical economic transformation and persistent corruption.

The Border Management Authority continues to struggle with budgets skewed towards salaries rather than operations and technology.

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The EFF commends the committee's recommendations for increased funding, infrastructure repair, technology upgrades and better coordination. However, border action is needed.

We demand the following:

Firstly, substantially mediate increase in defence allocations to restore capacity and expand border deployments.

Secondly, ruthless anti-corruption measures at border posts and full implementation of SIU findings.

Thirdly, accelerated resourcing and integration of BMA.

Fourthly, proper support for SADF personnel, including equipment, housing and welfare.

Fifth, alignment with radical economic transformation to address the root causes of crossing border crime.

In conclusion, Chair, this report must drive agent-executive action to safeguard our territorial integrity. The EFF will continue to hold the executive accountable for a professional,

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well-resourced SADF that honours our liberation heritage. I thank you, Chair.

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: House Chairperson, the IFP notes the oversight military base report with concern and reaffirms its commitment to protecting South Africa and putting South Africans first. We would like to thank the brave men and women who serve in our military, safeguarding our country. However, we remain concerned about the findings of this report, particularly those regarding poor border security, chronic underfunding, insufficient resources, and inadequate social welfare for our soldiers.

IsiZulu:

Kuyihlazo ukubuka isimo esilaphaya, la khona umbuso uthuli ubuka abantu abasebezivulele idolobhana elincane, imikhukhu, okuyiyona esiza ukuthi kweqe izimpahla ngokungemthetho, siza ngaphakathi ezweni noma ziya ngaphandle kula mazwe angomakhelwane njengase-Zimbabwe.

English:

Practical steps need to be taken, including increased funding and greater attention to the concerns of those on the ground.

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The IFP accepts the report and calls for our concerns to receive immediate attention. A failure to address these challenges will undermine South Africa's ability to maintain a reliable national Defence Force and fulfill the military's constitutional mandate. The IFP accepts the report. Thank you.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: House Chair, greetings to all the members in the House. Also, allow me to greet the incoming president of the Republic in 2029, Gayton McKenzie. The PA supports this oversight report. This oversight confirms the hard truth. Our soldiers are holding the line under extremely bad conditions, yet remain on the frontline across the border, where crime, smuggling, human trafficking, and a constant flow of illegal foreigners are entering the country through uncontrolled crossings. Every day, our soldiers are confronted with organized syndicates, heavily armed smugglers, and groups crossing illegally through the river and the bush. But too often, they are doing this with broken patrol vehicles, unreliable radios, and boats that fall apart long before the job is done. We do support, but we want to be clear, our soldiers cannot be expected to stop illegal foreigners from entering the country when they are outnumbered, underequipped, and unsupported. We cannot expect to have a world-class Defense Force, but we do not support them. And if we want to

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protect our people, our economy, and our sovereignty, then we must invest in boats, vehicles, equipment, technology, and the dignity of the South African soldiers. We support this oversight report. Thank you.

Ms L M NGOBENI: Hon House Chair, this report confirms what ActionSA has consistently warned that South Africa's borders remain dangerously vulnerable due to years of underinvestment, poor co-ordination, and a lack of political will to secure our territorial integrity. The Border Management Authority, BMA, which is operating at a mere 25% of its capacity, continues to lack personnel, equipment, technology, and operational capacity required to monitor and control illegal cross-border activities effectively. At the same time, the South African National Defense Force is expected to safeguard our borders despite severe budget constraints and declining operational capabilities. These failures must be viewed against the backdrop of South Africa's escalating illegal immigration crisis. Weak border controls have enabled criminal syndicates, human trafficking networks, illicit trade, and undocumented migration to flourish. The report's findings on inadequate fencing, unlawful settlements along the borderline, insufficient surveillance technology, and limited personnel reveal a border management system struggling to meet the scale

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of the challenge. Equally alarming are the conditions under which many of our soldiers are expected to serve.

Members of Parliament observed that facilities are in an unacceptable state, with poor accommodation, unsafe water, inadequate electricity supply, and deteriorating infrastructure. Soldiers reported having to purchase their own boots, tents, and operational equipment to do their jobs. No country serious about national security should expect its servicemen and women to operate under such conditions.

ActionSA has long maintained that secure borders are essential for national security, economic stability, and effective immigration management.

We therefore welcome the committee's recommendations to increase the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, border safeguarding deployments, ring-fence funding for border security technology, and strengthen surveillance, intelligence gathering, and interagency co-operation ... [Inaudible.] ... securing ... [Inaudible.] ... of a sovereign state. I thank you, and I am being disturbed, hon House Chair ... [Time expired.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): May I request the National Assembly table to mute members who switch on their microphones without following the proceedings?

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, the ACDP has taken note of this report, which follows a comprehensive oversight visit. Of particular significance currently is the engagement with soldiers safeguarding the borders, as well as with the Border Management Authority. And this at a time when there are increased attacks on undocumented foreigners, but at the same time, we in the ACDP understand and wish to allay concerns of South Africans that our borders are being safeguarded. Sadly, however, this committee report confirms what many South Africans know, and that is that our borders are still porous and that there are larger numbers of illegal immigrants who are still coming across the borders. And this despite the very commendable achievement by the Border Management Authority last year of stopping an astonishing 450 000 people trying to enter the country illegally. This clearly illustrates the extent of the problem.

Now, again, we all sound like a stuck record where we say the SANDF does not have sufficient resources. We from the ACDP agree with that, it cannot deploy the fully required Force on

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our borders, and the 22 companies instead of the only 13 that are presently deployed. This is totally insufficient and contributes to the poorest borders, which was confirmed by this committee's report.

What is encouraging is that the committee members were able to establish from the SANDF defence intelligence, which forms part of the border security operations, that they are using drones and other equipment to help curb the illegal crossings of people and goods. And this can be enhanced, particularly given the capabilities the SANDF has shown that the ... [Time expired.] ... Thank you, House Chairperson. Thank you.

Ms C T NONTENJA: Hon House Chair, the UDM notes and supports the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Defence and Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans following their oversight visit to military bases and border safeguarding operations in Limpopo. The outcomes contained in the report illustrate a concerning picture of a Defence Force under immense strain, which is characterized by severe underfunding, deteriorating infrastructure, aging equipment, a lack of personnel, and a constant decline in operational readiness.

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While we commend the dedication and sacrifice of the men and women of the SANDF, who continue to serve our nation under difficult circumstances, it is evident that the government has failed to provide them with the necessary resources and support needed to fulfil their constitutional mandate. The major concern about the country's porous borders is that when the ANC came into power in 1994, it was too eager to erase the past that no consideration was given to what needed to be replaced and what should remain intact. There is no border fence between Zimbabwe and South Africa, except for the razor wire that is rolled on the ground, which does not stop illegal immigrants from entering our country. This increases the workload of the BMA, with its limited numbers and resources ... [Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Deputy Minister Abrahams, please switch off your microphone. You are disturbing the proceedings. Please proceed, hon member.

Ms C T NONTENJA: ... Government continues to neglect one of its most fundamental constitutional responsibilities, and that is the protection of our territorial space and national security. Soldiers who are deployed along our borders are operating under extremely difficult conditions with inadequate

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accommodation and unreliable vehicles to combat increasingly sophisticated criminal syndicates that may be a threat to the country. The Border Management Authority ... [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Ask?

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

The MINISTER OF LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: I would not take instructions from you.

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

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Minister, sit down.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Please proceed, hon member.

The MINISTER OF LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: We are focusing on water. We are not playing here.

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

Hon Minister, we want to proceed. Please proceed, hon member.

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Sesotho:

Ngaka L W MAHLATSI: Ha o batla ho bapala, o se ke wa batla ho bapalla ho nna mona.

English:

Chairperson ...

Sesotho:

... kgotso, Maafrica.

English:

Hon Chairperson, at the core of this report is the fundamental question of state capability. Whether South Africa is currently able to secure its territorial integrity in the face of sustained cross-border challenges, smuggling networks, and transnational organised crime.

The committee finding point at SA National Defence Force, SANDF, deployment that stretches beyond optimal capacity, with personnel operating under the condition characterised by inadequate force multipliers, multiple surveillance technology, and logistical constraint.

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While troops on the ground demonstrate discipline and commitment under difficult circumstances, the structural weaknesses of the deployment architecture remain evidence.

On particular concern is the reliance of manpower-intensive patrol model in the area where the modern border security increasingly depends on integrated intelligence systems, aerial surveillance, drone capabilities, and real-time data fusion.

The report implicitly highlights the capability gap between strategic intent and operational reality. Furthermore, the deployment along the Limpopo border exposed persistent coordination challenges between SANDF, SA Police Service, and the Border Management Authority.

Fragmented command and control structure continue to dilute operational effectiveness, resulting in duplication of some areas and enforcement gaps in others.

Hon members, this report must also be read against broader physical constraint facing the defence sector. The SANDF has been repeatedly ...

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

Xitsonga:

Khanimaba!

Mr C HATTINGH: Mr C HATTINGH: Hon Chair, the oversight visits by the Joint Standing Committee on Defence and the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans provided the committees with a sobering glimpse into the real state of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, on the ground. What we observed and experienced should be a concern to each and every South African.

At the Makhado Air Force Base, we were confronted with the reality of an Air Force struggling to maintain a credible combat capability. The Gripen fleet, once the pride of the SA Air Force, is deteriorating due to years of underfunding. We were informed that only two Gripens are currently serviceable, and that critical maintenance and upgrades have been deferred because funding is simply not available.

The Air Force warned that South Africa risks losing its air defence capability altogether if this trajectory continues. We

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also learned that shortages of technical personnel, aircrew and spare parts continue to undermine operational readiness. While the Air Force continues to produce highly skilled pilots and technicians, it cannot sustain critical capabilities indefinitely without adequate resources.

At 15 SA Infantry Battalion, we met dedicated soldiers who continue to serve despite difficult conditions. Soldiers returning from deployment in the DRC raised concerns about poor accommodation, equipment shortages, unserviceable vehicles, a lack of body armour and inadequate support after deployment. Particularly concerning was the committee's closed session with soldiers with return from the DRC.

They spoke openly about poor accommodation, inadequate food, limited medical support for injured soldiers and concerns regarding remuneration. These are not minor administrative matters. They directly affect morale, readiness and the well-being of the men and women we ask to serve in dangerous operational environments.

Along the South African-Zimbabwe border, the situation is equally worrying. Soldiers are expected to safeguard our borders with too few personnel, too few vehicles and

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deteriorating infrastructure. We observed damaged border fences, illegal crossing points and widespread criminal activity.

The Beitbridge area can be described as one massive crime scene. Only 58 soldiers are responsible for guarding a 55-kilometer stretch of border. Soldiers told us their tents are worn out, water is not always safe to drink, and some members have had to buy some basic items themselves that should have been provided. Despite these challenges, they continue to perform their duties with professionalism and commitment.

This report confirms what many have warned about for years. South Africa's defense capability has steadily declined, while operational demands remain unchanged. The SANDF is expected to maintain same commitments, conduct the same operations, and safeguard the same borders with fewer resources each and every year. This is neither sustainable nor fair to the who continue to carry the burden of these decisions.

Chair, before I conclude, I wish to place one further matter on record. During this oversight visit, the committee received Ministerial treatment. They traveled in hired vehicles as part of a blue light convoy. Serious concerns arose regarding

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speeding, 180 kilometers on the N1, 160-kilometer zones, dangerous overtaking, forcing oncoming traffic off the road, and disregard for traffic laws. These concerns have repeatedly been raised with the chairpersons, the administrative personnel, even with the drivers. They disregarded it. These are the same blue light abuses that many South Africans experience and complain about every day. More than eight months after I submitted a formal complaint supported by evidence to the Speaker, I have yet to receive a substantive response.

Parliament cannot demand accountability from others while ignoring legitimate concerns raised by its own members. Despite these challenges, the men and women of the SANDF continue to serve South Africa with professionalism, resilience and dedication, and under increasingly difficult circumstances. They deserve better. We deserve the adoption of this report. I thank you.

Mr W T D PLAATJIES: Hon Chairperson, the ANC welcomes the tabling of this comprehensive joint oversight report. We commend the committee for conducting this important oversight and producing a balanced assessment that highlights both strengths and areas requiring urgent intervention.

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In the current context of rising transnational threats and the need to secure our borders while contributing to regional stability, this report is both timely and valuable. It gives Parliament clear insight into the realities facing our soldiers on the ground. We are encouraged by the high level of professionalism displayed by the SA Air Force and Air Force Base in Makhado, the combat readiness and the community relations on the 15 SA Infantry Battalion, achievements by troops deployed under Operation Corona despite difficult conditions.

The interception of significant contraband and undocumented crossings demonstrate that even with limited resources, our forces continue to serve the nation with dedication and distinction.

The report correctly identifies critical gaps, including the risk to our fighter capabilities, shortage of equipment and spares, prolonged deployments, poor border infrastructure and inadequate facilities for troops. These challenges cannot be ignored if SANDF is to remain effective and capable of fulfilling a constitutional mandate.

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The ANC fully supports the recommendations contained in the report, particularly the call for a decisive policy position and the future of the SANDF backed by realistic funding. A back-to-basic approach ensures soldiers receive proper equipment and vehicles and accommodation, expansion of border safeguards capacity from 13 to 22 subunits, procurement of appropriate technology and force multipliers, development of funded rejuvenation and existing strategies for the SANDF members that have come to age, strengthening the interdepartmental cooperation on border security.

We urge the executive to respond promptly to the requests reports and timeframes contained in the document.

We also support the proposal for the full parliamentary debate on this matter so that the House can give them the intention it deserves. While the challenges are real, we remain optimistic. With focused leadership, smarter resource allocation and collaboration across the security cluster, we can rebuild our SA Defence Force capabilities, improve the welfare of soldiers and strengthen our border security.

The report contributes meaningfully to the objectives. We acknowledge that the border is not what it is supposed to be.

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The reasons why we bring this report here is for Parliament to intervene and for Parliament to understand and look at the funding model of the Defence Force.

We as the ANC therefore support this report. I thank you, Chair.

The Deputy Chief Whip moved: That the report be adopted.

Motion agreed to (uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Report accordingly adopted.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE
AND PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS ON
OVERSIGHT VISIT TO DENEL, ARMSCOR, DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
VETERANS, 1 MILITARY HOSPITAL, DEFENCE COLLEGE AND THABA
TSHWANE MILITARY ACCOMMODATION IN PRETORIA, GAUTENG PROVINCE
FROM 24 TO 28 MARCH 2025**

Mr M D LEGOETE: Hon House Chair, we tabled a joint oversight report on our visit to Denel, Armaments Corporation of South Africa, Armscor, Department of Military Veterans, 1 Military Hospital, the Defence College and Thaba Tshwane Military

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Facilities which was conducted from 24 to 28 March in 2025.

Our committee therefore undertook this comprehensive engagement to assess capabilities, identify backlogs and propose practical solutions that will enhance the national defence force readiness, support our military veterans and restore confidence in the military and defence industry.

At Denel, we went to the Landward Systems Solutions where we were shown advanced missiles including the Dhaka Eyes, Mokopa, those particular missiles. At Armscor, we went from Gerotech Test Facilities to Technopark Facilities where it was demonstrated in terms of testing of infrastructure, including cutting edge research capabilities. We also observed the dedication of our health professionals at 1 Military Hospital and we went to see training of our officers at the Defence College.

These examples highlight the enduring technical expertise and commitment that still exists within the defence family. We were equally frank in noting some of the challenges that must be confronted. Part of it is the project delays in Denel as well as in Armscor particularly Project Hoefyster. Some of the challenges we had is at the Pretoria metal processing plant where we need to develop bullets for our own defence. We also

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had a challenge at the Department of Defence and Military Veterans where we still have a crisis that most of our military veterans, particularly from the non-statutory forces, are still not in the database.

We also have seen the 1 Military Hospital, the ramped one, which we have spent R1,2 billion but the facility is still not operational until today from 2005. Some of the military accommodations are old and worn out. We still have to work on that. This report, however, is not merely diagnostic but is action orientated. It put forward concrete recommendations aimed at improving co-ordination between the department, Armscor and Denel, accelerating decision making on key projects, implementing turnaround strategies, digitalising the systems within the Department of Military Veterans, fast tracking hospital and accommodation refurbishment and ensuring proper consequence management for those who are in conflict with the law.

We call on the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, the department and all the entities to treat these recommendations with urgency, with decisive leadership improved inter-entity collaborations and sustained parliamentary oversight. We are confident that this defence portfolio can be turned around to

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fully support the national defence force to meet South Africa's national security imperatives. On behalf of the joint standing committee, I would like to thank the members of the committee, our support staff and the leadership of our personnel, the executive and all entities that we visited, for their co-operation.

We now place this report before the House for adoption and emphasise to all South Africans that peace is not permanent and that defence comes at a cost. With the current global geopolitics, it will need this Parliament to accelerate the funding of the Department of Defence and Military Veterans. We underfunded it and defunded it by taking money to state-owned enterprises, SOEs to the tune of R54 billion.

We have a deficit as this department that this Parliament needs to work on or else the safety, as said in the Constitution, "defend the territorial integrity, the sovereignty", the republic and its people will be under threat. We are under threat now of illegal and undocumented immigrants, internally. We may be under threat of other external enemies. So, defence does not come cheap and peace is not permanent. This Parliament and all of us need to understand that defence is another sophisticated issue. If any

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state fails to feed its people, to develop its people or to defend its people, it does not deserve legitimacy. [Time expired.]

Declarations of vote:

IsiXhosa:

Mnu. P KUBUKELI: Sihlalo weNdlu, mandizibulisele nam.

English:

Hon House Chairperson, on behalf of MKP I want to, firstly, acknowledge that the hon Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans has correctly captured what transpired during the oversight visit. Hon Chair, as Karl Marx ...

IsiXhosa:

... ndiyathemba ukuba nizamazi nokuba seningasekunene ngoku,

English:

... reminded us that:

The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways. The point, however, is to change it.

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In other words, we have to be practical now when dealing with the challenges that are facing our defence force. Yes, we do agree hon House Chair that funding is needed for the defence force. However, accountability must come first. In other words, the hon Minister did allude to the issue of the defence industry where all heads will come together and deliberate on the matters that have to do with the defence force. So, we need that urgently because all of us want to see a thriving defence force.

For years, we have been talking oversight that does not alter the lived reality of soldiers, military veterans or the defence industry and it becomes a ritual. Reports that do not shift the status quo become a theatre. The deeper crisis is not the absence of parliamentary powers. Powers are there. It is the absence of political will to use them. This House, hon House Chair is armed with summons powers, contempt provisions, Public Finance Management Act, PFMA enforcement tools and the authority to compel Ministers to act. Yet year after year these powers gather dust while departments collapse in plain sight.

Oversight becomes meaningless when the majority treats accountability as optional. Reports are tabled, findings are

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noted but consequences are avoided. Until this House confronts that political paralysis, nothing will change. So, hon House Chair, the rest of the report paints a single undeniable picture that the defence establishment is in structural decline. Denel is a sovereign asset on life support. The delays in the procurement services at Armscor are also an operational threat.

The Department of Military Veterans is the weakest link. I mean, if I can speak about the Department of Military Veterans, I can go to town. There are many military veterans here amongst us.

IsiXhosa:

Naba ooMayigala, bakhona nooCele kunye nohloniphekileyo uDes Van Rooyen.

English:

All of us, we know.

IsiXhosa:

Naba nooHatting abahloniphekileyo.

English:

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All of us, we are military veterans. The challenge is that, at that department it is painful to us. You know, we go to that department daily. Our children and military veterans call us now and again. That department is a dismal failure and something very drastic must be done about that department. These are not isolated failures. These are symptoms of a system that has been neglected, underfunded. That is the Department of Defence and Military Veterans, of course, underfunding. But mismanagement mostly is at the Department of Military Veterans.

There are machines that were purchased, they are not working. They have not been, you know, for years, everything is not working at that department. And you still have an acting director-general for all these years. [Time expired.]

IsiZulu:

Gwaza mkhonto, gwaza.

Ms B K DIALE: Hon House Chair, the EFF supports the observations from the joint oversight visit. However, we also want to sound a revolutionary alarm on the catastrophic delay of our national defence force infrastructure and the betrayal of our military veterans and serving soldiers which were

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apparent during this visit. The report lays bare the consequences of years of corruption, mismanagement and state capture under successive ANC-led administration and now also the so-called Government of National Unity, GNU, administration.

House Chair, we further expressed our deepest concern about the dire state of Denel and Armscor. The EFF delegation witnessed this once proud state-owned enterprise, reduced to a shadow of its own self, plagued by financial constraint, severe understaffing, outdated machinery, halted production and massive backlogs. Project Hoefyster remains a monument to failure. Billions spent with no tangible delivery despite repeated extensions. We are further alarmed by the Defence College housed in the old St George's Hotel premises. The SA National Defence Force, Sandf, bought this property for R185 million, an exorbitant price. The serious allegations indicate it was a *quid pro quo* to settle huge ANC debts.

Our visit confirmed the premises are inadequate and college is not functioning optimally. These corruption allegations must be investigated. The Department of Military Veterans is in utter chaos. Poor conditions, ineffective call centre and non-digitized files piled haphazardly. Veterans are treated with

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contempt. The worst was 1 Military Hospital, once our pride, now a perpetual construction site from failed tenders. The second floor, with critical theatres and research facilities is in shambles. It is a national disgrace.

Thaba Tshwane Military base accommodation is equally chaotic and inhumane for Sandaf staff. The brown flats are dilapidated with leaks, burst pipes, and structural risk. Poorly managed relocations erode morale and readiness. Hon members, the ANC's cadre deployment and corruption have ruined our defence sector. The Denel fails its mandate. Veterans are abandoned, hospitals are derelict and soldiers live in squalor. Our sovereignty is compromised. The EFF demands forensic audits for all tenders, removal of conflicted chairpersons, digitized and veteran services, urgent repairs with consequence management and a revolutionary overhaul. *Aluta continua* the struggle for economic freedom and a capable sovereignty for a defence force continues. We will not rest until our veterans and soldiers receive the dignity that they fought for and so much deserve. I thank you House Chair.

Ink R N CEBEKHULU: The IFP recognises the important role of the institution supporting our soldiers, military veterans and defence capabilities. The findings of this report raise

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serious concerns regarding governance failures, infrastructure deterioration, service delivery failures and weak accountability across the defence environment, reinforcing the need for capable institutions and accountable leadership.

We note with concern the challenges identified at the Department of Military Veterans, Denel, 1 Military Hospital and military accommodation facilities, highlighting the need for stronger oversight accountability.

Chairperson, we have 1 Military Hospital, which was once a world-class facility in our country, which now has been reduced to just a clinic that is even poorly administered, no longer a hospital.

The IFP remains concerned about service delivery shortcomings, deteriorating infrastructure and delays in addressing operational challenges, to mention a few, the living conditions of the members of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF barracks and the access to health facilities by the military veterans.

Public resources allocated to defence and military veterans must deliver tangible outcomes through sound administration

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and consequence management. The IFP therefore supports this report and reaffirms that our soldiers and military veterans deserve accountable institutions and dignified services.

I thank you.

Mr S H M VAN WYK: House Chairperson, I would like to indicate that we, as the PA, support the report. I also want to say, that I am beginning to enjoy your contributions chairperson of the portfolio committee, in the. Earlier, you spoke about someone's dream of free education, and I have taken note of how you continue to educate us from the podium.

House Chairperson, I would also like to draw your attention to the issue of soldier morale. While I agree with your view that the SANDF requires adequate funding, the reality is that our defence capability has been severely constrained. We cannot even say we have a credible Defence Force.

One of the challenges facing the army is unity and unhappiness among some of its members. The coloured soldiers within the army believe that they are not being afforded equal opportunities for training, development, and promotion.

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Earlier today, I spoke to two soldiers who expressed these concerns and no one is speaking out for them.

The other problem is when it comes to the Department of Military Veterans and the SA Cape Corps (SACC). We know that the SACC was on the wrong side during apartheid. However, this country was built on reconciliation and forgiveness. The concern is that the SACC never fully enjoyed that reconciliation. They were never properly integrated. And that, Chairperson, is why I can say there is no unity.

Chairperson, we support this report, but I ask that you please look into the matter of the SACC. They are trying. They are no longer our enemies. While I have great respect for the military veterans who are seated here, I respect you hon member, but the fact of the matter is, let's ... [Time expired.]

Thank you.

Mr W W WESSELS: House Chairperson, the FF Plus notes with concern the report and the findings of this report. It paints a bleak picture regarding the entities. Many of these entities

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such as Denel have become bottomless pits for taxpayer funds and are not functioning.

The recommendations of this report are sound and if implemented, can assist. Funding is a crisis, but Chairperson discipline is a much worse crisis in our SA National Defence Force and that must be addressed.

The FF Plus supports this report.

Ms L M NGOBENI: Hon House Chairperson, ActionSA supports the adoption of this report because it exposes the alarming state of key institutions that are meant to support our defence capability and serve those who have sacrificed for South Africa.

The oversight visit revealed a pattern of dysfunction, neglect and poor accountability across several entities. At Denel, members were informed that Project Hoefyster remains incomplete despite more than R7 billion having been spent, while litigation costs have exceeded R400 million.

The committee further noted severe understaffing, financial instability and an inability to meet operational demands.

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Equally concerning is the state of the Department of Military Veterans. The report highlights inadequate record keeping, manual application processes, an understaffed call centre and poor working conditions that undermine service delivery to military veterans.

Perhaps most shocking are the findings at 1 Military Hospital, a facility operating at only 40% capacity with critical sections left incomplete for years, despite more than R1 billion being spent on refurbishments. It's a devastating indictment of governance failures. The dilapidated accommodation provided to SA National Defence Force members further raises concerns about morale and the dignity afforded to those who serve our country.

ActionSA therefore supports this report and its recommendations, but stresses that Parliament must now ensure consequence management, implementation and measurable progress. South Africans cannot afford another report that gathers dust while these failures continue.

I thank you, hon House Chair.

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Mr S N SWART: House Chair, this report highlights the consequences of underfunding and under-resourcing of the SANDF and Denel and Armaments Corporation of South Africa, Armscor, as well as the shocking state of the Department of Military Veterans. Chairperson, it must be a deep concern to us that the committee, when it visited the Military Hospital, expressed its shock and disappointment of the state of the hospital, particularly the first and second floors.

Now, this is clearly due to a degree of underfunding, but what is the result? The result has been the outsourcing of functions to private hospitals at significant costs, so this does not make economic sense. Clearly, the incomplete ramp project must be finalised as soon as possible.

Chairperson, again, the issue relating to Project Hoefyster and the billions of rands that have been wasted on this project is a matter of serious concern. Yes, Chairperson, other members referred to the fact that we have these reports continuously come in, and it is important that oversight is expressed and taken, but it's important to note that this oversight visit took place more than a year ago and shows a shocking deterioration. The question is, what is the current situation?

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The ACDP urges that urgent follow-up visits should be arranged to see what the present state of the affairs are at these institutions, whether there's been any improvement, or are we back to square one, which would necessitate far greater and more robust parliamentary oversight to ensure that these facilities ... [Inaudible.] ... and military veterans are improved.

Thank you, Chairperson.

Ms C T NONTENJA: No declaration, Chair. We support.

Ngaka L W MAHLATSI: Al Jama-ah supports the report.

Thank you.

Mr M NYHONTSO: No declaration hon Chair, we support.

Sesotho:

Ngaka L W MAHLATSI: O thabile jwale? O a kganya empa o ntse o batla ho shebuwa.

English:

Chairperson ...

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Sesotho:

... kgotso, Maafrica.

English:

Hon members, this report does not show a lack of policy, but a collapse of implementation capacity across the defence value chain. At Denel and Armscor, the committee observed state-owned entities that remain strategically vital yet financially and operationally weakened.

This reflects a longstanding contradiction. South Africa's defence industrial base is expected to ensure sovereignty and procurement independence, whilst simultaneously being deprived of the consistent capitalisation, stable order books, and credible turnaround execution frameworks.

At the Department of Military Veterans, the report again highlighted persistent administrative inefficiencies in service delivery, where policy commitment to veterans is undermined by slow verification processes and fragmented interdepartmental coordination.

This is not merely a bureaucratic delay; it is a failure of the developmental state of to honour its social contract with

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those who served. The visit to the military hospitals is particularly alarming. Despite significant historical expenditure and refurbishment programmes, the hospitals continue to reflect infrastructure decay, incomplete rehabilitation, and systematic project paralysis.

The reinforced findings previously raised a parliamentary and forensic engagement that point to the weak project governance, procurement inefficiencies and insufficiencies.

Xitsonga:

Khanimamba!

Mr M L SHELEMBE: House Chairperson, the DA accepts the report as tabled here, today. While this oversight visit covered several defence institution in its condition, of the Department of Military Veterans that should concern every member of this House. The DMV exists for one purpose, to serve the men and women who once served as South African. Yet what Parliament found was a department struggling to perform even its most basic function.

The committee encountered poor working conditions, inadequate document storage, and understaffed call centre, manual

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processing system, and serious concern regarding records management and the integrity of the beneficiary database.

Applications are still processed manually, creating opportunities for the delays, errors, lost documentation, and possible irregularities.

Particularly alarming was the state of the call centre. Members were informed that it operates with extremely limited capacity and can only handle a handful of calls simultaneously.

Staff are often required to leave their workstation to physically obtain information from other offices, leaving veterans unable to receive assistance. This is not what a service delivery should look like.

Behind these administrative failures are real people, every delayed application, every unanswered call, every misplaced document represent a military veteran or dependent waiting for support that may be critical to their well-being.

The committee also found that senior leadership position remained filled in an acting capacity with ongoing delays in

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the permanent appointments. The absence of stable leadership has contributed to uncertainty, weak accountability, and lack of urgency in addressing long-standing problems.

Even more concerning were allegations raised by employees themselves. During the engagement with the committee, staff members raised concerns, ranging from suspensions and unfair dismissal to audit manipulation, lack of accountability, and alleged victimisation of whistle blowers. These allegations strike at the heart of good governance and cannot simply be ignored.

The DA has repeatedly warned that the DMV is failing too many veterans. This oversight visit confirmed many of those concerns. Veterans continue to struggle with assessing benefits, obtaining information, and receiving feedback on applications. At the same time, the department remains unable to provide Parliament with complete confidence in the accuracy of its own records and beneficiary database.

The committee was therefore correct in recommending an independent audit of the beneficiary database, the ...

[Inaudible.] ... of the records and the upgrading of the call

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centre and the appointment of a permanent director general and senior management team.

Can you imagine that from 2024, the Department of Military Veterans has no permanent director, and the Minister has been struggling from 2024 to date, to appoint a director.

The tragedy is that military veterans have already waited far too long. These are South Africans who answered the call of duty, often at great personal sacrifice. They should not be forced to fight another battle simply to access benefits that Parliament has already provided for them.

This oversight visit demonstrated that the challenges at the DMV are no longer administrative inconvenience. They have become a service delivery crisis. Can you imagine also that if you look at the DMV headquarters in Pretoria, the department is using only two cell phones for the call centre and to service thousands and thousands of military veterans, this is not good.

The Minister must act with urgency, veterans deserve dignity, accountability, and result. Not more promises, not more

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acting, not more appointments, not more delays. The DA supports the report.

Mr M M HALA: House Chairperson, the ANC supports the tabling of this joint oversight report and wishes to place on record its appreciation to both committees for the diligence, rigour, and solution-driven approach demonstrated during the oversight visit.

In the current strategic environment, where South Africa continues to contribute to regional stability and continental peace support operations, while confronting evolving and complex security threats, a capable, resilient and well-resourced defence ecosystem remains indispensable.

This report therefore arrives at a critical moment, offering a clear and grounded reflection on the state of key institutions within the defence portfolio.

We note with appreciation the areas of strength identified during the oversight process, including the sustained engineering and production capabilities within parts of Denel. The advanced testing and research environment within Armaments Corporation of South Africa, Armscor, the professionalism

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evident among personnel across various facilities, and the strategic contribution of training institutions within the defence education environment. These capabilities remain vital national assets that require sustained protection, investment, and strategic renewal.

At the same time, the report correctly highlights structural and operational challenges that continue to affect performance across the portfolio. These include; delays in critical defence projects, ongoing financial and liquidity pressures within key state-owned entities, administrative inefficiencies within the Department of Military Veterans, infrastructure backlogs at military health facilities, and maintenance challenges within defence accommodation environments. These issues, if not decisively addressed, have direct implications for readiness, morale and the dignity of both serving members and veterans.

The ANC therefore expresses strong support for the recommendations contained in the report, particularly those aimed at improving institutional coordination across the defence value chain, strengthening oversight and accountability mechanisms, accelerating decision making on store strategic projects and modernising administrative and

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service delivery systems within the Department of Military Veterans.

We further support the call for urgent infrastructure recovery interventions at military health facilities and accommodation sites, coupled with strengthened consequence management where failures have occurred. We also emphasised the importance of time-bound implementation.

The effectiveness of this report will ultimately be measured not only by its content but by the speed and discipline with which its recommendations are executed. We therefore ask the executive and all accounting officers to ensure that progress reports are submitted within the stipulated term frames and that corrective action is taken without delay.

This oversight process reflects Parliament's continued commitment to strengthening accountability, rebuilding institutional capability, and ensuring that the defence portfolio is able to fulfil its constitutional mandate.

While the challenges are significant, we remain confident that through coordinated effort between the executive and Parliament and with the dedication of men and women in

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uniform, the trajectory of the defence sector can be positively strengthened. Accordingly, the ANC supports this adoption of this report. I thank you.

The Acting Chief Whip of the Largest Minority Party moved:
That the Report be adopted.

Report accordingly adapted.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SMALL
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ON APPOINTMENT OF SMALL ENTERPRISE OMBUD**

Ms M C DIKGALE: Hon House Chairperson, hon Minister of Small Business Development, the Deputy Minister of Small Business Development, hon members of the portfolio committee, esteemed Members of Parliament, today is a watershed moment for our small businesses as we come together to consider and approve the nomination of persons, one of whom will serve as the first-ever Small Enterprise ombudsperson. We all agree that the small business sector is a cornerstone of the government's strategy to combat unemployment, with National Development Plan targeting 11 million jobs by 2030. Furthermore, we also know that small enterprises are navigating a sea of bureaucratic hurdles, unstable economic conditions and growing

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administrative challenges. Overcoming these struggles requires shifting focus from immediate setbacks to building resilient business systems and refining strategies based on market realities.

Historically, small enterprises in South Africa lacked a dedicated champion to help them navigate disputes with entities that had far greater legal budgets. At the moment, the country has one of the highest micro, small, and medium enterprises, MSME, failure rate with estimate showing that 70% to 80% of small businesses collapse within their first five years of operation. Several studies indicate that the primary drivers for this high casualty rate are deeply tied to the country's specific economic and institutional climate with major compounding factors being the lack of funding, access to markets, regulatory and operational burdens, as well as absence of institutional support with legal authority.

A high volume of MSMEs complain that the length of our deaths on a weekly and sometimes daily basis indicates systemic market failures like anti-competitive corporate practices, e.g late payments, unfair supplier selection and structural bottlenecks. This requires policy interventions and regulatory enforcement. The establishment of the Office of Small

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Enterprise Ombud Service is a critical milestone aimed at protecting the MSME sector and providing affordable alternative dispute resolution to tackle unfair contracts and resolve late or non-payments without the need for expensive litigation. The ombudsman is specifically empowered to mediate disputes such as late payments and unfair contracts between small enterprises, large corporations and government bodies and ensure fair and swift resolutions without expensive litigation.

We have no doubt that the ombudsman will crack many foundational challenges that have historically crippled MSMEs in several ways. It will serve as a buffer, guarantee the survival, expansion and growth of MSMEs by shielding them from unjust contract terms, late payments and cash flow bottlenecks. The processes have been tedious, complicated and not without difficulties.

However, collectively and in the greatest interest of the sector, we have been able to reach an agreement on the best course of action. Of course, the process does not end here, but with the Minister making an appointment, the committee will continue to monitor if subsequent processes follow the

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legal framework as set out in section 17(f) of the National Small Enterprise Amendment Act. I thank you.

Declarations of vote:

Sepedi:

Moh M C MAFAGANE: Ke le dumediša kamoka. Pego ye e boa la bobedi mo Palamenteng. E boago la bobedi mo Palamenteng, batho bao e lego gore ba a tlaišega ke borakgwebo ba gaborena, setšhaba sa gaborena, le batho bao ba sa kgonego go fihlelela boramolao gore ba ba emele mathateng a bona kamoka a tša kgwebo. Re tliša pego ye go wena Tona gore o kgone go kgetha motho yoo a nago le seriti, wa go tshephega, yoo a tlogo ema thwii, a sa tšhabe selo. Ke bolela ka tsela ye ka gobane makgowa a na le tšhelete, ebile a kgona go šala motho morago ka molato go fihlela a se sa na selo.

Ka pego ye re rnyaka gore batho ba gaborena ba se ke ba hlwa ba tlaišega, go be le mošireletši wa dikgwebopotlana, moo ba tla tšhabelago gona ge ba na le mathata. Re nyaka motho wa go hlomphega, Tona. Ga re nyake motho yoo a nago le dikamano, yoo a hwetšago mošomo wo ka gore a tsebja ke mang le mang. Re nyaka tshepedišo ye le wena Tona o e tšee ka mokgwa wo re e tšeerego ka gona re le komiti. Re kgonne go hwetša batho ba bane bao re bonago ba loketšwe ke sekgoba se sa mošomo. Seo se

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re swabišago, ebile se tlilego go re swabiša ka moka re le MaAfrika Borwa ke gore batho ba bomme ga ba gona. Ke mme o tee fela. Bjale, re nyaka le šetše bomme gore le bona ba kgone go ba karolo ye ya mošireletši ka ge e tlile go thoma mathomong ka Kgoro ye ya Tlhabollo ya Dikgwebopotlana. Re nyaka motho yoo a tlilego go rata setšhaba ge a šoma le sona. Re nyaka a mohlanka, ga re nyake ...

English:

... a politically connected friend, Minister. So, for many years, small businesses have led affordable and efficient avenue for justice. Taking disputes to court is often costly and time consuming. The ombudsman will therefore play a critical role in providing accessible dispute resolution and ensuring a fairer business environment for micro, small and medium enterprise. The portfolio committee undertook this process, as I mentioned earlier, for the benefit ...

Sepedi:

... ya bale ba sa ithutego maleme a rena.

English:

It came through to the committee. It went back. It came through to this Parliament and then it went back to the

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committee to be refined. The portfolio committee undertook a transparent and throughout recruitment process. Public nominations were invited across the country. Applications were scrutinised, qualified, verified and interviews were conducted in a structured and fair manner. Out of the 26 applicants, eight highly qualified candidates were shortlisted and interviewed.

While the committee is satisfied with the quality of the recommended candidate, it also highlighted a concern regarding representation. Although women constitute the majority of the shortlisted candidates, only one woman was among the final recommended. The committee, therefore, encouraged consideration of gender representation in the future appointment and also particularly for the position of deputy ... [Time expired.]

Ms B MATHULELWA: The commander-in-chief, commissars and fighters, entrepreneurs in South Africa and fellow South Africans. Chairperson, the EFF strongly condemns the unfair and non-transparent process followed in the appointment of the Small Enterprise ombudsperson. Along with the resulting report, which fails to uphold the principles of integrity, accountability and fairness, section 59 of the Constitution

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requires the National Assembly to conduct its businesses in an open manner. The committee report does not accurately reflect the proceedings and the outcomes of the interview process. Furthermore, the agreed-upon procedure was not adhered to during the process, raising concerns about the integrity and fairness of the process.

It was agreed that the interviews would be streamed live. A Zoom link was shared with us, and we were informed that it was intended for the live broadcasting of this proceeding. During the interviews, we enquired whether the session was indeed being broadcasted and we were assured that it was. However, this did not happen, and the interviews were not televised as promised. During the following day's deliberations, we were once again told that the meeting was being streamed live. However, this turned out to be false. The deliberate lack of transparency appears to be an attempt to conceal the imposition of a questionable individual into office.

Therefore, it undermines the integrity and the purpose of the entire interview process. The majority of the shortlisted applicants were women. As such, we proposed that only the one name of Advocate Nevondwe Lufuno Tokyo, the highest-scoring candidate, be submitted alone to the Minister. This will

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preserve the integrity and credibility of the interview process and prevent further tampering. We are here to serve the people of this country, not narrow political interests.

All interviewed candidates serve to publicly see their performance as part of the transparency. Hiding interviews and deliberations renders these interviews neither free or fair. We wrote to the Speaker of Parliament and the Chair of Chairs about these unfair proceedings, despite confirmation by the portfolio secretary that he is in possession of the relevant proceedings. These have not yet been published. It is imperative that the proceedings be published without further delay to uphold the integrity of the institution's addresses. Therefore, for the sake of these entrepreneurs, we are going to support this report.

Mr B N LUTHULI: The IFP re-emphasises its unwavering commitment to absolute administrative justice, strict co-operative service and preservation of the role of law within our public institutions. A foundational pillar in a high-level public appointment must be open, transparent processes. It is, therefore, regret that the initial interview phase lacked public live streaming.

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Furthermore, the absence of the normal security vetting and independent credit verification of the stage remains a concern, while the knowledge of the comprehensive academic check was successfully completed. Screening through the State Security Agency, data credit assessment should have been conducted sooner to prevent any institutional risk. Moving forward, the IFP accepts the report but remains that there is an essential section of credit checks that can and absolutely must still be conducted before any final appointment is solidified by the executive. I thank you.

Dr W J BOSHOFF: House Chair, an ombud for small business is an excellent idea. It is sensible to have legal processes outside the formal system, making it easier for less well-resourced entities to assert their position, especially when dealing with very large and well-funded business partners. However, the report highlights everything that is wrong with the South African environment for small businesses.

It has been two years since the law was passed; it took one year to decide to begin the process and another year to implement it. As the report states, the process went to great lengths to establish an objective set of questions to be asked of all candidates. The one member who should not have been

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present, as he or she was an alternate member, was included, all in the name of objectivity. Then, when the results emerged, they were not well received.

The dissatisfaction stems from the fact that, although there were five female candidates on the shortlist, only one was among the top four. If the demographic profile of the appointee is the priority, this should be decided in advance, and the objective measures set aside. Simply state that the best female candidate is sought, at least for the deputy post if not for the main position. This entire process makes a mockery of the system. We reject the report. Thank you.

Ms L M NGOBENI: Chairperson, Action SA supports the adoption of this report and the appointment process for the small business ombud. Small businesses are the backbone of South Africa's economy, they create jobs, they drive innovation and sustain families. Yet for far too long, many small enterprises have operated without the protection and recourse that a properly functioning ombuds office is meant to provide. The report before us demonstrates that an extensive process was followed.

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Candidates were interviewed through a structured and standardised process. Legal advice was sought when concerns were raised and the committee revisited the matter after it was referred by the National Assembly. While parties may differ on aspects of the process, the committee has now considered those concerns and compiled with the guidance provided by the Parliamentary Legal Service.

What is concerning for us is the time that has been lost. The initial interviews took place in April 2025. More than a year later, South Africa's small business sector is still waiting for certainty.

During that period, countless entrepreneurs have continued to face disputes, unfair business practices and regulatory challenges without the full benefit of the institution established to assist them. Action SA believes that public institutions must be both credible and efficient. Fair processes matter, but so does timely decision making. Small businesses cannot afford endless delays while Parliament debates procedural issues.

We therefore support the adoption of this report and call on the Minister to ensure that the appointment process is

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finalised without delay so that the ombud can begin serving the entrepreneurs who are working every day to grow our economy and create jobs for our people of South Africa. Thank you.

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: Chair, having served on the interview panel and as a member of the portfolio committee at the time this process took place, I believe it is important to place on record that I, along with other colleagues, raised concerns regarding transparency, procedural compliance, scoring and evaluation processes, and the overall integrity of the appointment process.

We raised these concerns during the process itself, and they formed part of the debate when this report first came before the House. Importantly, those concerns were not initially reflected in the committee's original reports. Nevertheless, they became part of the parliamentary record and were among the issues that informed the House's decision to refer the report back to the committee for further consideration.

The committee has since reconsidered the matter, obtained a legal opinion, and resolved to return the report to the House. I believe we must respect that work and the conclusions

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reached by this committee. The issue before this House is larger than any individual candidate, and I wish to make that clear.

Ultimately, the question is whether the institution we are establishing - whose mandate is based on fairness, impartiality, and public trust - is founded on a process that reflects those same values. At the same time, Parliament's responsibility does not end with the adoption of a report; it extends to learning from the weaknesses revealed by this process and ensuring that future appointment processes are transparent, robust, and beyond reproach.

Having placed our concerns on record and recognising the committee's subsequent reconsideration of the matter, as BOSA we support this, but we wish to state that the ombud who is ultimately appointed must be beyond reproach. The process by which they are appointed should strive to meet the same standard in future. Thank you.

Mr H C C KRÜGER: Chairperson, today we are debating a report that should have been concluded a year ago. On 5 June 2025, the ANC Deputy Chief Whip moved that the Report on the Appointment of the Small Enterprise Ombud be referred to the

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portfolio committee for further consideration and reporting. The House agreed. The obvious question is why? Why would the largest party ask for a report to be referred if there were no concerns about the process?

The answer is simple. Serious concerns had been raised regarding fairness, the procedure and the confidence in the outcome. The Democratic Alliance raised concerns. The EFF raised concerns. The MK party raised concerns. The Freedom Front Plus raised concerns. Those concerns were significant enough to permit further consideration. Yet, what followed was nearly a year of delay.

The Democratic Alliance repeatedly wrote to the chairperson and to the chair of chairs requesting that the matter be brought back before the committee as soon as possible. We repeatedly requested clarity on the way forward. We repeatedly saw the progress, yet there was little urgency. Month after month passed without resolution or the committee even discussing the matter. The same ANC that now argues that the Ombud is urgently needed, allowed this matter to remain unresolved for almost a year.

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Chairperson, when the committee eventually reconvened, members expressed a strong view that all eight candidates should be re-interviewed. Legal advice was therefore sought, but this is where the process once again went wrong. The issue was never the legal opinion, but the ANC's effort to save face after the embarrassing moment when their own Deputy Chief Whip withdrew the report. The terms of reference for the legal advice focused on whether it would be legally permissible to re-interview all eight candidates. The legal advisors themselves recommended that the committee identify and isolate the challenge that rendered the report unacceptable and address the challenge directly or the committee should proceed with the process anew.

Afrikaans:

Die uitdagings van die oorspronlike verslag is nooit aangespreek nie. Daarom is die verslag wat vandag voorgele word geen verskil van die verslag wat in die verlede teruggestuur is nie. Dit het duidelik geen maar geen regwysende uitkoms nie.

English:

The fundamental issue was why the report had been referred back in the first place. What specific concerns had undermined

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confidence in the process? What corrective action was required? Unfortunately, the committee did not address this issue.

Chairperson, the broader lesson from this process is one that South Africans know all too well. When challenges emerge, the ANC delays. When concerns were raised, accountability was postponed. When hard political decisions were required, urgency disappeared. That is why public confidence in the ANC continues to decline.

The Democratic Alliance supports the establishment of the Office of the Small Enterprise Ombud. We believe small businesses deserve protection against unfair treatment. However, public confidence in the institution begins with public confidence in the appointment process. That confidence has not been restored. For that reason, the Democratic Alliance cannot support this report. Our entrepreneurs deserve transparency, accountability and a process that commands public trust. The DA, therefore, rejects the report.

Sepedi:

Mr C N MALEMATJA: Malibongwe!

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English:

House Chair, the Chief Whip, hon members and fellow South Africans, let me start by appreciating the good work demonstrated here by the Leaders of this House. Hon Carol via the House Chair ...

Sepedi:

Re a dumela gore bomme ba hloka go fiwa monyetla. Re dumelelana le lena gore eke Tona ge a hloka motlatši wa gagwe, ka gore ga rena mosadi moo, a lebelele lehlakoreng la basadi. Re a dumela.

English:

We fully agree.

Sepedi:

Re a dumela, ebile re aaleboga.

English:

You know, House Chair, the problem of not attending the meeting and relying on rumours is that you become a rumour monger. FF Plus, you have never set your feet in any of our sittings. You come here, you indirectly tell Mr Krüger that instead of lamenting, just say, can we get the Deputy

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Ombudsman? But you are not telling it directly. That is why he comes here and he gets more confused. You too, you reject something that you were not part of constructing. It is wrong and misleading. ActionSA and Bosa, we thank you so much.

House Chair, allow me to start with this quote from Kwame Nkrumah from his book, *Africa Must Unite*. He says,

The origin of colonisation is nothing less than enterprise of individual interests, a one-sided egotistical imposition of the strong upon the weak, of the bourgeoisie upon the working class, of the apartheid white supremacy upon the black majority.

In this case, hon Krüger, we are tempted to correct that when the report was sent back, it was not merely to go and look at one thing. It was to deal with the report in totality. That is why all the concerns you say were there, were all attended to. The only mistake you made was not to bring your Afrikaans-English dictionary because I only realise now that you are not good in English, you are only good in Afrikaans. So that is why a number of words did not get you cleared. Upon realising the concerns which were not there, it was a question of grammar. The committee said ...

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

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

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (MR W Horn): Hon member, would you be prepared to take a question?

Afrikaans:

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Ek wil hoor of hy 'n vraag sal vat?

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (MR W Horn): Yes, we have that. Ek sal vra [I will ask], sal antwoord [will answer].

Hon member, are you prepared to answer a question?

Afrikaans:

Mnr C N MALEMATJA: Nee.

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (MR W Horn): Thank you, please proceed.

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Mr C N MALEMATJA: The Small Business Ombud provides a critical, alternative dispute resolution mechanism for the sector and reduces the cost of doing business by enabling small, medium and micro enterprises, SMME, to avoid expensive legal fees of contract and late payment, thereby simplifying the business processes for the entity through reducing the cost of doing business.

House Chair, in many meetings that we sat in, those who are today saying that they are rejecting the report ... we're trying by all means to be at the forefront, trying to understand the pain.

IsiZulu:

... yomuntu omnyama, kodwa namhlanje kubonakele impela ukuthi, cha ...

English:

... it's not what we thought of. Mr Krüger does not even know the size of a spaza shop. Mr Krüger does not even understand what it is to be an entrepreneur because

IsiZulu:

... yena ...

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English:

... by birth as ...

IsiZulu:

... isizukulwane sika-Paul Krüger ...

English:

... himself. He only knew that all will be delivered on a silver platter. Unfortunately, in this case ...

IsiZulu:

... sihlangene.

English:

... that is why we have agreed that there is a need for an Ombudsman.

IsiZulu:

Sihlangene sonke ...

English:

... and we agreed ...

IsiZulu:

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... sivumelene ukuthi ngempela akakhethwe anikwe ...

English:

... Minister, do your best and give us an Ombudsman who will stand for the rights of the emerging, who will stand and show the integrity of this department is taken care of. With that, I want to take this opportunity and thank the chairperson and members of the portfolio committee for you have taken so long and been patient in ensuring that you bring a correct and quality product so that South Africans can enjoy the benefit of having an Ombudsman. Thank you so much.

There was no debate.

Question put: That the recommendation for appointment of Adv Lufuno Tokyo Nevondwe, Adv Sonwabile Mancotywa, Adv Lehlohonolo Lucky Rabotapi and Adv Nande Mheshe to the Small Enterprise Ombud be approved.

Question agreed to (Democratic Alliance dissenting).

Recommendation of Adv Lufuno Tokyo Nevondwe, Adv Sonwabile Mancotywa, Adv Lehlohonolo Lucky Rabotapi and Adv Nande Mheshe to the Small Enterprise Ombud accordingly approved in

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accordance with section 17(F) of the National Small Enterprise Amendment Act, Act 21 of 2024.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE ON
DETERMINATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS
OFFINANCIAL AND FISCAL COMMISSION FOR 2025-26 FINANCIAL YEAR**

Dr M J MASWANGANYI: Chairperson, let us first observe the Youth Month before I present this report, where we pay homage to the forbearers of the struggle - those who sacrifice their lives for the freedom that we are enjoying today - Hector Pieterse, Anton Lembede, Peter Mokaba, Josephine Moshobane, and many others. We stand on the ground, watered by their blood, their courage and their conviction.

Coming to the report, which is about the determination of the remuneration of members of the Financial and Fiscal Commission, FFC. On 10 January 2026, President Ramaphosa referred the report to the Speaker of the National Assembly. From there, the Speaker of the National Assembly referred the report to the Standing Committee on Finance. It is about the remuneration of an independent body called the FFC.

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The FFC is an independent advisory body on intergovernmental fiscal relations established in terms of section 220. The FFC is an institution that is the research and development engine of the Standing Committee on Finance, SCOF, a standing committee of Parliament. It interprets the Constitution's broad principles into workable, formidable, researched evidence-based information.

After receiving the report, as the committee, we considered what has been recommended, because the President does not take a decision alone; he is given advice by the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office-Bearers Act, and that commission has considered, amongst others, the salaries, the allowances and the benefits of members of other constitutional institutions, make sure that there is affordability in relation to the responsibilities of the constitutional institution concerned, and the level of expertise and experience required of a member of the constitutional institution concerned.

The commission's recommended a 4,1% salary increment for all members of the public office-bearers including this one of the FFC. The Standing Committee on Finance having considered the determination of the remuneration of the FFC referred to it,

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we approved the President's determination of the remuneration of the members and we move that the report be adopted.

Afrikaans:

Agb Douglas, sal u saamstem, asseblief?

English:

I thank you.

Declarations of vote:

Mr D D D VAN ROOYEN: Chairperson, just as a reminder to the August House, the ideal situation is that the FFC's role must be that of a central advisory body in South Africa's intergovernmental fiscal system. In that process, it is expected to ensure that fiscal decisions are informed by the independent analysis, constitutional principles, and sound financial governance. Now in a functional and developmental state, the commission's work must be instrumental in translating the country's development plan, strategic intent into actionable evidence-based fiscal policy.

If our state was functioning properly, the FFC's research and advisory focus should be on what needs to be done to accelerate inclusive and sustainable economic growth that

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benefits all, and how to reduce poverty and target the high cost of living. But the reality is, since its inception, the FFC had generated a plethora of recommendations.

Now, the question that we should be posing as public representative is, what happened to those recommendations? The answer is very, very conspicuously in front of all of us – a demonstration through the harsh realities faced by our people on their daily basis.

MK is more concerned about what we call the FFC's ignored advice. Despite its warning on the rising debt service cost and the need for a more transparent debt management plan, National Treasury's loan acquisition trend continues to be on steroids.

Our support for the recommended remuneration should not be viewed in isolation to our call on strengthening the internal capacity of FFC and investing into robust implementation tracking mechanism, which will allow the FFC to monitor the uptake and influence of its advisory outputs, which will generate actionable feedback that informs future refinements, and reinforces the commission's role as a dynamic learning institution.

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As the MK party, we are extremely concerned that the FFC remains a small institution with a very large constitutional mandate expected to serve all the three spheres of government. As at 31 of March last year, the commission had 51 approved posts, but only 18 posts were filled, leaving 30 vacant posts.

Even more concerning is the situation in the research programme, which is in an engine room of the commission. In that programme, 32 posts were approved, but only 10 were filled. Now it is very clear that there is no commitment to getting it functional.

As the MK party, we support this particular report, but of course, we call on South Africans to go out in their numbers to register to vote for the MK party. It is the only party that will ensure that the country's wealth will be taken from the few hands who are currently owning and distribute this accordingly to fund crucial institutions like the FFC. Hence, it is important for us to talk about the remuneration, not in isolation, but as part of strengthening FFC as a capaciator. [Time expired.]

Ms O M C MAOTWE: House Chair, the Financial and Fiscal Commission is one of those institutions that forms part of the

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problem in how we process budgets as a country and as Parliament. The Constitution gives the FFC ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Maotwe, my apologies. Just pause for a moment. Hon members in the House, if you are not interested to hear what the hon Maotwe is saying, I am. So those who want to have conversations, please make use of the tearoom.

Ms O M C MAOTWE: Chair, the Constitution gives the FFC a very specific mandate, powers and privileges that many institutions do not enjoy. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land and only those institutions that are foundational to our democracy receive direct constitutional recognition. For more than a decade, we have raised concerns about the equitable share formula and the manner in which resources are distributed across the spheres of government.

Section 214 of the Constitution is clear that the Financial and Fiscal Commission must be consulted in determining equitable share allocations. More importantly, the Constitution requires that its recommendations be taken into account. This means that its recommendations are not supposed to be ignored or treated as a box-ticking exercise. There must

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be meaningful engagement with the advice provided by the commission.

Yet, despite this constitutional responsibility, we continue to face the same structural problems year after year. Municipalities remain underfunded. Service delivery continues to deteriorate. Communities are expected to survive with inadequate resources. The question that must be asked is, where is the influence of the FFC in changing this trajectory?

While we do not dispute that the salaries of commissioners may warrant adjustment from time to time, it is their contribution that concerns us. It is the value they bring that we are struggling to see. Their failure to play a central role in influencing Parliament, asserting their constitutional independence, and providing robust alternatives to the prevailing fiscal orthodoxy, makes it difficult for us to support these increases without reservation.

Far too often, the FFC appears to behave like a research desk for the National Treasury and the Standing Committee on Finance, rather than an independent constitutional institution established to provide objective and fearless advice on fiscal matters.

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What South Africa needs is an FFC established in terms of section 220 of the Constitution that is genuinely independent and subject only to the Constitution and the law of this country. We need a commission that is willing to challenge bad policy, defend the interests of communities, and place the constitutional equitable development above bureaucratic convenience.

The revolving door between the FFC and the National Treasury, including among commissioners themselves, may very well be at the root of this problem. It may explain why this institution has failed to play the crucial role envisioned for it by the Constitution, while public finances deteriorate and poor service delivery continues unchecked in our communities. For these reasons, and many others, we cannot support this report. I thank you.

Mr N M HADEBE: House Chairperson, the IFP supports the determination of remuneration for members of the Financial and Fiscal Commission, FFC. The role of the commission is central to advancing development across the state. The government needs to allocate resources to improve service delivery and support inclusive growth. To do so, it needs sound, evidence-based fiscal advice to aid failing municipalities,

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infrastructure backlogs and uneven provincial capacity. This is aligned with the IFP's commitment to a capable, ethical and developmental state where institutions are properly resourced and held to high standards of accountability.

But, at the same time, remuneration must always be matched with performance and impact. The commission must continue to ensure that its work translates into better fiscal outcomes, and a more effective use of public resources, to address poverty, inequality and unemployment. The IFP supports this report because a fair and responsible remuneration process strengthens institutional independence. However, the quality of advice and the impact on public finances will determine whether these institutions deliver for the people of South Africa. I thank you.

Mr M V DANIELS: House Chairperson, I rise on behalf of the PA to declare our support for the President's determination on the remuneration of public office bearers for the 2025-26 financial year. Now let me be clear: fair pay is not a luxury; it is a necessity. Public office bearers and members of independent constitutional institutions carry an enormous responsibility. They safeguard our democracy, manage public funds, and provide critical oversight. So, if we want

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competent, ethical, and dedicated people in these roles, we must pay them fairly.

Underpaying public servants does not save money at all; it only drives talent away. So, this determination is fiscally responsible. Yes, South Africa does face economic challenges, but the Standing Committee on Finance has reviewed this determination and found it to be measured and appropriate. It is not about lavish increases; it's about stability, fairness, and respect for those who serve the nation. We must protect the independence of constitutional institutions. These institutions must be insulated from political games. As it's playing out before us, there are parties who don't understand the importance of the roles of public office bearers. They are the backbone of running our country. And it's on the strength and basis of that, the PA supports this determination without any doubt, without any fear, favour, but because of pure fairness in doing so. Thank you.

Mr W W WESSELS: No declaration. Thank you, Chair.

Mr A D BEESLEY: House Chair, Action SA supports the 4,1% increase for the Financial and Fiscal Commission as it is broadly in line with inflation. However, we remain deeply

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concerned about the size and cost of our government, which continues to be bloated, driven in part by one of the largest Cabinets in the world. South Africa must begin to meaningfully reduce the size and cost of the government, and that process must start with the executive.

That is why Action SA has introduced the Enhanced Cut Cabinet Perks Bill, which will end the President's unilateral power to amend the Ministerial Handbook without oversight, require all changes to be reviewed by the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers, taking into account prevailing economic conditions, mandate full accountability to Parliament, compelling the President to report all amendments to the National Assembly, ensure transparency through the publication of any changes on the President's official website within 30 days, and require a full parliamentary review of all Cabinet and Presidential Perks immediately and every five years thereafter. As part of Action SA's broader Cabinet reform agenda, R1,5 billion could be saved per year by cutting wasteful expenditure at the top of the executive. Reducing the size and cost of the government must start with the executive, as opposed to important organisations like the FFC. I thank you.

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Mr S N SWART: No declaration, thank you, Chair.

Ms C T NONTENJA: No declaration; we support.

Ms N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: No declaration, thank you, Chair.

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Thank you, Chair. No declaration.

The MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM: No declaration, hon Chair.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Thank you, Chairperson, no declaration.

Dr M J BURKE: House Chairperson, approved by the National Assembly. Those five words in the Financial and Fiscal Commission Act are what bring us here today. For economists and other staff at the FFC to get a 4,1% increase, this House has to pass a resolution that agrees to it, and if there's no resolution, there's no pay increase. Towards the end of a long day, one could be forgiven for whispering on these benches that it might be overkill for us to spend close to an hour debating the salary increases of one entity.

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That is, until you consider the following: media reports indicate that we're spending more than R580 million on the CEO salaries of our state-owned enterprises. Now, that's more than the entire budget of the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. But what's more, it would take more than 2 900 MK Party Chief Whips to raise that funding from their researchers. You see, in South Africa, we pay people a lot to do very little. And unlike what's happening today with the FFC pay hikes, Parliament's direct approval for how we pay our state-owned enterprises, SOEs, staff is not required. And unfortunately, this lack of control is often abused. Just last month, this House found that an administrator who was meant to fix the Construction, Education and Training Authority created a R3 million a year salary package without asking for permission from the Minister of Higher Education, much less asking for permission from this House. So, I welcome that for once this House is required to debate and then either pass or reject the resolution to increase state salaries. We should do this more often. For a change, we have a choice. And the FFC seems to be a reasonably well-run organisation by South African government standards.

But if it was one of our many failing institutions with terrible audit outcomes, we could choose to reject its salary

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increases. If we decided in this House that we simply had to spend that money elsewhere, this House could make that choice. And that's the point. This House is not meant to be a mere notice board. It is meant to be a check on power. A method to stop runaway salaries for failing institutions. So not only do I welcome this choice, but I'd urge the members of this House to make sure that our laws are written in such a way that our SOEs have to ask this House to pass a resolution before increasing their salaries. And perhaps if we did that, our fat cats would be a little thinner. And perhaps by us working a little bit later this evening, we could start a conversation for some of our SOE CEOs to work at all. Thank you.

Ms L S MAKHUBELA: Good evening, hon House Chairperson, hon members, the ANC supports the 4,1% salary increment for the commissioners of the Financial and Fiscal Commission who fall under the category of public office bearers governed by the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act. The commissioners of the Financial and Fiscal Commission are a critical part of our mandate to make recommendations to Parliament, provincial legislatures and organised local government and other organs of state on the financial and fiscal matters as envisaged in the Constitution and other national legislation.

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The Standing Committee on Finance and the Standing Committee on Appropriations are the key parliamentary committees that receive input from the FFC in processing money Bills. The provisions of an independent analysis on the budget cycle are a critical aspect to enhance decision-making by Parliament. The FFC not only advises Parliament, but also the executive in ensuring that decisions taken by the National Treasury are within constitutional provisions. Our country has been experiencing the adverse effects of high cost of living and credit, which has significantly increased the debt, servicing costs and other debt positions as a country. Multiple factors contribute to this financial fiscal situation, which also deepens the capacity of the government to increase public investment. The Financial and Fiscal Commission has continuously raised alarm bells on aspects that weaken our fiscal position and further makes recommendations which contribute to shaping the fiscal policy of South Africa. South Africa's fiscal trajectory is now on a sustainable path as the cost of debt is decreasing and the government is achieving a primary budget surplus.

Economic growth is also rebounding, and more work has to be done to place the economy on a higher growth trajectory. The implementation of Operation Vulindlela will contribute to

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strengthening the network industries, which are enablers for economic growth. Today we have resolved issues of load shedding; we are restoring commuter rail routes; we are increasing our investment in water infrastructure. The FFC has recognised the improving macroeconomic context and the impact of structural reforms to enhance the competitiveness of the economy of South Africa. Our efforts as Parliament should not only be on achieving growth but should also be focusing on job creation. Our national Budget should contribute to creating and stimulating job creation in a targeted manner. The commissioners of the FFC are technical specialists with the knowledge and experience to provide the required empirical evidence to advise the executive and Parliament. As we celebrate 30 years of our Constitution, we should celebrate the role played by the FFC.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, please just take your seat for a moment. Why do you want to be recognised, hon Van Rooyen?

Mr D D D VAN ROOYEN: Chairperson, on a point of order: I am rising on Rule 84. I think the member is misleading the House and, of course, inadvertently misleading the nation. The debt service costs of our country are not decreasing.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon Van Rooyen.
That is not a point of order. It is a point of debate.

Mr D D D VAN ROOYEN: But that is wrong. It is not a fact.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): It is a point of debate.
[Interjections.] Hon members on the virtual platform, none of
you have been recognised. Please remain muted until you are
recognised. Hon member at the back, why do you want to be
recognised?

IsiZulu:

Mnu T I GAMEDE: Sihlalo, ephuzwini lokukhalima okuphambukayo:
Ngiphakama ngokuthi namhlanje akasiye usihlalo, ...

English:

... you are the Chairperson. You are the one driving this
House.

IsiZulu:

Le nto ayenzayo ayilungile. [Ubuwelewele.] Iphuzu lokukhalima
okuphambukayo lelo.

English:

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No, thank you. I don't know whether you have noted, but I've asked the member not to engage until I make a ruling.

IsiZulu:

Mnu T I GAMEDE: Engithi bengiphakamisile ekuqaleni ...
[Ubuwelewele.] ...

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No, thank you. Please, take your seat.

Mr T I GAMEDE: Thank you, as long as you have noted the point of order. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order! Hon member, I have asked you to take a seat.

AN HON MEMBER: Hon Douglas, take charge of the MK Party!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, please continue.

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Ms L S MAKHUBELA: Thank you, hon House Chairperson. Hon Van Rooyen, that is a point of debate. You had an opportunity to come here and state your facts. Allow me to conclude by saying, ... in strengthening our democracy and preserving the constitutional principles. The ANC recognises that the cost of living has increased and many services used by citizens are high, and the salary increment will help mitigate the effects of inflation. The work done by these commissioners is invaluable, and we support the increment to enhance the living conditions of these commissioners. We will continue to support the work of the FFC as it extends its eyes and ears and voice to ensure that the finances of our government and economy are on a sound path and a sound trajectory. The ANC supports this increment. Thank you, hon members.

Report adopted and Determination by the President of remuneration of members of the Financial and Fiscal Commission for 2025-26 financial year accordingly approved (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, YOUTH
AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ON DETERMINATION BY THE
PRESIDENT OF REMUNERATION OF COMMISSIONERS OF COMMISSION FOR
GENDER EQUALITY FOR 2025-26 FINANCIAL YEAR.**

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Ms L L VAN DER MERWE: A very good evening, hon members, let me also take the opportunity to greet the members of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and all South Africans that are following us this evening. Let me also start by observing South African Youth Month, also recognising that together we must do more to end South Africa's unemployment crisis.

Chair, on 10 January 2026, the President of the Republic sent a request to the National Assembly referred to the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities on 25 March 2026 to consider the draft notice of the determination of the salaries and allowances of members of various institutions, including the Commission for Gender Equality.

On 21 April 2026, the request was tabled before our portfolio committee for consideration. Chair, despite gains and successes, gender equality in South Africa remains an unfinished business. Women and girls continue to bear the brunt of gender-based violence. Women remain disproportionately concentrated in lower-level and informal employment. Women carry the lion's share of unpaid care work. It is the girl child that misses school because they lack

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sanitary dignity, and it's the girl child that drops out of school because of our pervasive statutory rape crisis.

Interventions to transform harmful gender norms while promising are often limited and under-resourced. Even though gender-based violence and femicide has been declared a national disaster and our national strategic plan against gender-based violence and femicide has been rolled out, clearly our good intentions, words and policies alone are not enough. In this context, an institution such as the Commission for Gender Equality is so vital.

The CGE must monitor, research, investigate, litigate, advocate and convene across sectors to ensure that our constitutional commitments to gender equality are translated into real lived change. For the CGE to fulfil its mandate, it must be adequately resourced, both financially and in human capacity. The President therefore has asked this House to consider the recommended increase of 4,1% for the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson, and Commissioners of the CGE.

The portfolio committee agreed, yes, to support the recommendations, mindful of our country's fiscal constraints. However, Chair, the Portfolio Committee has often said that

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our investment in the Commission for Gender Equality must translate into a more visible, and stronger CGE. We believe that this investment into the leadership of the CGE must not only be counted in the pages of their research reports, but it must be counted in real, measurable progress towards true and meaningful gender equality.

I hereby table this report to the House for your support and recommendation, for your consideration and support ...

Afrikaans:

... so ek hoop dat agb lede asseblief vir die verslag sal stem. Baie dankie. [... so I hope that hon members will please vote in favour of the report. Thank you very much.]

Declarations of vote:

Ms S I NKOSI: Hon Chairperson, the Mkhonto-weSizwe Party rejects this report unequivocally. We cannot in good conscience support recommendations for remuneration increases for public office bearers, while millions of South Africans continue to endure poverty, unemployment, inequality and hunger. Every day, mothers are forced to choose between paying for transport, electricity, or food and communities continue to live without reliable water, functioning health care

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facilities, adequate housing and basic safety, and young graduates carry qualifications but find no opportunities.

Yet, this Parliament is asked to approve salary increases for those already occupying positions of privilege and authority. Hon Chairperson, this is a complete disconnect from the lived realities of ordinary South Africans. Youth unemployment is a national crisis. Economic growth, sluggish investor confidence, fragile and millions of households are experiencing severe cost of living crisis. In any organisation facing financial pressure, responsible leadership begins by prioritising performance, efficiency and service delivery. Before considering increases in executive remuneration, the same principle must apply in this House.

Good governance requires that remuneration is linked to measurable outcomes, to accountability and demonstrated impact. It cannot be divorced from the performance nor from the socioeconomic realities facing this nation. We are constantly told there is no money to adequately support pensioners, persons living with disabilities, and vulnerable households or to meaningfully expand youth development programmes. But somehow, there is always money when

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politicians, commissioners and public office bearers are due to receive salary increases.

The MK Party rises today to reject this double standard. Before this House considers any remuneration increase, we must ask the fundamental question: What measurable impact have these institutions made in improving the lives of the people they were established to serve? What tangible difference has the Commission for Gender Equality made in the lives of poor women in villages, townships, informal settlements, and rural communities? Women continue to face violence, abuse and discrimination, gender-based violence, a national crisis, children continue to suffer abuse and exploitation, and far too many victims are still denied justice and protection.

The painful reality is that South Africans continue to witness these challenges despite the existence of institutions mandated to address these issues. Chairperson, public confidence, and democratic institutions, are built on outcomes, not intentions. Parliament has the duty to ask a very difficult question before approving additional expenditure.

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Leadership demands more than authority. It demands example and during periods of national hardship, leaders must demonstrate solidarity with the people they represent. Parliament must show restraint, discipline, and commitment to directing scarce public resources towards the urgent needs of society. We must take a mandate from the people. At this moment, South Africans are not demanding higher salaries for public officials.

IsiZulu:

Abantu badinga imisebenzi, amanzi, ugesi nomasipala abasebenzayo nesithunzi.

English:

Hon members, we cannot prioritise the interests of the elites while ignoring the cries of the people. For these reasons, the Mkhonto weSizwe Party firmly rejects this report and calls for freezing on all remuneration increases for public office bearers until meaningful improvements are achieved in the living conditions of ordinary South Africans and until measurable performance outcomes can justify such increases. The people of South Africa deserve a government that places them before themselves.

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Young people, the time has come now to shine. Let's shock the GNU again. Register to vote for Mkhonto weSizwe on the 4th of November 2026.

IsiZulu:

Gwaza Mkhonto!

Mr B MATHULELWA: Chairperson, the Economic Freedom Fighters support this report and the proposed determination relating to the remuneration of the members of the Commission for Gender Equality. We do so because the Commission for Gender Equality is not an ordinary institution. It is a Chapter 9 institution established by our Constitution to protect, promote and advance gender equality in South Africa. In a country where women continue to experience violence, discrimination, poverty, and exclusion, institutions mandated to defend their rights must be properly capacitated to fulfil their constitutional responsibilities.

Chairperson, our support for this report should not be mistaken for satisfaction with the state of gender equality in South Africa. The reality is that millions of women remain trapped in poverty. Women continue to bear the burden of unemployment, particularly young women. Women continue to

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experience unacceptable levels of gender-based violence and femicide. Women in rural communities continue to face barriers to land ownership, economic participation and access to quality public service.

The EFF maintains that the struggle for gender equality cannot be separated from the struggle for economic justice. Political rights alone are insufficient in women remaining economically marginalised and excluded from ownership of the wealth of this country. For that reason, while we support the remuneration determination before us, we also call for greater accountability from all constitutional institutions. South Africans must see tangible outcomes for the work of these institutions. Reports, recommendations and investigations must translate into meaningful improvements in the lives of ordinary women.

The Commission on Gender Equality must continue to strengthen its oversight work, improve accessibility to communities and ensure that women in villages and farms and informal settlements know where to seek assistance when their rights are violated.

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Chairperson, we are further concerned by the delays in the processing and the finalisation of remuneration determinations. Parliamentary oversight processes must be conducted efficiently and transparently. Delays are determined uncertainly and do not contribute to good governance.

As the EFF, we will continue to fight for South Africa, where women enjoy genuine social, political and economic freedom, where women have equal access to land, education, health care, employment opportunities, and where constitutional rights are reflected in the material conditions of the people.

Chairperson, strong institutions are important, but strong institutions must also produce results. Our support for this report therefore goes hand in hand with our expectations that the Commission on Gender Equality will ... [Interjections.] Once interested, vote for the EFF on 4 November. Thank you.

Ms B E MACHI: Hon House Chairperson, the IFP supports the determination of remuneration for members of the Financial and Fiscal Commission. The role of the commission is central to advancing development across the state. The government needs to allocate the resources to improve service delivery and support inclusive growth. To do so, it needs sound evidence-

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based fiscal advice to aid failing municipality, infrastructure backlogs, and uneven provisional capacity.

This is aligned with the IFP commitment to a capable, ethical, and a developmental state where institutions are properly resourced and held to high standards of accountability. At the same time, remuneration must always be matched by performance and impact. The commission must continue to ensure that its work translates into better fiscal outcomes and more effective use of public resources to address poverty, inequality, and unemployment.

The IFP supports this report because a fair and responsible remuneration process strengthen institutional independence. However, the quality of advance and the impact of the public finances will determine whether these institutions deliver for the people of South Africa. I thank you, hon House Chairperson. The IFP supports.

Ms J S PETERSEN: House Chair, hon members, members of the public, the PA supports this determination. Public office bearers carry significant responsibilities and should be fairly compensated for the work they do. However, our support must not be mistaken for complacency. While we debate salaries

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in this House, millions of South Africans continue to wait for the dignity and opportunities they were promised. Women are still victims of violence with nowhere to turn. Young people remain trapped in unemployment. Persons with disabilities continue to face barriers that prevent them from participating fully in society.

Remuneration must go hand in hand with accountability. The question is not only what public representatives earn, but what the public receives in return. Are communities safer? Are more jobs being created? Are services reaching those who need them the most? And are we improving the lives of the people who send us here?

The PA believes that South Africans deserve public representatives who deliver, not merely occupy positions. So yes, we support this determination, but we call for greater accountability, greater urgency, and greater commitment to the people of this country. To the women, the youth, and persons with disabilities of South Africa, the PA sees your struggles, hears your concerns, and will continue to fight for meaning change. Thank you.

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

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Mr W W WESSELS: Hon House Chairperson, no declaration from us.

Mr A D BEESLEY: House Chair, ActionSA supports a 4,1% increase for the Commission on Gender Equality, as it is broadly in line with inflation. However, we remain deeply concerned about the size and cost of our bloated, top-heavy government with one of the largest Cabinets in the world - 32 Ministers and 43 Deputy Ministers. Ask a single South African the name of any Deputy Minister and what they do, and you'll be met with a blank stare. This is why ActionSA has introduced the 23rd Constitutional Amendment Bill which abolishes the role of Deputy Ministers entirely, saving South Africans billions. These roles are redundant and have no meaningful function in governance beyond rewarding political allies.

Secondly; mandates parliamentary vetting of all Cabinet appointments. Gone are the days of late night reshuffles and recycled appointments without transparency or oversight. Thirdly; enables the National Assembly to remove Ministers through a motion of no confidence. If the President won't act, Parliament now can, a crucial step to enforcing accountability.

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As stated earlier, as part of ActionSA's broader Cabinet reform agenda, 1,5 billion could be saved per year by cutting wasteful expenditure at the top of the executive. This is where we should start. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): The ACDP?

Mr S N SWART: No declaration. Thank you, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): The UDM?

Ms C T NONTENJA: No declaration. Thank you, Chair

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Bosa?

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: No declaration.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Al Jama-ah?

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Thank you, hon House Chairperson. No declaration.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): UAT?

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Dr L W MAHLATSI: Thank you, Chairperson. No declaration.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): The DA?

Ms T A KHANYILE: Good evening, House Chairperson and hon members. It looks like the opposition parties, they are hellbent on rejecting all the inputs in this House without offering any alternatives. With that being said, the MK member that spoke today is not even a member of the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, whereas the real members that are delegated in this portfolio committee, they did not object to this report. It looks like they're using this opportunity for grandstanding purposes and that is unacceptable.

With that being said, while we acknowledge that more still needs to be done to realize the issue of gender equality, we also understand that the issue of statutory rape also needs more attention as our young girls are often violated and it looks like there isn't people that are actually willing to report those cases to ensure that the perpetrators end up where they belong.

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We wish to also state that the determination is consistent with section 219 of subsection 5 of the Constitution and the provisions of the dissemination of remuneration of office bearers of Independent Constitutional Institutional Laws Amendment Act 22 of 2014, which provide the framework for determining the remuneration of office bearers of Chapter 9 institutions.

The Commission for Gender Equality is a Chapter 9 institution mandated to strengthen constitutional democracy and promote gender equality. Appropriate remuneration contributes to safeguarding the institution's independence, dignity, and effectiveness. The proposed adjustment is based on recommendations made by the independent commission for the remuneration of public office bearers after considering relevant factors, including responsibilities of office bearers, affordability, prevailing economic conditions, inflation, and the fiscal position of the state.

The recommended 4,1% increase for chairpersons, deputy chairs, and commissioners will assist in mitigating the impact of inflation and rising living costs, ensuring that remuneration remains fair and reasonable. Competitive remuneration is necessary to attract and retain suitably

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qualified and experienced individuals who can effectively discharge the responsibilities entrusted to members of the commission for gender equality.

The proposed adjustment promotes consistency and equity in the remuneration of public office bearers and aligns with adjustments recommended for other independent constitutional institutions. The committee, having considered the draft notice of the President's dissemination of the salaries and allowances of members of the Commission for Gender Equality, recommends that the National Assembly approve the determination as submitted by the President.

The committee further requests the executive to ensure that any further adjustments are tabled sufficiently in advance of the end of the financial year to allow proper parliamentary processing and to avoid the retrospective application. I thank you, Chair. We support the report.

Mr N T TSHOTETSI: House Chairperson, ... [Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Maybe it's a voice on my end you heard hon member. Please continue.

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Mr N T TSHOTETSI: That voice has chowed my four seconds. House Chair, I must inform you before I get into the declaration that in the past weekend the secretary general of the ANC addressed masses in KwaZulu-Natal, in eThekwin, who most of which have declared their regret of what they did on the 29 May and vowed not again to repeat that mistake on the 4 November. They are going to vote for the ANC.

As the ANC, we rise to support the determination by the President of the Republic regarding the remuneration of the public office bearers, including independent constitutional institutions for the 2025-26 financial year. It is crucial that we recognize that public office bearers occupy the positions that are significant in our constitutional democracy. The work that they do in their respective institutions underpins the functioning of our democratic institutions, service delivery, and the protection of the rights of our people as outlined in the Constitution.

The determination before this House seeks to strike an appropriate balance between ensuring a fair remuneration and maintaining fiscal prudence in the constrained economic environment. As the ANC, we support this determination because

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it reflects a measured and responsible approach to remuneration.

At a time when South Africa continues to confront economic challenges, rising cost of living and increasing demands on public resources, government ought to demonstrate a commitment to responsible expenditure while ensuring that those entrusted with public responsibilities are compensated fairly and in line with the recommendations of the Independent Commission for Remuneration of Public Office Bearers.

The ANC is particularly mindful of the impact of this determination on members of the independent constitutional institutions, including the Commission for Gender Equality. The Commission for Gender Equality is a vital Chapter 9 institution mandated to promote, protect, monitor and evaluate gender equality in our society. Its work remains indispensable in confronting persistent gender inequalities advancing women's empowerment and monitoring the implementation of the constitutional and legislative obligation across the state.

The commission operates within challenging environment characterized by high levels of gender-based violence and femicide, economic exclusion of women and continuing

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discrimination against vulnerable groups. It is therefore important that members of the commission are afforded remuneration that reflects significance of their constitutional responsibilities and enables the institution to attract and retain suitable, qualified and experienced individuals.

Our support for this determination must also be understood within the broader context of strengthening democratic governance. Independent constitutional institutions play a critical role in safeguarding democracy, promoting human rights, and holding the state accountable. Their effectiveness depends - not only on the legislative and financial support - but also on ensuring that their leadership and members are appropriately recognized and remunerated.

The ANC has consistently maintained that remuneration determinations should be informed by principles of fairness, transparency, sustainability and affordability. We therefore welcome the balanced approach adopted in this determination which considers prevailing economic conditions while ensuring the continued functionality and stability of our constitutional institutions.

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The ANC notes the rejection that came from people – who since their problem with the IEC – are punishing all Chapter 9 institutions of our country. We don't know what is it that that the IEC has done to the MK, but we say that the Commission of Gender Equality must not be punished for that. In that regard, we welcome and support the report. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY: House Chair, we move that we adopt the report. Thank you.

Question put.

Report adopted and Determination by the President of remuneration of commissioners of Commission for Gender Equality for 2025-26 financial year accordingly approved (uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

**DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
SETTLEMENTS ON STUDY TOUR TO BRAZIL FROM 2 TO 6 MARCH 2026**

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W HORN): Hon members, I wish to remind you that this matter was debated in a virtual mini plenary last Friday, on 5 June. In terms of our Rules, the

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decision on it can only be taken in a full plenary. This is also the case for the decisions that are to follow in respect of the 8th to the 12th Orders.

There was no debate.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY moved:
That the Report be adopted.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

Report accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON STUDY TOUR TO UNITED KINGDOM FROM 23 -
28 MARCH 2026

There was no debate.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY moved:
That the Report be adopted.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

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Report accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party
dissenting).

**DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO KWAZULU-NATAL
PROVINCE, TO SASSA KWAZULU-NATAL AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY REGIONAL OFFICES, SASSA LOCAL OFFICES IN STANGER AND
MANDENI AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUNDED PROJECTS**

There was no debate.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY moved:
That the Report be adopted.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

Report accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party
dissenting).

**DECISION OF QUESTION ON THE REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION ON PARLIAMENTARY
DIPLOMACY MEETING WITH THE EU COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
OVERSIGHT VISIT ON SA MISSIONS IN EUROPE, AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN
EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

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There was no debate.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY moved:

That the Report be adopted.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

Report accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party and United African Transformation dissenting).

**DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
TRADE, INDUSTRY, AND COMPETITION ON PETITION FROM NATIONAL
AFRICAN FEDERATED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

There was no debate.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY moved:

That the Report be adopted.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

Report accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

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DECISION OF QUESTION ON REPORT OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR ON OVERSIGHT VISIT TO FREE STATE
PROVINCE FROM 14-18 OCTOBER 2025

There was no debate.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE LARGEST MINORITY PARTY moved:
That the Report be adopted.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

Report accordingly adopted (uMkhonto weSizwe Party
dissenting).

**ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN SILVER AWARDED TO MR OSCAR OSKIDO
MDLONGWA**

(Draft Resolution)

Mr W T LETSIE: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House -

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- (1) notes that renowned South African DJ, producer, entrepreneur and kwaito pioneer, Mr Oscar "Oskido" Mdlongwa, was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga in Silver by President Cyril Ramaphosa during the 2026 National Orders Investiture ceremony;
- (2) further notes that the Order of Ikhamanga recognises South Africans who have been doing great in the fields of arts, culture, literature, music, journalism and sport;
- (3) acknowledges Oskido's immense contribution to the growth and development of the South African music industry, his pivotal role in pioneering the kwaito movement, and his commitment to nurturing and creating opportunities for generations of young musicians;
- (4) recognises his contribution to nation building, cultural preservation and the promotion of South African music and talent both domestically and internationally; and

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- (5) congratulates Mr Mdlongwa on this well-deserved national honour and wishes him continued success in empowering young artists and advancing the creative industry.

Agreed to.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ACTIVELY TRACKING
FINANCIAL LOSSES AND IRREGULARITIES**

(Draft Resolution)

Mr S G VILAKAZI: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House -

- (1) notes the recent briefings to the Standing Committee on the Auditor-General on cases arising from wrongdoing uncovered during government audits;
- (2) further notes that investigations and disciplinary processes often take years to conclude, weakening accountability and public trust;

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- (3) recognises the recurring problem of officials resigning before facing the consequences of misconduct, only to reappear elsewhere in government;
- (4) acknowledges the important role of the Auditor-General in uncovering corruption and protecting public money; and
- (5) encourages government to strengthen accountability measures, close loopholes that allow officials to escape consequences, and prevent repeat offenders from moving between institutions without proper scrutiny.

Agreed to.

**WINTER INFLECTS DEVASTATING IMPACTS ON MILLIONS OF PEOPLE
LIVING IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS**

(Draft Resolutions)

Ms Z S ABADER: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House -

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- (1) notes with deep concern the arrival of winter across South Africa and the devastating impact it has on millions of people living in informal settlements, overcrowded dwellings and inadequate shelter;
- (2) further notes that every year communities are exposed to flooding, fires, collapsing structures and severe weather conditions that place lives, livelihoods and property at risk;
- (3) acknowledges that women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities are often the most vulnerable victims of these conditions and bear the greatest burden when disasters strike;
- (4) recognises that access to adequate housing is not merely a constitutional obligation, but a fundamental matter of human dignity, safety and humanity, and that every South African deserves a place to call home;
- (5) further recognises that the measure of a caring society is found in how it treats its most vulnerable citizens, and that no person should be forced to

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endure winter without the dignity, security and protection of adequate shelter; and

- (6) laments the reality that, thirty-two years into democracy, millions of South Africans will once again spend winter under leaking roofs, on muddy ground and in overcrowded settlements, a painful reminder that the dream of a decent home, and the restoration of dignity and humanity to our people, remains an unfulfilled promise for far too many South Africans.

**HEIGHTENED PUBLIC CONCERN REGARDING UNDOCUMENTED MIGRATION AND
BORDER MANAGEMENT**

(Draft Resolution)

Ms B K DIALE: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House –

- (1) notes the growing public concern regarding undocumented migration, border management, and enforcement of immigration laws in various parts of South Africa;

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- (2) further notes that the commitment by the President and government to strengthen border management, improve immigration enforcement, and address challenges relating to undocumented migration through lawful and constitutional means;
- (3) acknowledges that concerns relating to immigration, public safety, service delivery, and the integrity of immigration system require urgent and coordinated action by the relevant organs of state;
- (4) recognises that the effective enforcement of immigration laws, while safeguarding the rights and dignity of all peoples in the republic, is essential in maintaining public confidence, social cohesion, and rule of law;
- (5) Affirms that all persons within the Republic are entitled to protection of the law, and the disputes relating to immigration policy must be addressed through lawful and democratic processes;

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- (6) calls upon SA Police Services and all the relevant enforcement authorities to act decisively against any individual or group that takes the law into their own hands, while simultaneously ensuring that immigration laws are enforced in a lawful, constitutional, and humane manner;
- (7) mandates the portfolio committees on Home Affairs, Police and Defence and Military Veterans to convene a joint hearing, including public submissions on the crisis and measures being undertaken to address undocumented migration, border management, immigration enforcement and related security concerns, and to table such reports before the National Assembly.

Not agreed to.

**BAFANA BAFANA'S HARD WORK EARNED THEM A SPOT IN THE
PRESTIGIOUS 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT**

(Draft Resolution)

Ms M L MMOLOTSANE: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

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That the House –

- (1) notes South Africa's national football team, affectionately known as Bafana Bafana, is participating in the prestigious 2026 FIFA World Cup tournament;
- (2) further notes the hard work, dedication, and resilience shown by the players, technical team, and Coach Hugo Broos in securing qualification and representing the aspirations of our nation on the global stage;
- (3) believes that Bafana Bafana carries the hopes, dreams, and unwavering support of over 60 million citizens as they compete against the best teams in the world;
- (4) congratulates the entire Bafana Bafana squad on their qualification;
- (5) wishes the team the absolute best of luck in all their matches during the 2026 FIFA World Cup championships; and

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- (6) calls upon all South Africans to rally behind the team, fly the national flag with pride, and show the world the true spirit of the rainbow nation.

Agreed to.

**MORE THAN 300 INDIGENOUS CAPE BEECH SEEDLINGS PLANTED IN
NEWLANDS FOREST ON 03 JUNE 2026**

(Draft Resolution)

Mr A K NGOBESE: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House –

- (1) notes that on 3 June 2026, a team from SANParks' Cape Research Centre, joined by SANParks rangers and volunteer students from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, planted more than 300 indigenous Cape Beech seedlings in Newlands Forest;
- (2) commends SANParks, its conservation staff and community partners

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for their ongoing commitment to preserving and
rehabilitating one of Cape Town's most important
natural heritage sites;

- (3) recognises that Cape Beech, or Boekenhout, is an indigenous species that plays a vital role in supporting biodiversity, restoring ecological balance and strengthening the resilience of indigenous forest ecosystems;
- (4) acknowledges that this initiative forms part of the third phase of an ongoing rehabilitation programme, which has already seen more than 150 indigenous trees successfully planted during previous phases in 2025;
- (5) further acknowledges the contribution of volunteers, students, researchers and conservation officials whose collective efforts continue to promote environmental stewardship and sustainable conservation practices;
and
- (6) welcomes SANParks' continued commitment to monitoring and nurturing more than 450 indigenous trees now planted across all phases of the programme, ensuring

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that future generations inherit a healthier and more resilient forest ecosystem

Agreed to.

**SA NATIONAL SEVENS RUGBY TEAM PARTICIPATING AT THE 2026
BORDEAUX SEVENS WORLD**

(Draft Resolution)

Ms S M PETERS: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House -

- (1) notes the performance of the South African National Sevens Rugby Team, the Blitzboks, at the 2026 Bordeaux Sevens World Championship in France;
- (2) recognises that the Blitzboks have once again shown the world what it means to represent South Africa with courage, discipline, and determination;
- (3) acknowledges that, by securing the SVNS World Championship title, our team has reaffirmed South

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Africa's place among the very best in international rugby sevens;

- (4) realises that although their campaign concluded with challenging matches in the semi-final and bronze playoff, this does not diminish;
- (5) the magnitude of their achievement; instead, it reflects the intensity and competitiveness at the highest level of the sport;
- (6) commends the players, coaching staff, and all those behind the scenes for their hard work, commitment, and resilience – their performance has inspired millions of South Africans and united our nation in pride;
- (7) recognises that sport remains one of the most powerful forces for unity in our country, and the Blitzboks have once again reminded us of what we can achieve when we work together and strive for excellence;
- (8) congratulates the Blitzboks on their World Championship victory; and

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- (9) thank them for representing the nation with distinction and wishes them continued success in the future.

Agreed to.

**MS LARA PIETERSE AT JAN VAN RIEBEECK HIGH SCHOOL TO
PARTICIPATE IN SEVERAL PRESTIGIOUS BALLET PRODUCTIONS**

(Draft Resolution)

Mr P A VAN STADEN: Chairperson, I hereby move without notice:

That the House –

- (1) notes that Ms Lara Pieterse, a Grade 12 learner at Jan van Riebeeck High School in Cape Town, has been selected to participate in several prestigious ballet productions during June 2026;
- (2) further notes that these productions include Orpheus in the Underworld, presented by Cape Town City Ballet, Centre Stage and Cape Junior Ballet, as well as other major ballet performances;

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- (3) acknowledges her dedication to the performing arts, her achievement of Royal Academy of Dance ballet certifications, and her earlier participation in the Artscape Opera House production of Coppélia;
- (4) recognises her commitment, talent and hard work in promoting and advancing the performing arts in South Africa; and
- (5) congratulates Ms Pieterse on her achievements and wishes her every success in her future artistic endeavours.

Agreed to.

**CONCERN OVER ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN THE CAPE FLATS DESPITE SA
NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCE, SANDF's OPERATION PROSPER**

(Draft Resolution)

Ms D E JAMES: Hon House Chair, I move without notice:

That the House -

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- (1) notes with grave concern the escalating violence on the Cape Flats, where, despite the deployment of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, under Operation Prosper, communities continue to live under siege, with daily gunfire, gang-related violence and spent bullet casings littering residential streets, and dead bodies, leaving innocent residents in constant fear;
- (2) further notes the growing concerns expressed by residents, community leaders and security experts that current law enforcement interventions have proven inadequate, with an under-resourced and understaffed police service struggling to curb the bloodshed that continues to devastate communities across South Africa;
- (3) recognises that meaningful progress requires intelligence-led operations that enable the SANDF, in support of the SA Police Service, SAPS, to conduct targeted raids and strategic interventions against gang networks and organised criminal activity, rather than relying predominantly on highly visible patrols that have delivered limited operational impact; and

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- (4) expresses its belief that only a sustained whole-of-government approach, bringing together both national and provincial law enforcement agencies, government departments, civil society organisations, community structures, and other stakeholders, will effectively protect vulnerable communities from the scourge of gangs, drugs and violent crime that continue to destroy lives and undermine public safety.

[Missing sound for a minute.]

An HON MEMBER: We lost a link, hon Chair.

An HON MEMBER: Alright, I was going to ask the same thing.

Ms T LYONS: Hon members, it's Tanya Lyons here. We seem to have lost our link with the chamber. We are busy restoring it.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you.

[Silence for over two minutes.]

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Mr S N SWART: Tanya, can you please note that we were about to read a statement on behalf of the ACDP ... a motion without notice. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Who told you that?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Can I maybe check with members on the virtual platform, inviting some disorder, can you hear us?

HON MEMBERS: Yes, hon Chairperson ... no, Chair ... yes, we can hear you now ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. That moment of disorder is now ... [Interjections.]

HON MEMBERS: We hear you, Chair ... we can hear you loud and clear now ... loud and clear ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): ... concluded. Thank you. Order! Order, hon members!

Hon member, please start afresh!

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DEVASTATING MURDER OF A RETIRED WESTERN CAPE COUPLE IN THE
KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

(Draft Resolution)

Mr M S MOELA: Hon House Chair, I move without notice:

That the House -

- (1) notes with shock and deep sadness the brutal murder of a retired Western Cape couple Ernst and Dina Marais in the northern section of the Kruger National Park;
- (2) further notes that the bodies of Ernst and Dina Marais from Mossel Bay were found with stab wounds on 22 May 2026 in the Levubu River after they were reported missing;
- (3) understands that the couple disappeared during a safari trip near the Pafuri region close to the Mozambique border, before their bodies were later discovered near Crook's Corner;

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- (4) acknowledges that two suspects have been arrested in Mozambique, following a collaborative cross-border effort;
- (5) understands that the officials are in the process of extraditing them to South Africa to stand trial for the double murders; and
- (6) conveys its condolences to the family and friends of Ernst and Dina Marais.

Agreed to.

MADE FOR MORE ORGANISATION CELEBRATES TENTH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(Draft Resolution)

Mr S N SWART: Hon House Chair, I move without notice:

That the House -

- (1) notes that non-profit organisation Made for More, based in Durban is celebrating the tenth anniversary of its founding by Julia Van Zyl in 2016;

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- (2) further notes that the organisation was started from a deep need to see children with physical disabilities not only educated, but celebrated and supported in every aspect of their lives;
- (3) acknowledges that Made for More uses para-surfing and other sporting opportunities to include, equip and empower people living with disabilities;
- (4) recognises that over the years, Made for More created platforms for athletes to grow in confidence, compete at provincial, and international levels, and most importantly, to find community and purpose through sport;
- (5) recognises the remarkable work that the organisation has been doing in para-sport, Made for More was named "Recreation Body of the Year at the 18th Annual South African Sports Awards; and
- (6) congratulates Made for More on this achievement as well as on celebrating ten years of ensuring that with opportunity, support, and faith, disabled

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athletes can reach their true potential and live
passionate, purpose-filled lives.

Agreed to.

**CONCERNS OVER FINDINGS CONTAINED IN TWO INDEPENDENT REPORTS
TABLED TO THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

(Draft Resolution)

Ms E R J SPIES: Hon House Chair, I move without notice that:

That the House:

- (1) notes with great concern the findings contained in two independent reports recently tabled before Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Social Development, which expose serious departmental failures, irregular appointments and apparent breakdowns in accountability within the department;
- (2) further notes that the report raised disturbing questions regarding adherence to Cabinet decisions, compliance with public service prescripts, executive

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oversight and the integrity of appointment processes within government;

- (3) recognises that allegations of irregular appointments and possible manipulation of administrative processes strike at the heart of efforts to build a professional, ethical and capable public service;
- (4) further recognises that the public confidence in state institutions is eroded whenever rules appear to be selectively applied and accountability is delayed or avoided;
- (5) acknowledges that the Department of Public Service and Administration bears a constitutional responsibility to uphold merit-based appointments, professional standards and ethical governance across public the public service; and
- (6) calls for all allegations and findings contained in these reports to be subjected to thorough, transparent and independent investigation for those found responsible to face appropriate consequence management regardless of rank or position and for

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urgent measures to be implemented to safeguard the integrity of the public service, appointment and restore public's trust in government institutions.

Not agreed to. Motion without notice is converted into a notice of motion.

**CUSTOMARY LAW SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY FOUNDATION OF THE SOUTH
AFRICAN LEGAL SYSTEM OVER THE ROMAN DUTCH LAW AND THE ENGLISH
LEGAL TRADITION**

(Draft Resolution)

Ms M C MAFAGANE: Hon House Chair, I move without notice:

That the House -

- (1) during the current process of constitutional review and amendment, considers measures to elevate and affirm the status of customary law as a primary foundation of South African legal system above the inherited Roman Dutch law and the English legal tradition;

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- (2) notes that South Africa is not an appendage of Europe, South Africa is a sovereign African nation whose constitutional and legal order must increasingly reflect the values, customs, tradition and lived realities of its people;
- (3) further notes that for centuries, African system of law governed social relations, property rights, dispute resolutions, and governance across the land;
- (4) acknowledges that despite constitutional recognition, customary law continues to occupy a subordinate position to legal tradition imported through colonial invasion; and
- (5) the MKP believes that the values and ethos of African majority must set the tone for the development of South African jurisprudence and that the constitutional review process presents an opportunity to advance legal decolonisation and restore the dignity of indigenous legal system.

Not agreed to. Motion without notice is converted into a notice of motion.

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**SUDDEN CLOSURE OF THE WESTDENE CLINIC BY THE FREE STATE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LEAVES PATIENTS NEGATIVELY AFFECTED**

(Draft Resolution)

Ms P MARAIS: Hon House Chair, I move without notice:

That the House -

- (1) notes that the Free State Department of Health has closed the Westdene Clinic;
- (2) further notes with concern that the clinic was reportedly closed without prior notice to patients and the affected community;
- (3) recognises that patient files remain at the closed facility, leaving many patients unable to access healthcare services elsewhere or obtain their medication due to the absence of their medical records;
- (4) further recognises that the closure of healthcare facilities and clinics is becoming an increasing

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concern in various parts of the country as provincial health departments face growing financial and budgetary pressures;

- (5) acknowledges the severe impact that the closure of clinics has on poor and working-class communities who rely on public healthcare facilities for access to treatment and medication; and
- (6) calls upon the Portfolio Committee on Health to conduct public hearings on the impact of clinic closures across South Africa, including the closure of the Westdene Clinic, and to table a report with findings and recommendations before the National Assembly.

Agreed to.

GUN VIOLENCE WORSENING IN THE WESTERN CAPE

(Draft Resolution)

Ms C T NONTENJA: House chair, I move without notice:

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That the House—

- (1) notes with grave concern the continued rise in gun violence across communities in the Western Cape, which continues to claim the lives of innocent residents, including women and children;
- (2) further notes the deep tragedy of the recent loss of two young girls aged 14 and 15, who tragically lost their lives in separate incidents of gun violence in the Western Cape within a space of three months;
- (3) condemns the reckless disregard of human life demonstrated by perpetrators of gun violence who continue to endanger schools, homes, places of worship and public spaces; and
- (4) calls for urgent and co-ordinated action by all relevant stakeholders, including the South African Police Service, SAPS, the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, provincial and local government and community organisations to remove illegal firearms from our streets, dismantle criminal gangs, protect vulnerable communities and ensure that those

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responsible for gun related crimes are brought to justice.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, unfortunately this notice was not circulated as required by the Rules. Therefore, I will not be able to put it to the House. Thank you.

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

(Draft Resolution)

Mr M NONTSELE: I move without notice:

That the House—

- (1) notes that 12 June 2026 marks the annual international observance of the World Day Against Child Labour, a global day instituted by the International Labour Organisation, ILO, in 2002 to raise awareness and catalyse actions to eliminate the exploitation of children through labour;

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- (2) further notes that the global campaign theme for 2026 is “Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children and Decent Work for Adults,” emphasising the shared global responsibility to build robust social protection mechanisms and enforce ethical labour standards;
- (3) acknowledges with deep concern that despite significant legislative progress, millions of children worldwide, including many within vulnerable regions across our own continent, remain trapped in hazardous work conditions that compromise their health, safety, dignity, and fundamental right to basic education;
- (4) recalls South Africa’s unyielding constitutional commitment to protecting children from exploitative labour practices, as enshrined in section 28 of the Bill of Rights, which declares that every child has the right to be protected from work that is exploitative, hazardous, or inappropriate for their age; and

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- (5) calls on all citizens to raise a "red card" against any practices that rob our nation's children of their childhood and potential.

Agreed to.

URGENT NEED TO FIX WATER AND SANITATION ISSUES FOR COMMUNITIES

(Draft Resolution)

Mrs N L HLAZO-WEBSTER: House Chairperson, I move without notice:

That the House—

- (1) notes the increasing number of communities across South Africa affected by water outages, sewage spills and failing municipal water infrastructure;
- (2) further notes that access to sufficient water is a constitutional right in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996;

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- (3) realises that failing water and sanitation systems pose serious risks to public health, dignity and economic activity; and
- (4) calls on the Minister of Water and Sanitation to table before Parliament a comprehensive intervention for municipalities experiencing chronic water and sanitation failures, including measures to address ageing infrastructure, sewage pollution and ongoing maintenance backlogs.

Agreed to.

WITS UNIVERSITY RANKED NUMBER ONE IN AFRICA AND SOUTH AFRICA

(Draft Resolution)

Mr W T LETSIE: House chairperson, I move without notice:

That the House—

- (1) notes that Wits University claimed the top spot in Africa in the 2026 Centre for World University Rankings which was released on 1 June 2026;

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- (2) acknowledges that Wits University stands firmly within the top 1% of universities in the world - a milestone that reflects the university's enduring commitment to academic and research excellence, innovation, and the advancement of public good;
- (3) believes that this remarkable achievement confirms Wits University's position as a leading African institution with global reach and relevance;
- (4) understands that being ranked number one in Africa and among the top 1% globally is a testament to the collective excellence, resilience and ambition of the institution, its students, alumni and partners, including government; and
- (5) commends Wits University for raising the country's flag high. They always say at Wits, you always have the urge, and they have the urge.

Agreed to.

**MONDALE HIGH'S ZAYAAN ABDURAHMAN CHOSEN FOR NASA'S PRESTIGIOUS
SPACE COMPETITION**

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(Draft Resolution)

Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: Hon House Chairperson, I move without notice:

That the House—

- (1) notes the great achievement of a 16-year-old Zayaan Abdurahman who has been selected as one of seven South African learners who will travel to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's, NASA, Kennedy Space Centre in Florida next month;
- (2) further notes that she is a Grade 11 learner at Mondale High School in Mitchells Plain;
- (3) acknowledges that she will represent Team South Africa at the International Space Settlement Design Competition, ISSDC, which is taking place in Orlando from 26 July to 4 August 2026;
- (4) further acknowledges that she earned her place through the South African Space Design Competition, SASDC;

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- (5) realises that at the SASDC competition, high school learners were challenged to design futuristic and sustainable space settlements;
- (6) further realises that the competition forms part of an international programme that includes six continents and encourages learners to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
- (7) understands that the 109 learners from nine Cape Town schools took part in the competition and that her team won; and
- (8) wishes her well in the International Space Settlement Design Competition.

Agreed to.

**CALL FOR ADOPTION OF ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MODEL IN
MUSINA MAKHADO SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE**

(Draft Resolution)

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Mr A D DE BLOCQ VAN SCHELTINGA: House Chairperson, I move
without notice:

That the House—

- (1) recalls that Musina Makhado Special Economic Zone is located in the rural Vhembe region of Limpopo province;
- (2) notes that the area's extremely high unemployment rate necessitates urgent economic development to provide jobs and poverty relief;
- (3) recognises that Vhembe region is one of South Africa's most biodiversity rich areas, including endemic and endangered species that are ecologically, economically and culturally irreplaceable;
- (4) further recognises that the area holds significant untapped agricultural potential;

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- (5) notes the critical limitations of available water, road and rail networks, feed stock and local skills for industrial development as initially proposed;
- (6) supports the adoption of alternative economic development model that leverages the natural assets in context of the region, including biodiversity and green economy opportunities alongside agriculture; and
- (7) notes that this approach is more suitable and sustainable in this rural setting and will benefit both people and plants.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): I put the motion, are there any objections?

Mr C DUGMORE: Yes, there is an objection to that. You would be undermining the ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): No, no, we don't need reasons. Thank you, hon Dugmore. With that objection, that motion is converted into a notice of motion.

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AFRICAN FILMMAKER ZOE RAMUSHU EARNS GLOBAL NOMINATION

(Draft Resolution)

Ms T V B MCHUNU: Hon House Chairperson, I move without notice:

That the House—

- (1) notes with immense pride that Cape Town-based African filmmaker, producer and tech entrepreneur, Zoe Ramushu, was shortlisted for the prestigious Impact Leadership Award at the 2026 Global Production Awards presented by Screen International;
- (2) further notes that this major international recognition was announced and celebrated during the 79th Cannes Film Festival in France, where Ms Ramushu stood out among nominees from major global studios and film commissions across Europe and North America;
- (3) recognises that this nomination celebrates “Wrapped”, a groundbreaking production technology platform built by Ms Ramushu that transforms the

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film and television industry's hiring practices by providing freelancers, women and filmmakers of colour with the visibility they deserve, while allowing producers to source talent from an abundant, diverse pool rather than fragmented spreadsheets and word-of-mouth;

- (4) commends Ms Ramushu for flying the South African flag high on the global stage and showing that African innovation is leading the charge in rewiring global film production; and
- (5) congratulates Zoe Ramushu ... [Time expired.]

Agreed to.

HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE BASIC EDUCATION SECTOR

(Draft Resolution)

Dr L W MAHLATSI: House Chairperson, I move without notice:

That the House—

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- (1) notes that South Africa continues to face a severe challenge of graduates and unemployment ...

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

Dr L W MAHLATSI: ... particularly among qualified education graduates who remain without permanent employment despite them possessing the necessary qualifications to teach in public schools;

- (2) further notes that Former Minister of Basic Education informed Parliament ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Dr Mahlatsi, my apologies. There was so much noise here in the front, that I am afraid we couldn't hear you. Will you ... [Interjections.] ... Order! Order!

Start afresh and maybe use that voice you always use when you greet us.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: I see you have been missing me ...

[Laughter.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order, hon members! Let's give Dr Mahlatsi ...

Dr L W MAHLATSI: That shows that pan Africanism is alive. I move without notice:

That the House—

- (1) notes that South Africa continues to face a severe challenge of graduates' unemployment, particularly among qualified education graduates who remain without permanent employment despite possessing the necessary qualifications to teach in public schools;
- (2) further notes that Former Minister of Basic Education informed Parliament in 2023-24 period that there were between 20 to 30 fully funded teaching posts within the education sector;
- (3) acknowledges that thousands of schools continue to experience teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, excessive learner to teacher ratio and a declining educational outcome, particularly in the rural and disadvantaged communities; and

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- (4) recognises that the continued use of teacher contract assistant posts creates employment insecurity, undermine fair labour practices, negatively affects educators' morale and compromise continuity in teaching and learning.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): I put the motion, are there any objections?

Mr C DUGMORE: Yes.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): With that objection, that motion is converted into a notice of motion.

IsiXhosa:

Mnu P KUBUKELI: Sihlalo weNdlu, ndenza isiphakamiso ngaphandle kwesaziso:

Sokuba le Ndlu -

- (1) iqaphele umba weenkonzozo zoluntu zoMasipala oMbaxa iBuffalo City ezingafikeleliyo ebantwini. Inkqubo yokuhanjiswa kweenkonzo iwile phaya. EMonti,

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eMdantsane, eDuncan Village naseZwelitsha, ilindle libaleka endleleni neendlela zigcwele izigingqi;

- (2) iqwalasele into ethethwe nguMhloli-zincwadi Jikelele ethi iR1,7 yezigidi zezigidi ichithwe kwimfitshimfitshi nje engabonakaliyo phaya;
- (3) kwakhona iqaphele ukuba iqela iMK Party lithi, loo nto yenza ukuba abantu baphelelwe ngumdla kwiinkonzo zoomasipala nakurhulumente;
- (4) icele iKomiti yeMicimbi yeSebe lezeNtsebenziswano kuLawulo neMicimbi yezeMveli ukuba ikhawuleze indwendwele uMasipala oMbaxa waseBuffalo City ibuye isenzele ingxelo kule Ndlu zingaphelanga iintsuku ezinga30. Enkosi.

Agreed to.

Mr L MPHITHI: House Chairperson, I move without notice:

That the House -

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- (1) encourages the Department of Human Settlements to partner with the private sector in accelerating the delivery of state-subsidised homes;
- (2) notes that we lament that in the last financial year the department, with a budget of R34 billion only built just over 35 000 houses meanwhile, the Department of Housing, in 1998-99, with a budget of R16 billion, was able to build just over 235 000 houses;
- (3) recognises that our country's housing crisis is not a funding issue inherently, but a capacity issue within the department, provinces, and local governments;
- (4) following the recommendations by Operation Vulindlela in March 2025, encourages the Department of Human Settlements to implement an integrated housing and title deed system with the relevant departments;
- (5) lastly, recognises that our country will not close its pervasive equality gap without accelerating housing and title deed delivery.

Motion not agreed to.

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Mr N T TSHOTETSI: House Chairperson, I move without notice:

That the House -

- (1) notes that the month of June marks the annual commemoration of Youth Month in South Africa, a period dedicated to honouring the monumental contributions of young people to the liberation, democracy, and development of our country;
- (2) further notes that the theme for Youth Month 2026 in South Africa is, RESET@50 - The Future Calls;
- (3) remembers that 16 June 2026, marks the 50th Anniversary of the historic 1976 Soweto Student Uprising, when thousands of brave young students defiantly marched against the unjust Bantu Education system and the brutal oppression of the apartheid regime, paying the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy today;
- (4) pays solemn tribute to the heroism of Hector Pieterse, Hastings Ndlovu, and the entire generation of 1976, whose selflessness, courage, and collective resolve

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permanently altered the trajectory of South Africa's liberation struggle; and

- (5) urges all sectors of society, including the state, private entities, and civil society to treat youth socioeconomic empowerment not merely as a policy objective, but as an urgent national imperative to ensure the economic freedom in our lifetime.

Agreed to.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Ms F L SHABANGU: Chair, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the House, I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

That the House-

- (1) debates improving access to medicines by building technological capacity and local skills to make it cheaply.

Thank you.

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Mr C F B SMIT: House Chair, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the House, I shall move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance:

That the House-

- (1) debate the impact and effect of broad-based black economic empowerment on the economic growth, job creation, investment, entrepreneurship and transformation in South Africa.

I so move.

Mr W M DOUGLAS: House Chair, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the House, I shall move on behalf of the uMkhonto weSizwe Party:

That the House-

- (1) debates the death of Stellenbosch University student, Antonio Amelio Alec Britto;
- (2) debate concerns regarding racism and student safety at institutions of higher learning; and

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- (3) debates the interventions required to protect students and uphold their constitutional rights.

I so move.

Ms P MARAIS: Chairperson, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the House, I shall move on behalf of the Economic Freedom Fighters:

That the House-

- (1) notes with concern the disappearance of seasoned and veteran actors from our television and film screens;
- (2) recognises the invaluable contributions and experience actors make to the cultural and recreative industry, as well as to the social fabric of our society;
- (3) acknowledges the challenges faced by these actors, including but not limited to ageism, lack of opportunities and inadequate support mechanisms in the industry;

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- (4) calls upon all relevant stakeholders, including broadcasters, production companies and government departments to create opportunities and support mechanisms for seasoned actors to ensure that they remain active and visible in the sector; and
- (5) further calls for a review of policies and practices within the creative and cultural sector to address the exclusion and marginalisation of the experienced talented.

I so move.

Ms M L MOFOKENG: House Chairperson, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the House, I shall move on behalf of the ANC:

That the House-

- (1) debates dealing with acts of criminality, such as illegal mining, which has caused and continues to cause a great deal of anger and anguish in communities.

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Thank you, House Chairperson.

Ms B E MACHI: Chairperson, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the House, I shall move on behalf of the Inkatha Freedom Party:

That the House-

- (1) debate the dangers posed to township economics by illegal trading, and
- (2) debate the shared responsibility of the Department of Small Business Development and South African citizens to enforce compliance and uphold community safety.

I so move. Thank you.

Mr M V DANIELS: House Chairperson, I hereby give notice that on the next sitting day of the House, I shall move:

That the House-

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- (1) debate the draft proposal for the Parliamentary and Provincial Medical Aid Scheme, Parmed, Competitive Compulsion Amendment Bill 2026.

This important legislation seeks to amend the existing Parliament Medical Aid Scheme Act of 1975 to modernise benefits, ensure competitiveness with private medical aids and reinforce a justification for the compulsory membership of parliamentarians.

Hon members, it is essential to recognise a recent resolution passed by the Eastern Cape Provincial Government, allowing its members to choose their own private medical aid scheme, and members who want to remain with Parmed are at liberty to do so. This progressive move underscores the necessity for our own Parliament to re-evaluate the existing mandates and adapt to the evolving landscape of health care options available to public representatives.

The proposed amendment to the Parliament Act will provide our Members of Parliament ... [Time expired].

I so move.

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Afrikaans:

Dr W J BOSHOFF: Agb Huisvoorsitter, ek stel namens die VF Plus voor dat die Nasionale Vergadering by die volgende byeenkoms die erkenning van Afrikaners as 'n selfstandige en inheemse volk in Afrika bespreek asook die gestalte wat dié erkenning moet kry en 'n statutêre verteenwoordigende entiteit wat verantwoordelikheid vir onderwys, die bewaring van erfenis en ander toepaslike sake sal neem namens Afrikaners wat hulself daar identifiseer en hulle by die entiteit voeg en kragtens artikel 235 van die Grondwet van Suid-Afrika.

English:

Mr R A P TROLLIP: On behalf of Action SA, I give notice that at its next sitting the House notes with concern the continued spread of foot-and-mouth disease and the severe consequences it holds for South Africa's livestock industry, agricultural exports and rural livelihoods.

Further notes the Department of Agriculture's stated commitment to constructive engagement with industry stakeholders and the private sector in responding to the outbreak.

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Acknowledges the important role played by farmers, veterinarians and private-sector partners in combating the disease, as did the recent court judgment in this regard.

Calls on the department to ensure that all officials engage stakeholders in a professional, respectful and solutions-orientated manner following recent reports of a senior staff member in the Ministry treating the concerns of an affected stakeholder organisation with apparent disregard and disrespect.

Ms L B SAPO: House Chair, I move on behalf of the ANC that in its next sitting the House debates investing in digital literacy to help small businesses leverage e-commerce platforms.

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, I move on behalf of the ACDP that at the next sitting of the House it debates the looming shortage of piped natural gas for industrial purposes, known as the gas supply cliff risk, given the rapid depletion of the Pande and Temane natural gas fields in Mozambique and Sasol's scaling back and halting of external gas supply, with Sasol being the primary supplier of piped natural gas in the country.

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Ms F MBIKO: Chair, I hereby move on behalf of the DA that at its next sitting this House debates the urgent need for oversight and intervention regarding the rape of elderly women in the rural Eastern Cape, with specific reference to the case of Siphumandla Makapela, a 27-year-old, who was recently sentenced to life imprisonment on 18 February 2026 for the rape of a 75-year-old woman in Mazotshweni location Dikeni ... Alice.

Mr D D D VAN ROOYEN: I move on behalf of the MK Party ...

Sesotho:

... lerumo la setjhaba ...

English:

... that the House debates the implications of the introduction of Lenacapavir as an HIV prevention intervention, including its potential impact on public health, behavioural patterns and the prevalence of other sexually transmitted infections in our beloved and embattled country, South Africa.

Ms B K DIALE: House Chair, I rise on behalf of the EFF on a motion for the House in the next sitting to debate mechanisms available for the Department of Water and Sanitation to tackle

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noncompliance by municipalities in respect of Blue, Green and No Drop requirements, including submission and subsequent implementation of corrective action plans or Green Drop improvement plans.

Ms C T NONTENJA: I move on behalf of the UDM that the House in its next sitting debates the recent report surrounding the death of an employee, 29-year-old Gcina Dhladhla, while on duty at her workplace, which has sparked widespread public debate on the treatment of workers and conditions in the workplace.

This tragic incident has highlighted the importance of safeguarding the rights, dignity, health and wellbeing of employees across all sectors of the economy.

Ms M B PHOLWANE: Chair, I move on behalf of the ANC that in its next sitting the House debates creating a safe and nurturing environment for all children, allowing them to grow and thrive.

Mr C M DUGMORE: Chair, I move on behalf of the ANC that at its next sitting the House debates ending food waste and making the dumping of edible food illegal.

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Mr I ISMAIL-MOOSA: House Chair, I, Imran Ismail-Moosa, on behalf of Al Jama-ah, move that the House debates the banning of scholars from a Zionist Israeli entity from attending any future conferences to be held in South Africa.

About 50 scholars from the universities of Tel Aviv, Hebrew and Haifa attended the recent International Communication Association Conference, which was held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 4 to 8 June 2026.

These scholars represented universities which are deeply integrated into the Zionist Israeli entity and complicit in the suppression and ongoing genocide of Palestinians.

They are part of stifling, suspending and expelling Palestinian students and faculty members who express solidarity with Palestinians.

Ms C LABUSCHAGNE: I hereby move on behalf of the DA that at its next sitting this House debates legislative accountability mechanisms against municipal managers and mayors concerning recent revelations by the Auditor-General of SA of further declining financial audit outcomes for metropolitan municipalities due to infrastructure funds being poorly

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utilised, prolonged acting appointments especially in critical vacancies and a culture of impunity.

Ms N K BILANKULU: Chair, I move on behalf of the ANC that at its next sitting the House debates building a resilient system ready to face future disasters such as deadly epidemics and crises caused by damage to the environment.

Dr L W MAHLATSI: Chairperson, I move on behalf of the UAT that this House debates and recognises that child hunger continues to undermine educational outcomes, cognitive development, school attendance and long-term economic productivity, forcing many learners to attend school on an empty stomach while being expected to compete equally with learners from affluent communities.

Mr T I GAMEDE: Chairperson, be pleased to note that the MK Party hereby gives a notice of motion that at the next sitting of the House it debates the issue of national energy security in order to stabilise the price of diesel and petrol by encouraging the building of additional refining capacity in the country that contributes to stable economic growth, that the House considers the impact of the huge reduction in refining capacity over the past seven years and that measures

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are put in place to halt the importation of refined products and ensure that the country builds domestic capacity to refine crude oil.

Mr D D KLOPER: I hereby move on behalf of the DA that at its next sitting this House debates the need to deter crime through the certainty of swift prosecution by capacitating the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, securing its independence and giving it control over its own budget.

Ms N E NKOSI: House Chair, I move on behalf of the ANC that at its next sitting the House debates the hegemonic role of culture to glue all national groupings towards one common nationality and South African citizenship.

The House adjourned at 20:17.