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PROCEEDINGS OF MINIPLENARY – NIEUWMEESTER MARQUEE

The House met at Nieuwmeester Marquee at 14:01.

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

IsiZulu:

USOMLOMO: Njengamanje ngizocela ukubiza uMongameli wezwe ukuthi azonikeza inkulumo yakhe emayelana nokwabiwa kwemali yehovisi lakhe. Mnumzane u-Ramaphosa, sengicela ukuthi usukume ubeke inkulumo yakho. [Ihlombe.]

APPROPRIATION BILL

Debate on Vote No 1 – The Presidency:

The PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Thank you. Speaker of the National Assembly, Deputy President Paul Mashatile, Ministers and Deputy Ministers and hon members,

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Sesotho:

Ke leboha nakonyana eo ke fuwang yona, hore ke behe tlaleho ya mosebetsi wa Ofisi ya Mopresidente.

English:

This debate on the Presidency Budget Vote takes place at a time of both change and continuity. As we enter a new democratic administration, as we define the priorities for the Government of National Unity, we are building on the progress made during the course of previous administrations.

We have made significant strides, over the course of the last five years, to restore our country and our economy. We need to sustain the work that has been done and see many of the measures we have taken through to completion. At the same time, we need to appreciate the changes that have taken place in government, and we need to respond to the mandate from the electorate of our country.

As the Presidency and as government, we are focused on the priorities I outlined in the Opening of Parliament Address last week: Firstly, to drive inclusive growth and job creation; secondly, to reduce poverty and tackle the high cost

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of living; and thirdly, to build a capable, ethical and developmental state.

As the strategic centre of government, the Presidency bears the responsibility for co-ordinating the work of government to ensure that these priorities that are outlined are implemented. At this crucial moment in our country's history, as we confront many challenges, what South Africans really do want, is to see action.

Our job is to deliver on the commitments that we have made as the Government of National Unity. Central to the work of the Presidency is to engender co-operation, partnership and high collaboration, both across government, government employees, as well as working together with social partners and other stakeholders.

This approach has proven successful in mobilising a broad spectrum of resources and capabilities to undertake actions that have the greatest social and economic impact. Fundamental to the approach of this Presidency, is to draw on the expertise, experience and capabilities in government and across society.

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During the previous administration, we established a number of entities both in government and outside of government, bringing together a wide variety of people to provide insights and inputs, based on expert knowledge and sound evidence.

The Presidential Economic Advisory Council, on which sit some of the outstanding economists - not only in our country, but across the world - together with Ministers, played a vital role in advising both the President and indeed our various government departments on the on the most important economic challenges facing our country.

The Presidential State-Owned Enterprises Council has been pivotal to the fundamental overhaul of the architecture of our state-owned enterprises, plotting a better and more effective future for these state-owned enterprises.

On addressing climate change, one of the most challenging developments of modern times, the Presidential Climate Commission brings together a unique blend of different social stakeholders to guide our climate actions, including our approach to a just transition to a low-carbon economy. Among other things, the Presidential Climate Commission has made valuable input into our Just Transition Investment Plan,

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future energy mix and the Climate Change Act, which I signed into law just last week.

Another important advisory body is the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council, which was established to advise government and mobilise society around a comprehensive programme to end corruption in all its forms.

The Presidential Working Group on Disability is another critical forum, where we have perfected working together with various civil society organisations and government, in order to advance social and economic change, which affects some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

The Presidential Working Group is an important partner in the development and implementation of policies and programmes that uphold the rights and advance the interests of persons with disability and the other vulnerable people in our society. We are grateful to the members of these advisory bodies and working groups for the contribution that they have made, and continue to make, towards South Africa's development and transformation.

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It has been proven that working together as government and various other groups in our society, we are able to achieve more. The Presidency has prioritised greater cooperation between the spheres of government. While this has been vital during crises like the Covid-19 pandemic and in responding to the natural disasters that our country has seen, we have encouraged intergovernmental co-operation to strengthen governance and respond more effectively to the needs of South Africans.

The promotion of co-operative governance has been strengthened through implementation of the District Development Model, which places the district at the centre of an integrated approach to development. The appointment of Ministers and Deputy Ministers, as champions of the District Development Model has in many ways enhanced intergovernmental co-operation from the national, the provincial as well as the local level.

With the support of the President's Co-ordinating Council - which brings together the leadership of the three spheres of government, being national, provincial and local government - we see a greater role for the District Development Model in addressing problems at local level through better use of the

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powers, capacity and resources of national and provincial governments.

Co-operation between the three spheres of government is also evident in the Presidential Izimbizos programme. The Presidential Izimbizos - ...

Sesotho:

... makgotla - ...

English:

... are a vital tool of participatory democracy. They allow communities to interact with the President, with Ministers, Deputy Ministers, premiers, MECs, as well as mayors, with a view of finding practical solutions to specific service delivery problems that they have. Whenever we hold these imbizos, our people take up the opportunity to raise issues that are of concern to their communities and to themselves. We do follow through on many of the issues that are raised.

The Deputy President plays a leading role in engagements with different constituencies and sections of society. Through bodies like the SA National AIDS Council and the Human Resource Development Council, the Deputy President convenes a

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broad cross-section of stakeholders to address challenges that affect our people.

The Deputy President has been working closely with our military veterans to address their concerns and to ensure that this group of South Africans – who in many ways were even prepared to pay the ultimate price so that we can achieve our freedom.

The Deputy President focuses on addressing their challenges so that they can receive the support that they need to live decent lives. A number of issues that affect them will continue to be addressed – their health, education of their children, their housing challenges, as well as being able to earn a livelihood and to get proper pensions that they should get from the state, due to the sacrifices that they made.

The Deputy President has also been working with traditional leaders – he will report more when he makes his input – to ensure that they are able to effectively undertake their responsibilities and to contribute to the development of the people they serve. During the course of the sixth administration, we were able to address the challenges of a

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number of our traditional leaders, including indunas, who were raising issues that affect them. [Applause.]

Understanding that science, technology and innovation are essential for economies, like the economy of our country, to thrive and also for societies to prosper. Last year, we held the inaugural Presidential Science, Technology and Innovation Plenary. This initiative will continue, as it has proven to be an important forum, where we bring together scientists and innovators, to exchange view on how they can contribute to the continued growth of our economy.

The initiative brings together government, academia, civil society and industry to collectively drive South Africa's national system of innovation. The inclusive and consultative approach that the Presidency has taken to address the country's challenges will serve us well as we embark on the national dialogue that we have committed to convening together with other key roleplayers in our country.

Our overriding priority for the next five years is to achieve more rapid and inclusive economic growth, so that we can create jobs, reduce poverty, and build a more just and equal society. To achieve this, we must configure the system of

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government to support a significant expansion of investment in infrastructure. We have seen the value of collaboration in pursuing this objective.

Through Infrastructure South Africa, that we set up, we have been able to draw on private sector expertise and skills to improve the preparation, the financing and the implementation of infrastructure investment. Today, we have a fairly sizable pipeline of infrastructure projects due to the preparatory work that has been done by Invest South Africa, *InvestSA*.

Through the Infrastructure Fund, we are going to explore new approaches to blended financing of infrastructure, using the fiscus to leverage additional funding from the private sector, from development finance institutions and indeed from other sources as well.

We have been working closely with independent power producers in steering their projects through to the construction phase, contributing significantly to the reduction in the severity of load shedding.

We are going to continue working with companies, financial institutions and business organisations, as government, both

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South African and international, during the course of our ambitious investment drive over the next five years.

In 2018, we set a target of mobilising R1,2 trillion in new investments over five years. By the conclusion of the fifth South Africa Investment Conference last year, we had exceeded that target, raising over R1,5 trillion in new investment commitments. [Applause.] This was a significant achievement!

A vital part of this work was undertaken by the Presidential Investment Envoys that we appointed to engage with potential investors and identifying opportunities and challenges. The Presidential Investment Envoys are Mr Trevor Manuel, Mr Mcebisi Jonas, Ms Phumzile Langeni, Mr Jacko Maree, Mr Jeff Radebe and Mr Derek Hanekom. We are extremely grateful to them for their tremendous work and the contribution that they made to raise the level of investment in our country.

We have had an opportunity to visit many of the factories and projects that have been built or expanded as a result of these investments. We have seen the many jobs they have created. The work of the red tape reduction team that was established in the Presidency, under the leadership of Mr Sipho Nkosi, has been possible due to close co-operation with various

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departments, public entities and spheres of government, as well as support from the private sector.

The team is looking at a capacity building approach to tackle red tape in provincial governments and a pilot to support three city municipalities with reform action plans to address inefficient business processes. Through this experience, it is clear that the removal of red tape is a cross-cutting exercise that requires a coordinated and integrated approach.

Significant progress was made during the sixth administration in implementing reforms to enable economic growth, with a focus on modernising network industries.

These reforms have been undertaken across government with the support of Operation Vulindlela, which is a joint initiative of the Presidency and National Treasury. This progress provides a solid platform on which we will build a sustained increase in the rate of economic growth and a reduction in poverty, unemployment and inequality.

By alleviating load shedding, improving the performance of the logistics system, reducing the cost of data, improving water supply and enabling the country to attract the skills it

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needs, the reforms already underway will provide a significant boost to the economy in the medium term.

In addition, these reforms support the repositioning of strategic state-owned enterprises by strengthening their balance sheets and improving their operational performance, while also enabling higher levels of private investment in infrastructure, in support to the work and the investment initiatives that they embark on.

A recent independent study released by the Bureau of Economic Research at the University of Stellenbosch estimates that the reforms undertaken under the auspices of Operation Vulindlela could increase the GDP growth to 3,5% by 2029.

Apart from the changes that these reforms are making to the country's productive capacity and competitiveness, they are also contributing to greater business confidence. As confidence grows, so does investment, creating jobs and supporting demand. This is a virtuous cycle that leads to higher growth on a sustained basis.

One of the greatest impediments to economic growth has been the electricity crisis, which the Presidency has been

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instrumental in addressing. The National Energy Crisis Committee, which was established in 2022 to oversee implementation of the Energy Action Plan, is chaired by the President and co-ordinated at a technical level by the Director-General in the Presidency.

With the support of National Energy Crisis Committee, there has been a marked improvement in the performance of Eskom's power stations, which produce the bulk of our electricity. Regulatory changes have enabled substantial new investment in electricity generation, which measures up to tens of billions of rands.

This week, the country will have gone 120 days without load shedding. [Applause.] This is something to be celebrated. However, it is too soon to claim victory. Our electricity system is still vulnerable and we cannot yet rule out a possibility of further load shedding.

Drawing on our experience in tackling the electricity crisis, we established the National Logistics Crisis Committee and adopted a Freight Logistics Roadmap.

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The roadmap provides a clear path to resolving Transnet's immediate operational challenges while reforming the logistics system as a whole, to achieve a competitive and efficient rail network.

Operation Vulindlela has facilitated support to the Department of Water and Sanitation to re-engineer the water use license application system and clear the backlog of applications, unlocking an estimated R56 billion of investment. Some of you might recall that it used to take up to three years for those who want to use water to get a licence.

It has now been reduced to merely days, and we really applaud the work that is being done in Water and Sanitation.

[Applause.] This has led to unlocking estimated R56 billion of investment due to regularising the whole licensing process as well.

Through Operation Vulindlela, we have supported reforms in telecommunications aimed at lowering the cost of data and improving network reach and quality. This quality still needs to improve as a number of areas in our country still do not have the level of connectivity that we would like to see for a middle-income country like ours.

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We have also provided support to the Department of Home Affairs, in its efforts to review and reform the visa system, to attract skills and investment and boost tourism, more specifically. The Operation Vulindlela approach to focused collaboration across government has proven its worth, and it is recognised as one of the better ways in which we can engender intergovernmental co-operation – but more importantly, also co-operation with other key roleplayers.

We will now be embarking on the second phase of Operation Vulindlela. The immediate priority is to sustain the momentum and follow through on the implementation of current reforms to realise their full impact. While these reforms are a necessary condition for growth and job creation, they are not sufficient to drive structural transformation in our economy.

Our economy still needs to be transformed, and the transformation process must of necessity, include ensuring that those who were in the past prevented from playing a key role in the economy of their country, do indeed play that key role in terms of control, in terms of management and also in terms of the ownership of the economy of our country.

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In its second phase, Operation Vulindlela will therefore focus on reforming the local government system, harnessing digital public infrastructure, and addressing spatial inequality. We will work closely with provincial and local governments to address service delivery challenges, in line with our constitutional mandate.

We will co-ordinate a whole-of-government programme to drive digital transformation of government and modernise our digital public infrastructure.

Finally, we will turn the attention of Operation Vulindlela to spatial inequality, which remains a key barrier to economic growth.

The Presidency remains seized with the challenge of youth unemployment. Nearly four years ago, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, we launched the Presidential Employment Stimulus, which has created two million work and livelihood opportunities. Two-thirds of the people who have participated in these programmes are women, and around 84% of them are people between the ages of 18 and 35. [Applause.] That has made a huge impact.

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Another initiative is the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention. Central to this is *SAYouth.mobi*, which is a zero-rated platform for unemployed young people to access opportunities for learning and earning. Those who participate, numbering about 4,4 million, are often able to find opportunities, as employers who want to employ young people troll that website and find people who are employable.

The Youth Employment Service, which was launched together with the private sector in 2018, is gaining significant momentum, having created over 150 000 work experience opportunities for young people.

The partnership that government entered into with organised business, in July last year, has yielded impressive results in the areas of electricity and freight logistics, and we have started to make progress in our joint work to combat crime and corruption as well.

As we move forward, we will look to our partners in business and labour to put greater emphasis on our agreed programme of work on employment. This, includes, measures to support small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs, in townships and rural areas, creating new jobs in areas like tourism, agriculture

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and green economy, and providing work experience and demand-led training to young people.

The Presidency has been working with other departments to develop an integrated antipoverty strategy with a focus on household livelihoods.

We have held two Presidential Health Summits and adopted a Presidential Health Compact, which outlines the priorities we have identified and collectively agreed to undertake to strengthen the health system.

One of the most important areas of progress has been in the implementation of the national health quality improvement plan. This initiative has led to the establishment of more than 420 quality learning centres covering over 3 500 health facilities. As a result, we have seen significant improvements in patient satisfaction across various areas.

A vital part of the drive to provide all children with a conducive environment for learning, is the provision of school infrastructure. This includes the provision of safe and appropriate toilets. In 2018, we launched the Sanitation Appropriate for Education programme – known as the Safe

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initiative - to mobilise public and private funds to replace pit toilets.

Unsafe toilets have been replaced in 92% of schools needing safe toilets. [Applause.] The remaining 280 schools, which Minister Gwarube and Deputy Minister Mhaule, are going to focus on, giving attention to, are scheduled for completion within this financial year.

One of the most important areas in which the Presidency has been involved is in the struggle to end gender-based violence and femicide. We have held two Presidential Summits to bring together government, civil society and other stakeholders to forge a common national response to this horrendous pandemic.

Working together, we have been implementing the National Strategic Plan against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. As part of this plan, we have focused on prevention measures, such as educating boys and young men on gender equality and their roles in empowering girls and young women. We have made important progress in implementing the actions outlined in our response to the recommendations of the State Capture Commission.

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This includes the work of our law enforcement agencies to bring perpetrators to justice and to recover stolen funds, as well as the legislative and other changes needed to strengthen the fight against corruption and prevent state capture.

The Presidency plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the work of the Special Investigating Unit has an impact, and that individuals involved in wrongdoing do face the consequences of their actions. The Presidency has forged a close working relationship with the SIU and law enforcement agencies to monitor the implementation of the recommendations for criminal, disciplinary and administrative action arising from SIU investigations that involve state employees.

The Presidency forms an integral part of international relations and co-operation work, leading the country's representation in international fora and in bilateral and multilateral engagements.

Our approach to foreign policy, which is essentially led by the Presidency, is informed by an understanding that our national interest is closely intertwined with the goal of achieving progress in Africa and implementation of Africa's Agenda 2063.

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Guided by the Framework Document on South Africa's National Interest adopted by Cabinet, we continue to work for stronger economic, political and social links with a wider range of African countries and advancing economic integration in Southern Africa and across our beloved continent, Africa.

We continue to use important international platforms like Brics and the G20, to advance the interests of the African continent and the Global South, and have been vocal in calling for the reform, as I said, of the UN Security Council and other multilateral institutions, to make them a lot more representative than they are at the moment.

As a country, South Africa has been at the forefront of continental and international health initiatives.

During our chairship of the African Union in 2020, South Africa was pivotal in efforts to secure Covid-19 vaccines and other medical supplies for the continent.

Indeed, this work went even beyond our own continent as it involved other parts of the world, particularly the Caribbean. As the AU Covid-19 Champion, we as South Africa remain

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involved in driving pandemic preparedness and other initiatives to promote the African health agenda.

Guided by the fundamental principle of human rights and freedom, in December last year, South Africa instituted proceedings against the State of Israel arguing that its actions in Gaza violated the Genocide Convention. The Presidency, together with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, will continue to participate in the Ukraine Peace Forum, a group of countries committed to finding a solution to the conflict taking place in Ukraine. We will continue to push for the parties to this conflict to talk to each other and find a just, lasting and peaceful resolution.

Yes, we continue to work to silence the guns in our continent. The efforts that we are involved in, in Mozambique, and indeed in the DRC, are all aimed at ensuring that conflicts that are ongoing there are brought to an end. We will continue to work with various of our key roleplaying countries to make sure that we realise this objective.

If the last five years has been a time of recovery and renewal for the country, it has also been a time of rebuilding and refocusing for the Presidency. With relatively limited

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budgetary resources, we have had to build capacity and act with urgency to tackle pressing issues.

We now have a much firmer institutional platform on which to build. We have learned many lessons and have developed new ways of working in the Presidency. As we enter a new era of inclusive growth and job creation, we will be able to put the capabilities of the Presidency to much better effect and use.

We will continue to mobilise the skills, capabilities and resources that reside in the state. As the Presidency, we will work to ensure more effective co-ordination and collaboration. We will continue to draw on the knowledge and expertise of individuals and organisations across society.

We will continue to build meaningful social compacts to overcome the challenges that confront our people.

Yes, we will continue to lead the work towards a better life for all South Africans and an inclusive economy that leaves no-one behind. I hereby commend this Budget Vote of the Presidency to the National Assembly. I thank you. [Applause.]

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The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon Speaker, Your excellence president Ramaphosa, hon Deputy President Mashatile, esteemed Members of Parliament and fellow South Africans, 13 years ago, in his address to the Joint Sitting of our Parliament, the then Secretary General of the United Nations, the late Kofi Annan, spoke of a South Africa's unique ability to transcend its history. A nation need not to be imprisoned by his history. He saw in us a beacon of hope, a nation that could teach the world the power of dialogue and trust rather than confrontation and resentment. Among other things, he said:

You have shown that a nation needs not be imprisoned by its history; that even people whose communities have been in bitter conflict, and have endured or committed the worst injustice, can work together to build a common future. I believe this example can serve not only other individual countries, but also the world as a whole, which today is seething and seething with resentment based on past and present injustice, and with misunderstandings based on differences of culture and belief.

He went on to say:

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South Africa's particular wisdom, derived from its own history of overcoming resentment and mistrust, can be used to convince other countries that injustices and misunderstandings are not cured by confrontation or threats, since these only strengthen the determination of the powerful to keep power in their own hands. South Africa can teach all of us that, on the contrary, the way to a better balance lies through dialogue, and the establishment of mutual trust. Only in such an atmosphere can the weak win attention and respect from the strong.

Madam Speaker, I was reminded of Annan's words as we witnessed last week, former adversaries and now colleagues in government, earnestly debating the President's address.

Avoiding the temptation of succumbing to romanticism, of what we witnessed last week, is what Kofi Annan aptly described as South Africa's particular wisdom, derived from our own history of overcoming resentment and mistrust and not to be imprisoned of our own history.

Unfortunately, on the other side of the same coin, the public was also fed a diet theatrics, luddite dogmatism, and venomous hostility, passing for opposition. We recognise and place a high premium on the importance of having a strong and constructive opposition for any democracy to thrive, including

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ours. However, it would be remise of us, especially after last week not to urge our colleagues in the opposition benches to engage in respectful and productive dialogue that contributes to the betterment of our nation. In this regard, we wish to join the President in calling for a discussion that focuses on matters of substance, as opposed to vengeance and personalized attack. As the saying goes...

IsiZulu:

... umuntu akalahlwa.

English:

We hope that for the sake of the constituencies they represent, somewhere down the road they will overcome their cretinous manner of proceeding.

Madam Speaker, I wish to state categorically today, that the assertions suggesting the Government of National Unity, GNU will collapse in a year or two are merely a wish being father to a thought. The GNU is not just a coalition of convenience, it is a concrete manifestation of what the ANC called for, long time ago in 1992 in our document titled, *Ready to Govern*. In that document, we described the vision in the following manner:

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One which is not distorted by the prejudices and sectarianism that has guided viewpoints on race and gender in the past and one which relies on the wisdom, life experiences, talents, and know-how of all South Africans, women and men.

Madam Speaker, the Constitution of the Republic lists 16 responsibilities vested in the President of the Republic. Among these, I am going to just highlight two of them, that is, developing and implementing national policy and co-ordinating the functions of state departments and administrations. This underscores the vital importance of having fully capacitated Presidency, able to provide the necessary strategic leadership to government and society broadly. The Presidency plays a critical role in strengthening policy co-ordination and implementation serving as the nucleus for cohesive social and economic development in the nation. Accordingly, central planning is indispensable for ensuring that development efforts are systematic and aligned with overarching national objectives.

The National Development Plan, NDP which outlines the strategic framework up to 2030, is a cornerstone of these efforts. As the Seventh Administration looks to and beyond 2030, it is tasked with formulating a vision that continues to

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drive progress and addresses emerging challenges. The National Planning Commission must be empowered and adequately resourced to support this long-term vision, ensuring that policies are not only well-conceived but also effectively implemented.

The Presidency's intervening role is also crucial in tackling structural factors that impede progress and in addressing service delivery challenges. By leveraging its authority and convening power, the Presidency can weave interventions that cut across various sectors, ensuring that bottlenecks are addressed, and resources are optimally utilised. This involves not just high-level oversight but also active engagement with different layers of government and stakeholders to ensure that policies are translated into tangible benefits for our people.

The ability to mobilise and co-ordinate these efforts across departments and agencies is essential for overcoming systemic barriers and improving service delivery. Only the Presidency can achieve this objective. Furthermore, the Presidency is also pivotal in promoting nation-building and social cohesion. Building a cohesive society requires engaging diverse communities and stakeholders, ensuring that everybody feels represented and involved in the nation's development.

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The National Dialogue to which the President has committed his support, will help to build trust, foster mutual understanding and create a sense of shared common nationhood and purpose.

The strategic and historic importance of the National Dialogue, is that it would help to produce the required national programme that must help our country to eliminate poverty, reduce inequality, while at the same time defines the roles and responsibilities of each of the sectors of society and sacrifices each of them shall make in achieving these national objectives. This is essential for maintaining social, political and economic stability and will ensure that development efforts are inclusive and equitable.

As the ANC, we stand firmly in support of the Presidency's Budget Vote, a budget that embodies our shared vision for a thriving, inclusive, and resilient South Africa. This budget is more than a blueprint, it is a dedication to tackling the challenges our nation faces head-on and constructing a brighter future for all South Africans. Our economy, as with others globally, has encountered substantial hurdles. Yet, the measures outlined by the President offer a strategic roadmap towards recovery and expansion. The Presidency should be empowered with the necessary resources and capacity to lead the drive for much needed investments in infrastructure,

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promotion of small, medium and micro-sized enterprises, and foster innovation, laying the very firm foundation for sustainable economic progress.

It must be able to co-ordinate initiatives that generate jobs, reduce unemployment, and uplift communities. As we have just heard from the President, youth employment and empowerment remain fundamental pillars of our national development. The President's dedication to enhancing these through programmes like the Presidential Youth Stimulus in the hands-on approach he has deployed towards this programme. By ensuring our youth are equipped with essential skills for the future, we are investing in our nation's most valuable assets, its people.

Infrastructure development is a key catalyst for economic growth. This budget emphasizes the importance of modernising our infrastructure to support economic activities and enhance the quality of life for all South Africans. Investments in transport, energy, water, and sanitation will not only create jobs but also guarantee essential services are accessible to all, particularly in underserved areas.

We are acutely aware of the destructive impact of corruption on our nation's progress. The President's commitment to

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combatting corruption and promoting good governance is evident in this and previous budgets. Strengthening anticorruption institutions, enhancing transparency, and ensuring accountability are vital steps in restoring public trust and guaranteeing that public resources are utilised for the benefit of all South Africans.

Additionally, the budget underscores our dedication to education. By investing in our educational institutions and ensuring that every child has access to quality education, we are empowering future generations and securing a brighter future for our nation.

We also recognise the importance of environmental sustainability. This budget allocates resources towards mitigating the impact of climate change, promoting renewable energy, and preserving our natural resources for future generations.

In conclusion, a comprehensive evaluation of the President's tenure reveals a leader dedicated to reform, anticorruption efforts, crisis management, and economic recovery. His navigation to complex domestic and international political and

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economic landscapes demonstrates resilience and a strategic vision for South Africa's future.

This budget is a bold and visionary plan that addresses the Presidency's immediate needs as an effective centre for co-ordinating state affairs. It is a testament to the President's leadership and our collective determination to overcome challenges and build a better future for all South Africans. I urge all Members of Parliament to support this budget and collaborate in maintaining oversight on the expenditure of public funds. Let us unite in our efforts to create a South Africa that is prosperous, inclusive and sustainable. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Dr M J HLOPHE: Chair, to President Ramaphosa, first thing that I need to say to you is, please don't call me judge Hlophe. You know why. You know better than I. Don't call me judge Hlophe, please.

President, there are many programmes and state departments in your office. I have quite a lot here on my cell phone: South African National Aids Council, South African Investment Conference, Presidential Climate Commission, Human Resource Development Council, Infrastructure SA, National Strategic

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Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide, Presidential Youth Employment, Intervention and Operation Vulindlela. In addition to that, obviously, we know there are other state departments which are now under the Presidency. There are other departments which now fall under the Presidency.

The first problem is that I have not had sight of the annual performance reports. We asked for them even this morning. So, it is very difficult to approve of something in the dark.

[Applause.] Thank you. Secondly, the most critical aspect of the Government of National unity, GNU, Cabinet is that you, Mr President, can now act unilaterally with state owned companies, bypassing parliamentary oversight.

To understand this, it is essential to know that parliament has three types of committees. The standing committees, ad hoc committees and portfolio committees. The role that is played by portfolio committees is very critical. These committees are responsible for overseeing government ministries, but there has never been a portfolio committee that has been established for the Presidency. That is a serious lacuna. We don't have a portfolio committee that has been established for the Presidency as yet.

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With the dissolution of the Department of Public Enterprises, state owned companies will now fall under the Presidency, which means they will no longer be accountable to Parliament. The President only answers to Parliament during quarterly question and answer sessions, which are often marred by bias and lack of transparency.

The DA has previously called for a portfolio committee on the Presidency, citing Phala Phala as an example of its necessity. However, now that the DA holds Cabinet positions, will they reiterate this call? The Zondo Commission report also recommended establishing a portfolio committee on the Presidency, but will Zondo emphasise this recommendation again? It is highly unlikely that he will.

State owned companies contribute significantly to the economy. They are responsible for 27% of the gross domestic product, GDP, surpassing the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, which only has a contribution of 23%. The question is, can we trust President Ramaphosa to manage these companies without parliamentary oversight? That is the question.

Accountability is very important, Mr President. The President is not required to account to Parliament, in the same way that

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Ministers do account. He also cannot be summoned by the portfolio committee in the same way as ministries can. That's my understanding of how Parliament functions. Mr President, it is very difficult for us as an opposition to effectively say we go along with the budget. No figures have been given at all as to how the budget has been comprised. We don't know. I'm standing here being called upon to come and endorse a budget in the dark. It is very, very difficult to do that.

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Hlophe, there is a point of order, if you can take your seat. Hon member?

Mr M P MSEZANE: It is hon Msezane, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Yes, go ahead.

Mr M P MSEZANE: Speaker, we were very respectful to President and to the Chief Whip of the ANC when they spoke ...

The SPEAKER: Which rule are you standing on?

Mr M P MSEZANE: ... no, Speaker, it is parliamentary disturbance. The speaker is being disturbed and we are making ... [Interjections.] ... Speaker, if you don't want the House

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to degenerate kindly assist in allowing our speaker to speak without being interrupted.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, thank you very much even though you didn't indicate under which rule you are raising your point of order. However, there is no overwhelming noise that is drowning the speaker. When that happens, I will intervene as I have always done. Hon members, let us allow judge ... Dr M J Hlophe to proceed. I am also making the same mistake as the President. [Laughter.] Hon Hlophe?

Dr M J HLOPHE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was still saying to President Ramaphosa that it is very difficult to engage constructively and meaningfully because we have not had sight of the budget, you also didn't take us into confidence as to how much has been budgeted for in your office. It creates difficulties for us.

As far as the MK Party is concerned, our view is very clear. You alluded to three challenges that we have in this country, and they are in your view, poverty, inequality and unemployment. We appreciate that there are budget constraints, but we are not suggesting as MK Party that the office of the President should not be capacitated. The real issue is by how

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much is that office supposed to be capacitated, and we are here as parliamentarians to ensure that there is proper accountability. Because we are representing the voters here, we want to make sure that there is an independent portfolio committee in the Presidency to ensure that everything is accounted for properly and that everything is according to book.

It is the view of the MK Party that money should not be concentrated in the Presidency. It doesn't matter how much has been allocated, but money should not be concentrated in the Presidency. Rather, there are certain departments where money should be diverted to, for example, the Department of Basic Education. There is no self-respecting country in the world which does not take education seriously.

It was only yesterday when I learnt - I think it was on News24 that the Department of Basic Education returned something in the region of 580 million to Treasury. Sorry, I apologise, it was Higher Education. I do not know the circumstances relating to how that occurred, but on the face of it, someone is not doing their job. [Applause.] It really doesn't matter whether it was Higher Education or Basic Education; education is

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important ... [Interjections.] Fine, it doesn't matter for me ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Let us allow the speaker to make his point.

Dr M J HLOPHE: The other department which in our view as the MK Party ought to be given more money is obviously the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, for reasons that we outlined fully in the debate, one of which is overcrowding. Overcrowding will not come to an end as long as we do not plough enough resources into that department, and that department has a huge deficit or cut of 13%, which is quite huge.

We have stated our position as the MK Party that a lot of money must be invested in agriculture - far more than we have budgeted. Our approach to agriculture is that we must develop infrastructure - we are talking about rural development - we must develop infrastructure in rural areas. Our view is that when that infrastructure is developed in rural areas, we must utilise local talent and we seldom do that - we tend to import these big contractors and they come. Sometimes there is tension between the workers emanating from the big contractors

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and local people. We end up with a situation whereby local people or residents do not identify with the infrastructure.

One of the compelling ways of making people identify with the infrastructure is to get them involved right from inception. That will create jobs for them as we build roads and as we build bridges, and we must ensure that some of those jobs are permanent and ensure that the local residents look after the infrastructure.

We also believe, as the MK Party, that a lot of money must be ploughed into the army. We have stated our position that we believe there should be compulsory military training. We should reintroduce that and it makes our boys and perhaps our girls would want to go to the army more responsible citizens of this country. Going to the army is not just about shooting, but there is more to it; there is self-discipline and a lot of skill that people acquire in the army. So, we believe there should be more money that should be ploughed into the army and that will create ... [Applause.] Thank you. That will absorb so many of our youngsters who are idling in the townships and have absolutely nowhere to go. At least we would know that as soon as they turn 18, they will be absorbed for about two years in the army, they will have something to do then just

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idling in the streets and becoming victims to drugs and other social ills.

Another problem where money should be going - in Cape Town it was reported last week, for example, that there were nine murders in Cape Town alone. Clearly the money that we invest in the police is not enough. We need to invest far more money in the police. The question arises where is money going to come from? We have certain ideas as to how money can be generated.

The first obvious one, which we are not going to like, Mr President, is the Cabinet. The size of the Cabinet with respect is too big and this was recognised by the then official opposition, the DA. They recognised that, but when the time came for the Government of National Unity, they are now sending a totally different tune. [Applause.]

In addition to reducing the size of the Cabinet, which is the obvious thing to do, Mr President, you should also seriously engage your colleagues in the Cabinet to scale down on the perks that they have. You can always scale down on your perks, if, for example, you are entitled to a helicopter, you don't have to order a helicopter, but you can order something. It is

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something that colleagues can be engaged on ... [Applause.]

[Interjections.] Yes, we need to save money. It may sound ridiculous, but the bottom line is that there's so much money that we will be able to save, for example, instead of flying business class, you can fly economy class and embark on austerity measures. We can, only voluntary basis, all of us embark on austerity measures with a view to saving more money, and those funds can be redirected and be ploughed into education, defence, police and so on. It is a fact.

When the time comes, Mr President, to borrow money, please borrow from BRICS. We have a very important role to play in BRICS. We have to use BRICS because it has a very important role to play, and it is here to stay. We are partners with and have to use BRICS. I am aware that we have borrowed money from BRICS - if my memory serves me well - in the past, but we should continue to use BRICS as a viable alternative as opposed to the International Monetary Fund, IMF, and other institutions. We should use BRICS.

The other thing is we have to increase tax, particularly tax that is paid by companies, especially foreign companies ...

[Applause.] Manier times we are told that if we increase tax

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on foreign companies, they will run away and invest elsewhere in the world. We have heard that before, Mr President.

Those companies that we were told are going to run away if taxes are increased, marginally or by a significant proportion are still here. They are still mining in this country, paying our workers salaries which are clearly sometimes not up to scratch. So, the argument that if we increase tax in respect of companies, especially foreign investors, that they will run away is not borne out by what we see out there. It doesn't make sense.

Mr President, oil continues to be a serious problem. I'm talking about oil. It does continue because it impacts on obviously fuel and other related products. The question that I would like to ask why can't we import oil from Iran?

[Applause.] Iran has the cheapest oil, I'm told - I'm not an oil expert. Iran has the cheapest oil in the world, I'm told. Is there any reason ...

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! I am sure you will share your last part of your speech with the President. Your time, unfortunately, has come to an end.

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Dr M J HLOPHE: Thank you. I leave it as a question: Is there any reason why we cannot import oil from Iran, Mr President? Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY: Speaker, the electricity crisis that has gripped South Africa since 2015 has, over the past few years, become one of the pre-eminent issues for this government and the citizens it serves. The impact has been felt by individuals and businesses alike and the impact of ongoing rolling blackouts has played havoc with the national psyche.

In a bid to avoid the ongoing catastrophic effects of loadshedding on our economy, the President established the National Energy Crisis Committee in 2022, out of which the Energy Action Plan was born.

Then, in 2023, the President announced that he would be appointing Dr Kogisientsho Ramokgopa as a Minister in the Presidency responsible for electricity whose primary objective was to end loadshedding.

There was great opposition to this appointment, not least because of the costs of establishing the office of this

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Minister, as well as the lack of oversight capabilities of Parliament because there was no direct accountability.

In addition, there were already two Ministers responsible for electricity, with fully fledged departments and statutory mandates, Minister Ramokgopa had neither. The mandate given by the President did little to capacitate Minister Ramokgopa to address the long-term resolution of the electricity crisis, requiring collaboration with other Ministers in order to find the necessary solutions.

This meant that while Minister Ramokgopa was expected to address loadshedding, his only real power lay in his management of National Energy Crisis Committee, NECOM and its workstreams. He had no procurement capacity, no direct responsibility for Eskom nor the ability to provide policy or legislative direction.

In the meantime, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy was developing a blueprint for electricity, namely the Integrated Resources Plan and the Department of Public Enterprises was busy with the unbundling of Eskom – areas of responsibility for which a Minister of Electricity should have been tasked.

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Despite these obstacles, we are into our 118th day without loadshedding - the longest run of no loadshedding since September 2020 to December 2020. It is also worth noting that this has been achieved with a saving of over R6 billion in diesel against the same period last year. So, the decision by the President in respect of dealing with the electricity crisis has definitely borne some fruit.

However, while being a relatively "free agent" in the Presidency has given the Minister of Electricity a freedom and agility to deal with the electricity crisis, it will not be sufficient to address the ongoing energy crisis.

The risk of loadshedding hangs on a knife's edge and while the planned maintenance and the lower demand have paid dividends and seen the Electricity Availability Factor sufficiently high to create some element of stability, the energy system in this country remains severely constrained.

For that reason, the DA has welcomed moving electricity out of the Presidency and the creation of the Department of Energy and Electricity with Dr Ramokgopa at the helm. By incorporating the energy portfolio with electricity, we are hopeful that this new department will combine the political,

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statutory and policy mandate of the energy sector with the momentum built up through the Presidency and NECOM to create a stable and functional energy supply for South Africa.

I, personally, am absolutely thrilled to have been appointed as the Deputy Minister in this new department and while we await the uncoupling of Energy from Mineral Resources, our singular focus will remain on finding innovative solutions to create a long-term energy-resilience in our country.

Although the new Department has been announced by the President, the budget for this Department has not been allocated for the 2024-25 financial year. As a result, there is no real clarity on the fiscal responsibility for the establishment and running of the Department of Energy and Electricity between the Presidency and the Department of Mineral Resources.

And while the President has moved electricity out of the Presidency, he has moved state-owned enterprises in. The implication of this is that Eskom now resides in the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and not within the Department of Energy and Electricity.

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Initial indications were that Eskom would be moved into the new Department so that the Executive entrusted with the function of energy and electricity would have direct oversight of the entity. It makes absolute sense that the organisation responsible for electricity be housed within the department.

However, in the opening of parliament address, the President made reference to establishing a holding company which would centralise ownership of the SOEs. In our estimation, this is merely a different model for the failed Department of Public Enterprises which creates another unnecessary layer of bureaucracy. The cost implications of this are also astronomical and unjustifiable in an economy that is trying to claw its way out of the financial morass in which it currently exists.

While the Presidency was perhaps the perfect vehicle for an emergency intervention into the electricity crisis, it is not necessarily the answer to the failing SOEs. The electricity crisis warranted a centralised coordination from within the office of the President in order to fast-track decision-making and implementation of the energy action plan.

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Whereas the turn-around of state-owned enterprises, while urgent, requires that each SOE be housed within the relevant line department as a mechanism to ensure that policy and implementation are aligned for greater efficiency. As a result, we will continue to lobby for the decentralisation of SOEs and particularly of Eskom and to have them removed from the Presidency as soon as possible to affect a faster turn-around.

The Presidency will still have strategic oversight of the electricity and energy sector through Operation Vulindlela.

Operation Vulindlela has made excellent progress in addressing the energy crisis in its initial phase, most notably in the cessation of loadshedding. The next phase of this, following the passage of the Electricity Regulation Amendment Bill, will focus on several key areas in the energy sector, including the restructuring of Eskom. This will also require specific focus on urgent interventions in the expansion of the transmission network – a mammoth task.

The Presidency's role in Operation Vulindlela is not implementation. It is high-level strategic planning and coordination. It is the role of the relevant Ministry to

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ensure that implementation is taking place and to provide the requisite oversight and monitoring.

It is for this reason that we believe that Eskom should reside in the Department of Energy and Electricity and not within the Presidency. Given the technical nature of the entity, it requires focused policy guidance and effective oversight from an executive authority and director-general that views it holistically within the context of the energy sector and not within the context of a group of entities.

The Presidency should retain its role as a planning, monitoring and evaluation department with a focus on high-level, strategic interventions where needed. When the department steps into an implementation role, it starts to impede the ability of a department to fulfil its own mandate, and this can lead to policy incoherence and a dilution of executive oversight. This is most evident in the electricity and energy sector.

The Presidency is in a unique position to create the space to finally consolidate the entire energy department into a cohesive, focused and fully mandated implementation department which will have the ability and capacity to chart a course

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towards energy security for South Africa. Now is not the time to retain the status quo under a different guise.

The government of national unity presents a real opportunity for changing the way government does business. By implementing the policy proposition of decentralisation of SOEs, entities such as Eskom can be repositioned in their relevant line departments, bringing the operational element of the electricity business into alignment with the implementation of energy policy.

Speaker, while I support the budget of the Presidency at present, it must change in time to align with its mandate in order to continue the good work of Operation Vulindela and to ensure ongoing collaboration with the new Department of Energy and Electricity, to address energy security, the restructuring of Eskom and the rollout of the just energy transition. I thank you.

Mr J S MALEMA: Deputy Speaker, yesterday the President of the Government of National Unity spent a considerable time saying that our input and contribution during the Opening of Parliament debate was playing the man and not the ball. The President wrongly said that we had previously insulted him by

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saying that his father was a police officer during the dark days of apartheid and that even when such is a fact, he is proud that his father was a law enforcement officer of apartheid laws.

Let's put the facts right in front of this Parliament. We have never ever made any reference to the President's father in this Parliament, and even if we did it would have been a statement of fact and not an insult. To say someone's parent is a nurse will never be used as an insult. To say someone else's parent is a police officer can never be used as an insult.

You said that I said I spoke about your father in order for you to drag my grandmother, unfairly so, because my grandmother has nothing to do with what I'm doing here. So, President, I want to state very clearly that we respect each other and will continue to engage each other robustly.

Secondly, Parliament and political work in general is not for soft-skinned people who will use all languages to complain whenever we give a fair but robust and direct characterisation of their political conduct. [Applause.] Here we speak truth and nothing else but the truth. In our characterisation of the

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ball which you spoke of here and which you said we must play, we will also characterise the players in order to have a fuller picture of both subjective and objective political and ideological conditions. You can never only play the ball without understanding the strength and weaknesses of the player. We will also welcome, and this we did a number of times ... We welcomed and tolerated whosoever did that against us. When we get criticised by your side, even sometimes by political amateurs like Buti Manamela who comes and attacks us personally, we never respond to them. We never cry because we are not crybabies. We fight because we are fighters. Instead of crying, we fight. [Applause.]

In politics, the individual's personal character is key to historical developments. Otherwise, why is there Nelson Mandela Day. The individual strength of Mandela is what we are drawn to reflect upon, to learn from him as a leader but more broadly as a human being.

It is a fact that in light of the Government of National Unity, which originates from the white capitalist establishment, we needed to appreciate your own historical involvement with these white people and a close attention to your personal political journey gives testament to the

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suspicion that this government was not actually created now. It has come from a long time ago because you were made a project a long time ago.

When we say you did not go to Robben Island when your peers went to Robben Island, how can that be an insult? When we say you wrote a letter to the police and said they planted communist ideas in your head, how can that be an insult? To tell the truth is the greatest respect we give to a sitting President. It is a constitutional requirement that you must be held accountable and scrutinised with regard to the decisions you make.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Malema, can you please take your seat? There is a point of order. Please take your seat. There is a point of order. Hon Dlakude?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon Deputy Speaker ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, order. I cannot hear the speaker.

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The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am standing on a point of order based on what the hon Malema said. It's Rule 92. Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Malema referred to the President as a project, meaning that the President is acting on behalf of other people. So, that is unparliamentary and it cannot be accepted.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I listened to what the hon Malema said. I think that we do have to have robust debates, so I'm not going to sustain that point of order. Please proceed. [Applause.]

Mr J S MALEMA: To tell you the truth, it is the greatest respect we give to a sitting President. It is a constitutional requirement that you must be held accountable and scrutinised about the decisions you make.

Thirdly, we have read and will never argue with you when you say we must read more books about the National Union of Mineworkers, NUM. Reading is a very nice thing to do. There are many books that we have read in relation to the formation of the NUM. We want to state very clearly here that you read and called the names of individuals who formed the NUM, which we say was a project of the Oppenheimers. These individuals

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are all flourishing, with you being a billionaire, yet the conditions of mine workers continue to be worse. [Applause.] How do you form a union to go and save the workers but the people who formed the union are themselves the ones who are succeeding yet the mine workers are struggling?

Mine workers in South Africa are constituted to be the most exploited section of the working class in South Africa. Mine workers continue to be the most underpaid workers in South Africa compared to the amount of wealth they extract from beneath our soil. Mine workers continue to stay in horrible conditions and informal settlements without water, roads, toilets and without basic necessities. Mine workers continue to be the biggest victims of loan sharks, with the biggest loan shark being Capitec. Mine workers continue to perish in occupational accidents. Solomon Nyirenda, Yvonne Mnisi and Pretty Winnie Nkambule are still trapped inside a container in Lily Mine after the accident that happened in 2016, eight years ago. Mine workers continue to live in communities defined by high levels of crime.

When the mine workers protested 12 years ago in Marikana for a minimum wage of R12,500 per month, you as a director and a shareholder of Lonmin mine did not take the side of the

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workers. You called for concomitant action and 34 workers were massacred by the ANC government in Marikana. [Applause.]

If you formed the union for these workers, why do the conditions remain the way they are? The union was formed to suppress those workers. The conditions of mine workers in South Africa is applicable to many other categories of workers in South Africa. Many workers in South Africa live in absolute poverty and there is no hope that their conditions will change under the Government of National Unity.

If the history and fiction that you tell about the NUM and mine workers is anything to believe, why are mine workers still trapped in the conditions they find themselves in today?

Mr President, it is almost a year since you went to Hammanskraal in June 2023 to admit to the people that you had failed them after 31 people died after the cholera outbreak. To this day, the people of Hammanskraal still do not have clean, drinkable water. How can the President go to a place and find a crisis and when he comes out of that place the crisis remains? It doesn't only remain; it becomes worse.

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President, you went to Alexandra and promised people one million houses. When we remind you that you promised people one million houses, you are going to say it's an insult. It's not an insult.

Sepedi:

Ke nnete! Le tsamaile la ya go botša batho ba Alexandra maaka la re le tla ba fa dintlo tše 1 milione. Le mamohla le, le ntlo ye teye ya lešidišidi ga se ya ka ya agiwa, ka morago ga ge o ile kua, Mopresidente, wa botša batho maaka gore o tlile go ba agela dintlo. O tsamaile mo le Tona Mchunu la ya Giyani, la fihla la botša batho ba Giyani gore ...

English:

You are going to get water and if you don't get water, action is going to be taken. What action? Minister Senzo Mchunu is still a Minister. If there was any action, it was supposed to be on him because the people of Giyani do not have water.

Xitsonga:

Vanhu va le Giyani va lava mati ...

English:

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... and you went and promised them water. You did not give them water. You came here to Cape Town and established the antigang unit. You said you are going to fight gangsterism here in Cape Town. After you left the situation became even worse. Today, there are more police stations that are found here in Cape Town, Western Cape, which are involved in contact crimes. Four out of 10 police stations in South Africa which are affected by drugs and gangsterism are found here. You said you had formed a unit to deal with that.

You went to Mahikeng, called an imbizo and told the people to come and express themselves. Today, since you left Mahikeng, nothing has improved. The people of Matlosana, Tswaing, Ratlou, Mahikeng, Madibeng and others do not have water, do not have dignified sanitation and do not have roads, clinics and clean parks. However, because you make promises and fiction in your mind, these people imagine their daily struggles.

Mr President, what is even more concerning is that even your seventh administration is characterised by fiction, supported by prepaid mainstream media. You continue with promises that you do not follow up on. Just recently, you went to the people of Kariega in Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality and

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promised them temporary houses within 30 days after they suffered recent floods. These people are still waiting for houses. Thirty days have gone and passed.

Until we clarify the rules and intentions, we will never support Budget Vote No 1 on the Presidency because it is a waste of government resources. A lot of money is being spent on useless things instead of redirecting those resources to projects that are beneficial to the people of South Africa.

We don't understand why you took Intelligence and put it in your Office instead of taking the water crisis project of Hammanskraal, making it a presidential responsibility and deliver water. If you mean it, let that water crisis sit in the Office of the President. We don't have a crisis in intelligence. That thing is imaginary. The crisis is water in Giyani. Why is water not in the Office of the President? That is what we are faced with.

Why is crime not in the Office of the President? You have something called Evaluation and Monitoring which can't monitor itself. How can it monitor other Ministries? It has got no capacity to monitor itself.

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So, we are making a call but instead of having these useless departments in your Office, bring Police into your Office because crime is a serious issue in South Africa. Children are being killed, women are being raped. Those are matters that the President should be occupied with and be worried about, not this thing of wanting to be with your faction in your Office, even when it is not helpful to you. Let's take serious responsibilities into the Office of the President.

Let us reduce the Cabinet and do away with Deputy Ministers. What you did to hon Sihle Zikalala is painful when you see Sihle sitting down on a chair and that white man of a Minister is sitting next to him.

Sepedi:

Okare Sihle e dio ba tšhiwana ya Modimo o a tseba! Ba dio e fa letlogo.

English:

Instead of just removing Sihle and closing that Deputy Ministry, you humiliate him in the manner you have done. Deputy Ministers do not have a role to play. They are unnecessary. We put a lot of money in the offices of Deputy Ministers who are not even known by anyone. They walk around

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with bodyguards and people start asking themselves, who is this one with bodyguards? So, we can save a lot of money in reducing Cabinet by removing Deputy Ministers. President ...

Sepedi:

... nna le wena re a hlompšana, ebile re dula tulong ye tee.
Nna le wena ge re e ya ga gabo yo mongwe, re ya ka maoto.

English:

We don't need Parliament to make an appointment when we want to see each other. We have done so before and I criticise you even when it is just the two of us. I'm not criticising you here because I see these hon Members of Parliament who will continue to engage each other robustly.

You asked me a question, asking where were you? It was biologically impossible for me to be there. [Laughter.] So, don't question me. Go and question my mother and my father as to why I was not there. However, when the time came, I showed up. When the time came, I never sold out. When the time came, I was never a collaborator. [Applause.] I came at an early age and nothing will remove me. [Inaudible.] ... times were there to silence me with the story of being disrespectful. I'm not disrespectful. I engage robustly.

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Sepedi:

Ga ke rapeletše boroko ka go budulala. Nna ga ke tšhabe motho, ke tšhaba maaka! Ke bolela nnete. Mmušo wa dinonyana o tlile go wa ...

English:

... in less than two years.

Sepedi:

A o we mmušo wa dinonyana, a o we! [Tsenoganong.]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC: Hon Deputy Speaker, Dr Annelie Lotriet, His Excellency the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, hon Ministers, Deputy Ministers, hon Chief Whip, Mdumiseni Ntuli, hon leaders of all political parties in the National Assembly, hon members of the National Assembly, "i nhlikani" [good afternoon].

Let me begin by acknowledging the profound significance of the current moment in the history of our democracy. We find ourselves in an extraordinary social, economic and political environment, a testament to the journey we have traversed over the years. It is a journey, marked by significant historical

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transitions that connect us to our past, shape our present and future.

In 1994, we made a historic transition from a minority apartheid regime to a democratically elected government. That pivotal moment resulted in a government of national unity, led by President Nelson Mandela. Thirty years after the first GNU, we have now formed a new one, driven by our people's resolute desire for us to work together and hold one another accountable. The reality of our recent election results is that no party represented in this House won an outright majority to work alone legislatively or at the executive level. This underscores the importance of our collective responsibility in this new government of national unity. Our people want all parties to work together within the framework of our Constitution and build a country founded on nonracialism, nonsexism and equality. This commitment, without compromising national stability and peace, reassures us of a hopeful future.

In the words of one of the visionary leaders of our country, President Oliver Tambo, and I quote:

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Our strength lies in unity, and our unity lies in our diversity.

These words continue to inspire and remind us of the power of our collective efforts. Therefore, despite our diverse political party affiliations, it is crucial for us to combine our abilities to address and achieve the strategic goals set out by President Ramaphosa during his opening of Parliament address.

These goals, which include promoting inclusive growth and job creation, alleviating poverty, addressing the high cost of living, establishing a capable, ethical and progressive state, are too significant to be achieved in isolation. We must complement each other and recognise collaboration as the key to our success. We should use our diverse political ideas to improve our country's course.

Our actions must be motivated by the need to better the lives of our people and not by selfish political desires. Whatever we do as members of this Seventh Parliament must benefit the people. We must live up to our commitment to serve, Batho Pele.

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The Presidency is committed to supporting and fulfilling its obligations as outlined in the statement of intent and the medium-term development programme. As the centre of government, we will ensure broad representations and a solid mandate to govern the country, fostering increased transparency, accountability and trust in a people-driven governance. We will continue to play an essential role in bringing about significant reforms over the next five years and beyond. We will always act as the compass for our nation, leading the agenda to create an even more equitable, democratic and prosperous South Africa.

President Ramaphosa has delegated several responsibilities to me to support him as the head of government and the executive. These responsibilities include accelerating land reform, improving service delivery, assisting in the District Development Model roll-out, championing social policy through the SA National AIDS Council and the Human Resources Development Council, social cohesion and initiatives focusing on traditional and Khoi-San leaders, military veterans as well as the water task team, which has just started with its tasks. The Presidency is prioritising the need to improve the speed of execution and introducing the discipline of getting things done.

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For example, Operation Vulindlela is undergirded by the concept of deliverology, the science of delivering results. It is a target-driven process to ensure the successful implementation of reforms and the achievement of policy goals as outlined in the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, and the reforms introduced from the Sixth administration. Through Operation Vulindlela we have strengthened transformation efforts to improve the lives of many South Africans and, most importantly, assess the areas where much still needs to be done to address poverty, racial inequality and economic development.

Equally, guided by the need to get things done, we are strengthening the implementation of the District Development Model through better co-ordination across the various levels of government. This will improve municipal efficiencies and operations and address community concerns. Through the District Development Model, DDM, we engage industry leaders, among others, to promote entrepreneurship and employment creation in townships and rural areas. We are determined to strengthen partnerships with local communities, including traditional leaders, government and community organisations. This co-operative interaction has already helped identify best practices and areas for improvement in executing the One Plan,

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which aims to integrate and connect public sector investments to maximise their impact on the long-term development of districts or metros.

Working with the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs we will provide stability to municipalities, and additional work is being done to expedite the much-needed turnaround in service delivery in this sector.

We will assess the progress and commitments made during Presidential Izimbizo and further engage the private sector to improve the implementation of the agreed-upon tasks in the various social compacts.

Hon Speaker, through the Human Resource Development Council HRDC, we are also building collaborations with businesses, labour and government to source essential skills for the economy and the state. The Human Resource Development Council, HRDC, for the next five years aim to achieve, amongst others: Enhancing fundamental education programmes in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, languages and life skills, increasing access to quality postschool education and training, enhancing research and technology innovation outcomes and producing skilled workers for the economy. We

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will also include the Human Resource Development Council's activities in the Medium-Term Development Plan. In addition, we will support the Department of Basic Education's reading campaign by championing ongoing efforts to promote a reading culture in schools and communities, ensuring that our children can read for meaning.

Furthermore, we plan to strengthen our partnership with the National School of Government in its efforts to professionalise the Public Service.

Hon Chairperson, this debate coincides with the 25th International Aids Conference taking place in Munich, Germany, under the theme: Put people first. As has been the case over the years, South Africa is represented at this conference by a delegation led by Dr Joe Phaahla. South Africa plays a crucial role in the global health space, specifically as it relates to making substantial progress in the fight against HIV and Aids and tuberculosis. As of February 2024, over 5,9 million people were under treatment, and over 4,3 million had their viral load reduced. We remain determined to end the HIV/Aids epidemic in our country. [Applause.]

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As the Presidency, one of the critical priorities we are concerned with is promoting social cohesion and nation building. These efforts align with Chapter 15 of the country's National Development Plan, which focuses on transforming society and uniting the country. In this regard, we conduct series of engagements with various partners, including traditional and Khoi-San leaders. We have also been engaging with the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders to tackle challenges such as the safety of traditional leaders in our country. I must say that the killings of traditional leaders remain the biggest thorn. We are working with the Ministry of Police to find a lasting solution of protecting traditional leaders.

Hon members, land reform continues to be a top priority on our agenda. It remains a key programmatic response to achieving restorative justice and transforming colonial and apartheid spatial planning. We will continue to fast-track the land reform agenda regarding access and beneficial land use. I am pleased to indicate that since the inception of the Land Reform programme in 1994, 5,3 million hectares of land have been acquired through land redistribution, benefitting over 315 000 persons, including labour tenants, farm dwellers and extension of security of tenure occupiers.

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Hon members, many will agree that the government has made great strides to fast-track land reform anchored on the rollout of an extensive agricultural support programme. As a country, we continue to invest in the productive and efficient use of land assets, which will boost agricultural output and encourage economic growth in targeted areas.

While we celebrate 30 years of democracy, we must never forget those who fought for it such as military veterans. In October 2020, the President established the presidential task team for military veterans to address their plight. We are actively working with them to achieve the objectives of the Military Veterans Act.

In 2022, the Presidential Task Team on Military Veterans approved the payment of a pension benefit for qualifying military veterans.

In my capacity as the Leader of Government Business I will continue to monitor executive accountability to Parliament. In this regard, we will ensure that members of the executive fulfil their parliamentary obligations by appearing before portfolio committees and answer questions timeously.

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Hon members, in silencing the guns, we are supporting peace efforts in the African continent. In this regard, we are already working with the people of South Sudan to ensure they can hold peaceful elections in December this year. We also want to comment the President for having visited that region recently to look at what other efforts we can bring to bear in areas like the DRC as well.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate as I stated at the beginning that we must all work together, complementing each other and using our expertise and experiences to make our country better and more admirable to the world. Our nation's success is contingent upon our unity. As President Nelson Mandela once said, and I quote:

It is so easy to break down and destroy. The heroes are those who make peace and build.

Therefore, it is imperative for those of us who love this country and are committed to its purpose to pursue peace and strive for the good of our nation to build a better South Africa for future generations to come.

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In honouring the hard work and determination of all who have come before us and set the stage for progressive policies, we should be deliberate in designating the Seventh administration as a period for the aggressive implementation of all our policies.

As President Ramaphosa previously stated, we, seated here today, have the opportunity to transform South Africa into what it should be. As hon members, once again, let's continue to work together. The priorities have been outlined and we will make sure that indeed the government of national unity succeed.

Deputy Speaker, I want to end by saying, it is now time to get down to work. Let's fold our shirts and make sure that we go down to work in our communities. The GNU shall succeed in the task of transforming this country for the better. [Applause.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, my time is coming to an end, let me once more reiterate the fact that with all the responsibilities that the President has delegated to me, we will move with speed to ensure that their implementation. In fact, even with the problem of water, let me say to hon Malema that ...

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Xitsonga:

... se hi wu sungurile ntirho lowuya wo lunghisa swa mati. Hi ta fika na le Giyani. Ha Khensa. Inkomu.

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: Hon Deputy Speaker, Your Excellency the President, hon members, South Africa is a country renowned for its progressive Constitution, yet we find ourselves confronted by a stark reality, a nation grappling with profound challenges that threaten the very fabric of our society. This country is celebrated for having one of the best Constitutions, not just in the continent, but globally. However, this reputation stands in stark contrast to the harsh realities faced by our people.

Our people face unnecessary hardship daily. We have recorded alarming numbers of violence against women and children, among the highest in the world, and those are just the recorded ones. Our country is riddled with crime, murders, hijackings, cash-in-transit heists, and drug and alcohol abuse plaguing our communities, rendering the day-to-day lives of South Africans difficult. As the IFP, we hope this office will tackle these head-on and not just keep noting them in speeches with no real results. Mr President, for a while now you have been saying to this House that you are engaging with

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representatives of business, labour and other constituencies. You've been dealing with the collective action that needs to be taken to address the various challenges that constrain our economic growth. The integrity of your office and the transparency of government expenditure are pivotal to our democracy, and it is high time that we see the results of these engagements.

The rampant mismanagement of state funds demonstrated by reports from departments like the Department of Defence is a grave concern. All while our defence force struggles with inadequate resources and support, reports of exorbitant spending on unnecessary travel abroad underscore the critical misalignment of priorities. The welfare of our soldiers and the security of our nation must take precedence over frivolous expenditure.

As the IFP, we have always highlighted that the failure to protect social and economic rights by our government will be our undoing. Whilst we welcome the Government of National Unity, GNU, we do, however, demand accountability to remain the cornerstone of our national government's principles. We cannot tout the benefits of a government union while

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neglecting the very accountability that sustains it, particularly for your office, Mr President.

The issue of climate change cannot be overlooked in this debate. We have seen first-hand the debilitating effects of the elements recently with the floods throughout the various parts of the country. Last, but not least, the constitutional role of traditional, Khoi and San leaders must be upheld and respected. Their cultural significance and contributions to local government must be integrated into the broader framework of our constitutional democracy.

IsiZulu:

Mhlonishwa Mongameli, ngokwelungelo lamakhosi noma abanye abaholi bomdabu benziwa baba yingxenywe ngokomthetho yokwakhiwa komasipala, bayahlala emikhandlwini yomasipala kodwa abanalo izwi. Uma nje ubuka kwakuwukuthi nje benziwe njengezibankwa zithamele ilanga ukuthi bayohlala kulabo masipala.

English:

The challenges facing South Africa are formidable, but they are not insurmountable. We must reaffirm our commitment to the principles that define us - justice, equality and accountability. Let us work together across party lines to

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forge a path forward that honours the promise of our Constitution and delivers a better future for all South Africans.

IsiZulu:

Kube ngama likhulu sintula ugesi ezweni, kwathiwa sinenkinga yokucinywa-kongwa kogesi. Muva nje sesizwa ngokuncishiswa kokutholakala kogesi. Kuyamangaza, mhlonishwa Mongameli, mina la ngisuka khona kwaCebekhulu ugesi uhamba ngehora lesishiyagalombili ekuseni ubuye Phakathi kwehora lesishiyagalombili ukuya kwelesishiyagalolunye ebusuku, angazi noma kuzawukuwonga noma ukuwunciphisa ekutheni utholakale ezweni lethu.

Ngiqhubeke, mhlonishwa Mongameli, uma ubheka umthetho wadwetshwa kahle ukuthi umhlaba ubuyiselwe ebantwini kodwa inkinga ekhona kulo mhlaba obuyiselwa ebantwini, sinenkinga nezisebenzi seminyango abalaphaya phansi eduze kwabantu, ayabuyiswa amapulazi, uma sekufanele bawadedele bawahlephule ube yizingcezu nezicucu. Ekugcineni, uthole ukuthi sekubekwe abangani babo kulezi zingxenye ezishiywe ngaphandle, kodwa isicelo sigazethiwe kwavunyelwana ukuthi umhlaba ubuyele esizweni.

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Lokho kuyoholela ekutheni kube nezimpi zombango wohlaba emakhaya. Ngakhoke kuyadingeka, mhlonishwa Mongameli, ukuthi umnyango wakho ukuthi wolule iminwe, ubheka, uqede noma unqande lokhu kukhohlakala okukhona eMnyangweni Wezokuthuthukiswa Kwezindawe Ezisemakhaya Nokubuyiswa Komhlaba. Ngiyabonga. [Ihlombe.]

Mr A SAULS: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you so much Your Excellency the President, Deputy President, hon members and South Africans at large, greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Khoi and San Language:

!Honkia u huniki.

Afrikaans:

Goeie middag, almal.

English:

"The Stone the builders rejected has become the Chief Corner Stone", Mr President in your task to build a government of national unity you have selected 10 stones to build with, As the PA we firstly, want to thank you for choosing our stone as one of them, our stone: Gayton McKenzie that many builders

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have rejected inside and outside of this House, as an ex-convict, amaBandiet [ex-convict] and a gangster, all the signs are already showing that this "rejected stone" shall become the cornerstone of this GNU.

As the PA, we support this budget because we want to see state intelligence strengthened so that, as a nation, we can have closure on what exactly happened to Joshlin Smith and Nathaniel Julies. Mr President, in terms of the Presidency's strategic focus on migration we want to inform you that illegal immigration costs us innocent lives, three young people in Kimberly, Northern Cape have been killed by an undocumented foreign drunk driver. May we never forget the names of: Mikayla Boysen, Cavino "Poeksie" Mathews and Omphile Mooketsi Jonas.

Like David facing Goliath standing on the hill; Goliath screaming "Give me a man!"; we see you, Mr President, as that man; that man who will finally answer the "national question".

Thirty years ago, today the giant of racial segregation has fallen but unlike David the previous administration has not cut off the head of the apartheid mentality, as a result, institutionalised racism and marginalisation of the coloured,

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and Bushmen people have regained consciousness in the corridors of the National Assembly.

It is not coincidence Mr. President, that 3 years after you were born the Freedom Charter as the first GNU statement of intent was signed in Kliptown, steps away from Chiawelo, the second GNU three decades ago today and now the third GNU lead by yourself during the Seventh Administration, the number of perfection Mr President. For six days God worked, and on the seventh day, God rested. It is time for South Africa to enter her rest, Mr President, it's time for South Africa to enter the rest of mass employment, inclusive economic growth and a capable state for effective delivery.

The opposition has asked, "Give me a man", we say, you are that man. The opposition calls you a "wounded buffalo", Mr President, but we say, you are that man. They reduce your contribution in the struggle to a conveyor belt operator but in our eyes, you are still that man that will take the lead and deal with the "national question". And when they oppose - as you have done, Mr President, when they oppose, you remain composed, and like only in the PA we say, ...

Afrikaans:

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Wanneer die fighters [vegters] vir jou kom, moenie baiza [huiwer] nie. Moenie baiza [huiwer.] nie, want die PA staan sementvas agter jou.

English:

Salute! [Interjections.]

Dr C P MULDER: Madam Speaker, hon President and hon Deputy President, it is an honour and privilege for me to participate in this debate today Vote No 1 - The Presidency. After the election, you decided the way forward was to create a Government of National Unity, GNU, and that is what you have done, and that was the right thing to do.

Your invitation to all was not an unqualified invitation, it was qualified by the statement of intent with clear founding principles, first one, respect for the Constitution, the Bill of Rights in its entirety and the rule of law.

Secondly, non-racism, non-sexism and a long list of other priorities. That was also the right thing to do. The Freedom Front Plus decided to join the Government of National Unity, that was also the right thing to do. We are committed to assisting and to making a success of the Government of

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National Unity and South Africa, but our commitment was also not unqualified.

Firstly, the FF Plus will not be assimilated by any other political party, and that goes for all the parties in the Government of National Unity. We will remain a niche party that will also stand for the rights of our community, the Afrikaner community and other minority communities. Secondly, remain committed to self-determination, Mr President, you know there is some unfinished business in that regard.

The purpose of the debate today is to do oversight of Vote No 1 - The Presidency. Section 42(3) of the Constitution clearly states that the National Assembly represents the people and one of its functions is to scrutinise and oversee executive action. It is common cause that we currently do not have a specific portfolio committee that is doing oversight on Vote No 1 - The Presidency. The hon Leader of the Opposition hon Hlophe, referred to that as well today and I think this to be an issue that will not go away. It is something that we need to deal with.

This matter was raised by the Zondo Commission into Allegations of State Capture, and one of the recommendations

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was that Parliament consider whether it would be desirable for it to establish a committee whose functions were oversight over acts or ... [Inaudible.] ... by the President and the Presidency which are not overseen by the committees. Section 92(2) of the Constitution also refers to that Mr President, you refer to all the number of things that are seated within the Presidency and the work of the Presidency has become more, and the Presidency has become bigger, just referring to Operation Vulindlela and other important things that you are dealing with.

The priority of the Government of National Unity, as you correctly pointed out, is inclusive economic growth. It is our view that the executive and the Presidency cannot do this alone. Never mind civil society, but we need all hands-on-deck. That includes the legislative branch of the government as well.

A year ago, a delegation of six senior members of Parliament travelled overseas to other jurisdictions to see if we could find a mechanism to do oversight over the Presidency. What we need is not a normal portfolio committee. We need a unique homegrown mechanism, not a portfolio committee, and let's be clear, the purpose of that mechanism cannot be to settle

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personal scores or to attack the President's person as an individual. That's not the purpose of such a unique method that we need.

There are other methods that one can use and deal with other issues, but what is necessary is that we find a mechanism that can deal with these issues. For example, in the United Kingdom, they have what they call a liaison committee. It's a committee that consists of the chairpersons of all the different portfolio committees, and they interact with the President, in their case, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, in terms of discussing policy, understanding where the policy the government formulates comes from, and interacting. If we are serious about saying that we want all hands-on-deck, then it will also be in terms of policy and getting all the different portfolios and the legislative branch on board can be done.

It should be done. Mr President, you will be in charge of this process of the Government of National Unity I've listened to some of the contributions made by some of the opposition parties. It is clear, we do need a Government of National Unity. Thank you.

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Xitsonga:

Dok M J MASWANGANYI: Muchaviseki Xandla xa Xipikara, Puresidente, Xandla xa Puresidente, mchaviseki Mashatile, Vaholobye, vachaviseki va Huvo yo Endla Milawu ya Riphabiliki ra Afrika-Dzonga, ndza mi xeweta. Ndzi khensa ku nyikiwa nkarhi wo kota ku hoxa xandla eka njhekanjhekisano wa Mpimanyeto wa Hofisi ya Puresidente. Xandla xa Xipikara, eka mpimanyeto lowu mina ndzi ta rhandza ku nghena hi vuenti eka nkoka wa vutomi bya vanhu va Afrika-Dzonga.

English:

This Vote is tabled and debated against the country celebrating 30 years of democracy under the ANC government. Marking the 30th anniversary of our constitutional democracy, our nation stands vibrant in diversity as one people of South Africa with a single system of expenditure controls for public finances.

At the onset of democracy, the new government inherited an economy in crisis. The economy had been shaped by apartheid policies and by the dependence on mining exports. The apartheid government's economy was built on systematically enforced exclusion linked to racial exclusion in every sphere. In the former homelands, only 20% of adults were employed.

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South Africa's colonial apartheid history has resulted in black people being marginalised from the mainstream of the economy. From the economy in crisis, the democratic government has made enormous strides in addressing the legacies of apartheid. In the past 30 years, growth and employment have improved markedly despite the global setback of the 2008 financial crisis while investment has improved. The state has taken bold steps to diversify the economy.

Reflecting on the first Budget of the ANC government and the inaugural Public Finance Accountability Report published on 22 June 1994, we are poignantly reminded of our infamous history of socioeconomic disparities characterised by an overbearing racial footprint on unemployment, poverty and inequality.

At that time, the state revenue account recorded total revenues of approximately R89,2 billion, resulting in a budget deficit of R25,4 billion. This deficit necessitated financing amounting to R25,1 billion, equivalent to 28,5% of the revenue Budget of the 1994-95 fiscal year.

Today, contemporary figures indicate South Africa's main budget revenue exceeds R1,8 trillion. Economic and social development priorities, hon Deputy Speaker, have generally

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received the greatest proportion of the Budget. The percentage of households with access to an improved source of water, grew by about 4% points between 2002 and 2022, from 84,4% to 88,5%.

Social grants remain a vital safety net for the vulnerable. Empirical research conducted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD, finds positive statistically significant correlations between social grants and economic development. It is important to give this historical background of the ANC government over the past 30 years to what we call historical negationalism. How can we possibly be well-equipped to confront history's nuanced and multifaceted present-day legacy if our politicians and some sections of the media deliberately fabricate and fail to acknowledge objective historical facts?

We must resist any agenda that seeks to deny or purposefully negate history to fit a negative political narrative against the ANC achievement, this debate takes place against the president having signed the Pension Funds Amendment Bill, the Pension Funds Amendment Bill and the Revenue Laws Amendment Bill will enable the implementation of the two-pot retirement system on 1 September 2024. Workers will be able to withdraw from their retirement savings without resigning.

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Workers have been waiting for this relief since 2020. On 22 August, the Standing Committee on Finance will have an oversight visit to the Government Employees Pension Fund, GEPF, in Tshwane to monitor the state of readiness for the implementation of the two-pot system. This is informed by the committee's strategy of track and trace. The track and trace strategy of the standing committee is to monitor the implementation of the department's entities and the entities' APPs. President, we thank you for signing the Public Procurement Bill. The Public Procurement Bill is an achievement of the public policy objectives. It is a remedy for historically disadvantaged groups that rely upon the implementation of public procurement practices in a country's specific context.

In a virtual address to mark National Women's Day in 2020, President Ramaphosa announced the government's plans to expand women's access to economic opportunities by setting aside 40% of public procurement for women-owned businesses. When the government tried to implement the set-aside, it was challenged by the right-wingers in the court of law and the court ruled in their favour.

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The Public Procurement Bill will be an enabler to remove obstacles that prevent seamless participation by black-owned, women-owned, youth-owned, and businesses owned by those disabled in public procurement. In 2019, the President assented to the National Minimum Wage Act, lifting the wages of six million poorly paid, farm, domestic, construction, hospital, retail, security, cleaning, and other categories. What is needed now is to boost compliance by providing the Department of Employment and Labour with the resources it needs to inspect the workplaces.

The government must address the issue of the financial sector transformation. The financial sector has not sufficiently transformed since the advent of democracy. Transformation targets must be set and enforced. This needs to be geared towards ensuring the deracialisation of the sector in terms of ownership, leadership, staffing and servicing, providing access to banking and financial services for the majority of South Africans who live in townships, informal settlements and rural areas, and providing greater support and access to funding for SMMEs.

The Government of National Unity, GNU, should explore the possibility of tapping into prescribed assets to leverage

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economic growth, transformation, and job creation. The Presidency, the department, and entities should strengthen socially inclusive and economic budgeting. The budget is not blind. Equitable and socially inclusive government budgets are the only way to ensure that the government is committed to equity and socially inclusive values and practices and that the most pressing needs of the various social groups are satisfied. If left unattended, the exclusion of the disadvantaged groups can be costly.

Xitsonga:

Muchaviseki Xandla xa Xipikara, hina va ANC hi seketela mpimanyeto wa Hofisi ya Puresidente wu nga Vote 1. Hi seketela mpimanyeto lowu hikuva wu ta tisa vutomi byo antswa eka vanhu va Afrika-Dzonga. Kxanimabo! Ndza khensa.

Mr R A P TROLLIP: Madam Deputy Speaker, Hon President, after an absence of 10 years in this House, I see that the more things change, the more they stay the same. In 2009, as the Leader of the Opposition, I called for a dedicated oversight committee of the Presidency. We have nine such committees in the provinces, and the question is why not here.

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In the past two months, I've heard the same chorus being sung by a new choir. When will the refrain be heard? Why is the Presidency so averse to direct, inclusive oversight? Is it because your office has become a bloated super department with multiple Ministries and Deputy Ministries, as enumerated by former Judge Hlophe or is it because you just do not want to account to this House?

I know that the past Parliament conducted a study tour in this regard to the British Houses of Parliament, and I've read the report. However, in using the West Minister model to reach its conclusions, it didn't compare apples with apples. The British Prime Minister faces weekly public scrutiny oversight in Prime Minister's question times. These questions relate only to the matters that the Prime Minister handles directly, which are relatively few as many substantive matters are handled by the various Ministers and their departments.

In your case hon President, this is considerably different. What's more, the opportunities for Members of Parliament to ask you questions are severely limited to quarterly opportunities that are frankly sanitised due to the mechanical procedures and foregoing submission processes.

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In light of this and the fact that we are hearing your report for the first time today, we as Action SA reinforce that we should have an oversight committee of the Presidency. For example, Operation Vulindlela that was conceptualised to co-ordinate the work of key priority departments and breakdown silos, whilst a noble idea, it has essentially become a dual civil service or a new government department with all the related costs. It serves only to treat the symptoms of departmental dysfunction and not their cause.

Listening to the new Deputy Minister of Energy and Electricity lamenting here today, confirms this. Look at transport, where Vulindlela has specific focus. Our roads are being destroyed by trucks carrying rail freight on them because the rail network was allowed to be destroyed. Bulk freight rail for coal and manganese should never be allowed to be on our roads. And if it wasn't for the connected elite who are heavily invested in road freight transport, it wouldn't be allowed. This needs oversight.

Manganese export management in Nelson Mandela Bay is parlous. It's destroying municipal and state infrastructure and compromising public health. The manganese terminal and fuel tankers at the Port Elizabeth Harbour should have been

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relocated to Coega Industrial Development Zone and the Port of Ngqura years ago. But the deadlines keep moving.

It's because these facilities are depreciated and thus much more profitable to continue using them as new environmentally compliant facilities would drastically reduce profit. Your past Presidency was defined by the establishment of multiple commissions, committees, and projects. These require leadership, decision-making and action. That have been conspicuous by their absence.

This is yet another reason we need an oversight committee. As it can cut through impervious defensiveness, which reflects poorly on government, and in fact gave rise to state capture in the Fourth and Fifth Parliaments that you called the nine wasted years.

Now that there's a new political dispensation, hopefully the new voices in your coalition government and the noise from your erstwhile comrades now occupying the opposition benches, will galvanise you into action and promote the kind of ethical leadership that South Africa so desperately deserves.

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Hon President, we haven't had 118 days of no loadshedding. There's a new euphemism, it's called load reduction. It means the same thing ...

IsiXhosa:

... abantu abanambane.

English:

I want to agree with hon Malema who said that the Lily Mine matter and the Hammanskraal water matter has been appallingly handled. But what he's just done sounds like expropriation without compensation to me because it's Action SA that has stood by those families of the Lily Mine tragedy. It's Action SA's Deputy Mayor that will ensure that the people of Hammanskraal have water in their taps by the end of September.

In conclusion Mr President, I remember that when you came to Nelson Mandela Bay on 25 March, you said you had crime under control. What I remember about that day you went to lunch at Brookes Hill pavilion and your VIP protection convoy filled the parking lot. People are still dying in Nelson Mandela Bay. You do not have crime under control.

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The MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Ms K P S Ntsavheni): Madam Deputy Speaker, His Excellency President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, the Deputy President, hon Paul Mashatile, Deputy Ministers in the Presidency, hon Kenny Morolong, and hon Nonceba Mhlauli, hon Chief Whip and hon members, the period between 30 May 2024 and the early hours of Sunday 30 June 2024 felt like South Africa was teleported to what the infamous British statesman Joseph Chamberlain described as:

Living in most interesting times in which our history was so full, in which day by day brought us new objects of interest, and also new objects for anxiety.

A period that required unquestionable patriotism and great leadership to ensure our democracy proves its maturity and for our country to continue to hold its own in the global arena. A period when class clowns also attempted to be actors, but we collectively breathed a sigh of relief when the heroes did not go off the stage. As we have witnessed in this House, the clowns came on, got the biggest, juiciest laughs, and then left the podium.

The business of leading remain the responsibility of great men and women because the ANC, under the leadership of President

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Cyril Ramaphosa, and other reasonable South African political leaders opted to prioritise the interest of South Africa and for that South Africa is still the great country of Nelson Mandela.

Sepedi:

... rena re tšwa Limpopo, re a mo tseba Moshabi. Ge a ka thoma a tenega, go ra gore o e gatile mosela.

English:

You have touched the core of the things. Hon Malema would not spend time here and just deal with you and not focus on important issues, but it's because you were spot on. But let me remind you on hon members, when I was sitting there and even on Friday, the women, the elderly and the poorest of the poor, who were members of stokvels, burial societies, were saying to me, who has the right to question the character of the President? If anyone else, but not hon Julius Malema because it's not even the money they lost, it's the impact. They were not able to bury their dead with dignity. People of Vhembe wait only for four to five days before they bury their dead. The fact that they queued for seven and 14 days before they could bury their dead, that's ... [Inaudible.]

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Today, the elderly of Vhembe are suffering hypertension, not because of anything else, we are dealing with chronic diseases of high blood pressure and sugar diabetes because those elderly whose pensions could not take their grand children to school are now suffering a generation of lost opportunities. Why? Because hon Malema and the EFF got money from VBS. Their party was actually registered by the proceeds of VBS. They have reminded me again, hon members ...

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Thanks Speaker, I rise on a point of order because the speaker on the platform is misleading the House and casting aspersions on hon members and an entire political party. And I think that she is confusing the EFF for the SACP, for the ANC, for Danny Msiza, and for Blade Nzimande. And I think she's really supposed to understand the Rules. Withdraw with immediate effect and bring a substantive motion if she's got the balls. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ndlozi, it is the presiding officer's responsibility to make a ruling and not for a member to tell the presiding officer how to make the ruling. I will judge this. Hon Minister, yes, you did in fact cast aspersions on a member of this House. And we do know the Rules that you then submit a substantive motion. So, I will sustain that. But when

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it comes to a party, the Rules indicate that you can actually say that about a party. It is only when it becomes the individual that you bring a substantive motion. So Minister, I am not going to ask you to withdraw, but to in fact come with a substantive motion and you may proceed. Thank you.

The MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Ms K P S Ntsavheni): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Terry Motau and the Tshifiwa Matuidi affidavit talk for themselves, and South Africans don't need another substantive motion. It is the people and the women of Limpopo who reminded me that the first major report of former Public Protector of South Africa Advocate Thuli Madonsela was on point and the Ratanang Family Foundation. They said we must remind people that those who live in glass houses must remember not to throw stones.

Tshivenda:

Nga Tshivenda vha ri shango a li lali u ladza mudi wau. Ri livhuwa Muphuresidennde Vho Ramaphosa vho ladza Afurika Tshipembe.

English:

Therefore, Mr President, the responsibility of the Presidency as the department at the apex of the administration, is to

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support you and the Deputy President, as you lead the implementation of government's priorities as you articulated in the recent Opening of Parliament Address and earlier in this Budget Vote. Whether in the production of goods or the delivery of services, co-ordination helps organisations to achieve high performance outcomes. We deem the South African government as an organisation with its own dynamics. As such, the co-ordination role of the Presidency will be more critical as the government completes the outstanding work of the sixth administration whilst bracing for the implementation of the seventh administration priorities. Let me assure you, Mr President and hon members, we are ready for continuity and change.

For this period, 2024-25 financial year, the Presidency is allocated a budget of R612 million, which is a reduction in the baseline allocation by R40,7 million compared to 2023-24 financial year. So that budget that is supposed to be big is not very big. Bearing in mind the financial constraints, we are determined to discharge our responsibility and mandate with commitment, resolve and dedication, to provide the necessary support to the President and his executive as per their mission.

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A defining feature in the co-ordination role of the Presidency is ensuring government-wide high-quality, data and evidence-based decision making. To achieve this, there is a need to fast-track "work already underway to professionalise the public service and prevent undue political interference in the administration of the state" - to quote the opening address of the President.

We therefore appreciate the Sixth Parliament for passing the Public Service Amendment Bill and the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill. These Bills mark a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to enhance the professionalism, efficiency, and responsiveness of the Public Service and Administration in South Africa. These two Bills introduce provisions aimed at enhancing administrative powers, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and improving efficiency in the public service. These reforms align with President Ramaphosa's vision for a professional, efficient, and ethical public service which is also one of the three priorities in the Medium-Term Development Plan of the Government of National Unity.

The Public Service Amendment Bill proposes amendments to the Public Service Act to empower heads of departments with

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administrative powers, enhance the role of the Director-General in the Presidency, clarify the role of the Public Service Commission, and provide clarity on the appointment and career incidents of heads of departments.

Similarly, the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill seeks to harmonise critical aspects of public administration across all spheres of government. The Bill also emphasises the promotion of ethical standards for public servants by prohibiting those employees participating in procurement processes from being employed by those service providers who did business with their entities.

The harmonisation of critical aspects of the public administration across all spheres of government through the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill will also lend support to the local government reforms as will be co-ordinated through Operation Vulindlela. In this regard, we will soon consolidate the progress report on the work of the eThekweni Presidential Working Group to reactivate its work and support the initiatives of the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government and the newly appointed Executive Mayor of eThekweni to work to turnaround the metro administration.

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We are confident that through the work of the Presidential Working Group, we should be able to develop a workable blueprint to assist other metros facing similar challenges as directed by His Excellency, the President, and the envisage local government reforms. The local government reforms must also institutionalise the implementation of the District Development Model with its measurable and impactful One Government, One-Plan approach.

Statistics SA has committed in the 2024-25 work programme to re-engineer the household survey programme so that they can provide lower-level data to inform the District Development Model. This is part of our responsibility to implement measures to ensure that communities have access to dependable and high-quality services.

Last year when I was tabling the Statistics SA budget, I urged all of us to endeavour to use statistics for insight. What we refer to as data driven decision-making to avoid what the renowned Scottish poet Andrew Lang once warned against: "most people use statistics like a drunk man uses a lamppost, more for support than for illumination".

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I do not wish to take this House to the intentional misinterpretation of statistics on the success and weaknesses of the sixth administration that were done last Friday and earlier during this debate when others designated themselves teachers dishing out exam fails with much drama. But I expected no less performance from one pursuing a master's degree in theatre and performance - it's a pity it was just a wrong stage.

Allow me to explain the context of South Africa's employment situation. The year 2020 with its Covid-19 pandemic, brought with what no human being could have imagined or predicted. It changed the world as we knew it. Covid-19 shook down everything we had, including our economy and its jobs. According to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey, South Africa had 16,4 million people in employment in the first quarter of 2020. We lost 2,3 million jobs in the second quarter of that year, down to 14,1 million jobs. Overall, the South African economy rescinded to 2008 levels.

It was the government in partnership with business and labour that developed and implemented the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan that enabled us to build back the current employment numbers that have even surpassed the pre-Covid-19

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levels. Currently, the number of employed persons in South Africa is sitting at 16,7 million, an increase of 2,5 million jobs from the low of 14,1 million during Covid-19 and 16,4 million pre-Covid-19.

In the first quarter of 2024, nine of 11 industries showed higher employment levels than those recorded during the Covid-19 pandemic. Notably, the finance industry has seen the most significant recovery, with 680 000 more jobs compared to the second quarter of 2020. The community and social services sector – which includes government – increased by 547 000, and the trade sector followed with 525 000 more individuals employed than during the pandemic levels, while the transport sector saw an increase of 177 000 employed.

Private households saw an increase of 173 000 jobs, followed by 150 000 in manufacturing and 149 000 in construction compared to the second quarter of 2020. In addition, agriculture saw an increase of 142 000 jobs, while mining experienced an increase of 81 000 employed individuals than during the pandemic.

Hon Mantashe, if I knew you were a millionaire, I would have been your best friend since the sixth administration. But it's

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a pity you are not a very supportive friend who would have invited me to say what business made you a millionaire during your National Union of Mineworkers, NUM, days.

Because of the ANC's commitment to the eradication of unemployment and poverty, President Ramaphosa developed the Presidential Employment Stimulus, a special programme focused on co-ordinating government initiatives towards public and social employment creation. The overall performance of this initiative from 2020 until March 2024 continues to exceed set the set targets. The President has articulated the details in terms of those targets. Our largest programme under the Presidential Employment Initiative is the Basic Education Employment Initiative, commonly known as the Teacher Assistant Programme, which to date has created over a million opportunities for young people to be placed as assistants in schools across the country, becoming the largest youth employment programme in South Africa's history and serving as teacher replacement pipeline.

For that matter Dr Hlophe, Basic Education and the other social programmes receive part of the largest budget allocation in the fiscus. It's only now that the debt

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repayment has overtaken that. But as you remain a member, you will come to understand those things.

The Social Employment Fund, SEF, another large-scale programme is aimed at supporting the social economy through the non-profit organisations and co-ordinated through the Industrial Development Corporation of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition. The SEF supports the work of civil society organisations to create employment by building on the work they already do to enable community-driven solutions to local problems. These include frail care, Early Childhood Development, combating gender-based violence, community safety, and the creative industry, amongst others.

The SEF has created more than 167 000 job opportunities against a target of 100 000. Other Presidential Employment Stimulus programmes include the subsistence farmers support through the subsistence producer relief programme, a revitalised national youth service, public employment programmes for metros, and placement support for university graduates. Appreciating the opportunity that technology provides to bridge the gaps and the rate at which the youth have adopted technology, the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, PYEI, successfully established the SAYouth.mobi,

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and the President has given details in terms of the people who have subscribed.

Through the SAYouth.mobi job seekers can access the network to find job opportunities, earn an income, and to stay engaged and connected. The Presidency, together with development partners and other government departments, will continue to provide strategic oversight and co-ordination of the Presidential Employment Stimulus and the PYEI and other public employment initiatives. We remain focused on the work of the National Logistics Crisis Committee to unlock the bottlenecks ...

Mr V G REDDY: Madam Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: I believe that the speaker is misleading the House. First, she said eThekwin has got executive mayor. Then she tells us about a country we know not of. I'm not sure which country she's talking about. Makes it seem like there's no unemployment in this country and that there's no poverty in this country. So, I would like her to focus on South Africa. She's obviously living in a dream and talking about a country which we know nothing of. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that that is a matter of debate. And yes, I see another point, but I am still busy ruling hon Michalakakis. So, the Minister is allowed to do that. You have also said that she is misleading. That is not unparliamentary. If you say she is intentionally misleading, that would have been a point of order. Hon Michalakakis ...

Mr G MICHALAKIS: Madam Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise on point 78, which reads that every member desiring to speak must, if possible, stand while addressing the Chair. Madam Speaker, I have noted that many of the members of the opposition have been seated while addressing the Chair. I do think it ... [Inaudible.] ... from the decorum of the House and I would like your ruling in this regard, please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Michalakakis. Yes, the convention is that we do stand when we do speak from the floor. However, I am also quite cognizant of the fact that sometimes you are then removed from the microphone and that you are not audible, so it will be up to the discretion of the presiding officer whether we allow sitting or not. Thank you. Hon Minister, please proceed.

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The MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Ms K P S Ntsavheni): We remain focused on the work of the National Logistics Crisis Committee to unlock the bottlenecks in our ports, freight and rail, and ensure the full implementation of the National Logistics Roadmap with active and meaningful participation of all stakeholders, to achieve the same levels of success of National Energy Crisis Committee, Necom.

We are cognisant of the magnitude of the work at hand and the scarcity of resources. It is for this reason that we are not only reliant on the convening power of the President, but our firm belief in the importance of partnerships for the pursuit of the country's shared goals and the business sense of using other people's money. But we were socialised to know that ...

Tshivenda:

... Munwe muthihi a u tusi mathuthu. VhoHlophe ...

English:

... I will tell you which committees does the State Security report to. What the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation reports to. What the Statistics SA reports to. Because I think they've not done proper induction. Otherwise,

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we will wait for Parliament to do reinduction. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Mr N NDHLELA: Hon Deputy Speaker, respected Members of Parliament, today I rise on behalf of the MK party, under the leadership of President Zuma, and our party leader Dr John Hlophe. [Applause.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, I believe this Vote perpetuates economic inequalities. It also fails to address the needs of the majority of South Africans. Particularly the most disadvantaged communities in the rural areas and the poorest of the poor, one of those being Chiawelo.

Hon Deputy Speaker, there are some that refer to themselves as builders. As the progressive caucus, let by the MK party as breakers. Now how is it that we are referred to as breakers when the same President led the breakdown of the same entities that he is nestling in the Presidency today? How is it?

The only conclusion I can give is that we are referred to as breakers because they know as the incoming government, we are going to be the breaker of service delivery records! We are referred to as breakers because we are going to break the

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barriers of poverty that have continued to impoverish our people for the past 30 years because of this Constitution that is unconstitutional!

Now, as the howlers continue, I will continue to be progressive.

Mr S NOMVALO: Deputy Speaker, on a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon speaker at the podium can you please take your chair there is a point of order.

Mr S NOMVALO: Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise in terms of Rule 66.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have been abused by members of the ANC. We have been listening to their leaders saying a lot of nothing here. However, we have been paying attention.

Hon Deputy Speaker, you are not doing justice. The speaker at the podium is not protected. Can you kindly protect the speaker. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, I have been listening and the speaker at the podium was quite audible. There have been let

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us say some noise on all the sides of this House. So, your point is not sustained. Speaker at the podium, please continue.

Mr N NDHLELA: Nice try.

Mr President, 30-years ago you were part of the same negotiations that led to the formation of the government of national unity of the back of a crisis which was apartheid.

In the same negotiations being the chief negotiator with these racists, you led the conclusion of a Constitution that we today find ourselves with that continues to favour the few and continue to exclude the downtrodden people. It is for exactly this reason, Mr President that we are calling for the Constitution that you negotiated 30-years ago and that continue to protect a few. [Applause.]

Today, Mr President, 30-years down the line you emerge as the chief negotiator for another of the government of so-called national unity.

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Now, would you not say, Mr President that that being the case, with your emergence is in effect a perpetuation of what has transpired when what started 30-years ago.

Mr President are we saying with this so-called government of national unity, which you also negotiated on behalf of the people that rejected yourselves will change anything that has not been addressed in the past 30-years.

My answer is a big resounding no!

Now Mr President, we referred to issues of water in this country. That same Constitution 30-years ago, protected the rights of certain individuals. The few who today they have the right to dance and guess what? Unfortunately for Minister Mchunu when he was still the Minister of Water and Sanitation. He tried to take this to the courts to institute water reforms. Guess what happened, Mr President, it was the same Constitution that blocked the advancement of people having access to water because of irrigation rights they were given during apartheid to an individual that today owns a dam!

[Applause.]

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How can that be for sustainability and how can we transform our people's lives with that been the case, Mr President?

Mr President, over the past 10-years, there has been no beneficiation for our people. In actual fact it has been at its lowest in the history of this country. No beneficiation in terms of minerals and social justice. This is the reality we are faced with Mr President. However, as long as we continue to have a Constitution that marginalises our people we will not be able to advance organic growth and change for our people, Mr President.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to just touch into a couple of issues here, as I close off. Mr President, Eskom when President Zuma that you referring to left office, had R85 billion of debt. Today it is sitting at a R160 billion. That in itself is a telling story. Mr President Eskom is not Shanduka group.

Mr President, Glencore SA today is paid double the terrif rate for coal. Trafugura leads the few supplies at Pretro SA and other state entities. Guess what? There is pure silence. Mr President, Petro SA is not Shanduka group. [Applause.]

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Transnet today, Mr President, has been experiencing dilapidating infrastructure since you took office. The ports are being privatised and the nervous system of Transnet has been outsourced to your friends Bidvest.

Mr President, Transnet is not Shanduka group. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr W M THRING: Hon Deputy Speaker, on behalf of our ACDP president, the Rev Dr Kenneth Meshoe, I wish to firstly, acknowledge the 500 public servants who work hard behind the scenes to execute the mandate and functions of the Presidency. The ACDP notes that the primary role of the Presidency is to lead and co-ordinate the affairs of government.

Additionally, we note that the Presidency was not spared budget cuts. With the chief operating officer, COO, in the Presidency lamenting that these budget shortfalls seen across most departments are due to our sluggish gross domestic product, GDP, growth, reduced corporate tax revenues and government debt service costs amongst others.

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Deputy Speaker, the ACDP has expressed concern over the centralisation of our state-owned entities, SOEs, under the Presidency. While most of our SOEs were subjected to looting and maladministration, during and after the period of state capture, the ACDP is not convinced that a Presidential SOE Council to establish a state-owned holding company is the panacea to providing effective oversight of SOEs.

The key consideration and concern here, is the lack of monitoring and oversight of the Presidency itself. This is not an act of good governance, but one open to exploitation which the ACDP cannot support.

The ACDP is cognisant of the Operation Vulindlela joint initiative to accelerate the implementation of structural reforms and support economic recovery. Like many other good initiatives of government paying lip service to this initiative will only serve as an antagonistic paradigm to an inclusive, capable and ethical developmental state.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ACDP has heard that a just energy transition that exclude the use of coal in the energy mix would be unjust. With some 200-years' worth of quality coal beneath our soil, it would be economically suicidal for us not

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to use our clean coal technology to help to modernise our industrial base and grow our economy.

On the international relations front, the ACDP calls on the Presidency not to be silent on the 9,2 million black African slave trade particularly in the Arab state such as Libya. Mr President do not be silent on the slaughter of some 1 800 Christians in Northern Mozambique currently taking place. Do not be silent on the 50 000 Christians that are slaughtered in a genocidal campaign waged by Islamist Jihadist across the parts of the Sub-Saharan Africa who recently were urged by Islamic states spokesman Abu Hudhayfah Al-Ansari to kill them wherever you find them - referring to Christians. Do not be silent, Mr President!

The ACDP posits that perhaps the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, which has failed to reconstruct our economy should be changed to the renaissance plan because our nation is desperately in need of renaissance renewal and revival. In this regard the ACDP urges the Presidency in the execution of its mandate to fast-track the policy of beneficiation.

South Africa continues to export the bulk of its raw material and imports the finished products, creating jobs in developed

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nations, while having the highest unemployment rate and youth unemployment rates in the world.

We must exploit our mineral resource base of some 2, 5 trillion dollars and 45 trillion rand, using our competitive and comparative advantages. It is said a rising tide lifts all boats. May we use our competitive and comparative advantages to rise the tides of South Africans. I thank you.

Mr N L S KWANKWA: Deputy Speaker, President, South Africa faces a compendium of complex socioeconomic challenges, most of which were already highlighted and indicated, and they centre around poverty, unemployment, and inequality. However, part of the problem facing South Africa at the moment is crime, violent crime, especially in the townships.

The township economies have come to their knees because of extortion and the challenges that that our people face on a daily basis. However, if you were to look at the budget of the police, the R113 billion that police receives per annum, only about less than 5% of that is given to crime intelligence. Although we are facing a challenge of significant crime in our township.

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The other issue, which is particularly important President, is that there must be task forces, specialised, dedicated task forces that are given allocation and resources to be able to tackle crime in the townships, because the economies are dying. The other challenge that townships face, for example, is that people have counterfeit goods. A lot of our people have died because they consumed things which they were not supposed to consume because they were counterfeit goods.

The UDM does in agree with the proposal that we need to establish a portfolio committee on the Presidency so that the director-general of that office, can come to Parliament to account at regular intervals about organisational and performance issues that relate to the Presidency and administrative issues.

On the international front, there has been growing concerns that we are pursuing or have we pursued our economic interests globally and continentally in an unco-ordinated sense that our embassies around the world did not do an adequate job in economic diplomacy, so that some of them were inadequately networked with official and non-state actors.

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If we were to reignite growth, economic diplomacy has to be part of the central strategy of government in doing that, so that our embassies must be able to be put in a position where they promote trade, promote inward investments for the country, collaborate on bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, and that we are able to actually hold them to account between the different countries in which they represent South Africa.

President, one of the issues which concerned us a great deal as were flying around the world doing study tours is that South Africa is actually offered fully paid fellowship programmes that are made available to South Africa, in particular to students to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies or degrees in many parts of the world. These fellowship programmes are not taken up. In fact, what should happen is that the various South African Embassies around the world, South African should be able to consolidate their information, establish as to how many of those opportunities are available so that they can be distributed equally among our people, especially the students who come from poor backgrounds.

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The other prominent issue President is that we are not using utilizing properly the African Renaissance Fund, where in instances where we give money to African countries, we are able to get them to commit to undertake certain reforms around issues of creating a culture of human rights and promoting peace and stability on the continent.

President we should support Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali because their efforts are intended to disentangle themselves from a comprehensive web of oppressive entanglements from their former colonial masters, we should be supportive of that. The Rwanda-Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, diplomatic crisis requires an intervention from the African Union, AU, to have a dialogue, instead of us sending our soldiers to die there, who are inadequately equipped. Dialogue between those warring factions so that peace and stability can obtain in the eastern part of the DRC. Thank you ever so much.

Mr D BERGMAN: Deputy Speaker, the Office of the Presidency seems to be a heavy trailer attached to the proverbial bullet train that is moving in the right direction. Departments should be an extension of the President and should be run in the spirit of how the President intends to run his term of office. If we are to be honest with ourselves, President

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Ramaphosa could have ended his term as president with the legacy of his term of office overseeing the worst of our economy, the worst of our global relationships and quite frankly, being worse off than the previous tenure of state capture and plundering.

Yet here we are with every red lot moving well into the orange, wanting to finally push through into the green. For the first time in 20 years in the post Madiba era, there is an era of excitement, an eager anticipation. I hope that we can build South Africa and make it work for everyone.

The opening of Parliament was a proud moment for me. I studied the National Development Plan and I have studied the DA's election manifesto for 2024. Mr President, I think we both have been studying the same two books you seem to have picked the best of both books to make a bold vision that understands that nothing starts without floating the economy, that we create jobs, we build more infrastructure, we appoint the right people into positions and we educate from the ground up. The stimulation of the economy will lead to safer streets, healthier citizens, and a more unified country.

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It all starts with a plan, then we need the right people to monitor this plan. Finally, we need to have a committee that can oversight and make recommendations that will not only be heard but will have the commitment of the President and ministers above to penalise those that underperform and ensure that there is a compliance, and commitment from the Ministers to the plan.

A concern that DA has raised repeatedly is the lack of a resolute parliamentary committee to oversee the Presidency, a concern also echoed by Chief Justice Zondo in the Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture. We continue to lack effective oversight over the Presidency, which obstructs Parliament's oversight mechanism. Aside from the Departments of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, which at least accounts to its own parliamentary committee within the Ministry of the Presidency or two Ministers and three Deputy Ministers. This blurs the Presidency's focus and can see it pulled in different directions.

As I mentioned in the previous debates, one Minister in the Presidency has shown herself to be accommodating and committed to working together. Whilst another has functioned as a gatekeeper. The problem is that from the day of her

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appointment, again in the Seventh Parliament, she has been the iron fist in the President's office, scolding Ministers for daring to be innovative and productive, and then bashing voters for causing the Government of National Unit, GNU, bloating the Cabinet. This iron fist could be effective if it were based on facts and aimed at the offending parties.

However, during our first debate for Stats SA, the Minister took a divisive of swipe at us and accused us of not having factual cases at hand. Even though, had she just read her reports, she would have seen it was her own committee, citing the sources. Secondly, she tried to master a Cape Town is racist mentality by stating that Cape Town had the worst census returns because dogs in suburbs attacked census workers again missing an opportunity to read the reports.

Instead, she chose to play petty politics at a time when her party had just learnt that divisional and isolating politics will punish you at the ballots, as other parties also learnt. Honourable member, please take your seat. There is a point of order.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, please take a seat, there is a point of order. I do not see the hand of the point of order I was alerted to. Please proceed.

Mr D M SKOSANA: Hon Deputy Speaker!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Bergman, if you can just take your seat. I have just seen member who wants to take a point of order. Please proceed.

Mr D M SKOSANA: Deputy Speaker, the member is misleading the House. Can he take a question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Bergman, are you willing to take a question?

Mr D BERGMAN: I cannot see the person, he is sitting next to someone in camouflage. He is hidden behind the person in camouflage. No, thanks.

Mr D M SKOSANA: He is not answering me.

Mr D BERGMAN: No, I cannot take the question. Thanks.

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Mr D M SKOSANA: Okay.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed, hon Bergman.

Mr D BERGMAN: Instead, she chose to play petty politics at a time when her party had just learned that divisional and isolating politics will punish you at the ballots. As it has been said, builder's ... [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, please take your seat. There is another point of order right at the back. Please proceed.

An HON MEMBER: Deputy Speaker, I rise on Rule 69, on the persisting and making serious allegations against hon Minister in the Presidency without a due process.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have also listened to what the member at the podium is saying, and at this point I do not view it as serious allegations, it is a point of debate, so please proceed hon member.

Mr D BERGMAN ... As it has been said, "builders put the country first." Those that, those not sincere at the cause, or

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still deny, or still in denial, are still playing politics.
Do not be that, Minister. Be a Minister for all.

The Democratic Alliance has raised many concerns around the proposed State Enterprises Bill. The first being that while we await the Bill's tabling, who is currently looking after our state-owned enterprises? As we have made the humble plea for the time being, until the Bill is tabled and there is sufficient oversight, that the relevant entities be sent to their respective departments and portfolio committees.

Our focus at the start of this Parliament must be to hit the ground running using our Constitution and updated policy frameworks as cornerstones in our deliberations.

From his address at the opening of this Parliament, we welcome the President's commitment to expanding the basket of VAT-free food items reviewing the fuel price formula to lower costs, professionalising the public service, and preventing political interference, as well as establishing specialised policing units to fight violent crime and the construction mafias.

Chair, the President now has brought on board many of the Ministries that used to operate independently. One would have

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assumed that this would have been so that he could affect change and monitoring in a direct manner. And hold these portfolios to more direct accounts. However, as we have seen with the Constitution, sometimes these structures are put in place and never envisaged the next person in line.

In our case, an anti-constitutionalist nearly brought this country to its knees. In a divided ANC, a pro National Democratic Revolution, NDR, president after you can use your structure to finish the job.

In the spirit of multi partyism and also heeding other concerns raised in the Commissions of Inquiry into Allegations of State Capture, we welcome the election of the House and committee chairpersons from the DA and other parties to various House structures. As we have learned from state capture, this is a necessary accountability mechanism. When a parliamentary committee to oversee the Presidency is created, it too should be led by a different party to the executive.

The Parliament will rise in five years, where it will be 2030, a valuable time stamp our country has set in the developmental milestones, when the electorate will hold us to account. Will we have delivered a growing economy, or one stuck in the past?

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Will our unemployment queue be shorter, and our poverty burden lowered? Will more children be able to read for meaning? Will less South Africans be raped and killed in their homes and on our streets? Will we continue to be plagued by corruption, or will our public service be cleaner?

We will have quality, affordable health care for all, or a health care system that cannot deliver in law or practice. Fellow members, hon President, it is a long time that we roll up our sleeves. The myriads of issues plaguing South Africa are pressing, and they require our urgent attention. With an inclusive, accountable executive and robust, vigilant Parliament, we can deliver on the mandates entrusted to us. "It will take all builders pulling their weight and being heard... [Time Expired.]

Ms A RAMOLOBENG: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon President, hon Deputy, members of the executive, hon Chief Whip, hon members, it is often said that a nation's greatest asset is its people. It stands to reason that keeping them safe from harm is critical. The economy grows and the nation will meet its developmental milestone if it is secure.

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One of the dominant challenges which the administration led by the President Ramaphosa has to deal with upon assumption of Office was that of state capture and corruption. Putting a stop to state capture, dismantling criminal networks within the state and ensuring that perpetrators face the might of the law, was prioritised.

In 2019, the President established the Investigating Directorate, ID, in the National Prosecuting Authority, NPA, to tackle serious crime and corruption. In 2023, the President committed to making it a permanent entity, the NPA Amendment Bill, and signed it into law in May 2024. To date, the ID has over 100 highly skilled employees and has authorised 117 cases, involving 212 individuals and 68 entities, with 78 cases under an active investigation and 79 cases enrolled. The President made a promise and kept it.

In the 2018 Presidential Summit on Gender-Based Violence, the President promised that legislation to combat gender-based violence would be fast-tracked. Indeed, Parliament processed the three pieces of legislation, commonly referred to as the three gender-based Bills. Extensive participation by members of society took place and the Bills were passed and signed into law.

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In the same summit, the President heeded to the call by gender activists on the tightening of protection offered by the National Register for Sex Offenders. This is being implemented.

The Domestic Violence Amendment Act enhances access to justice for victims of domestic violence by providing for the option of applying for an online application service for a domestic violence protection order. Those who feel threatened with domestic violence may now apply for a protection order wherever they are through their smartphone. The President made a promise and kept it.

In the 2024-25 financial year, the Department of Justice indicated that it plans to designate 15 sexual offences courts in order to increase access to justice services. The NPA will establish two new Thuthuzela Care Centres and the total number of operational Thuthuzela Care Centres will be 70 by the end of the 2026-27 financial year. The NPA will also address the scourge of gender-based violence by continuing to achieve a conviction rate of 70% in sexual offences across all the court fora.

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In 2022, the President committed that resources will be made available to recruit 12 000 personnel to strengthen the police ranks. Since then, 20 000 police personnel were recruited. A commitment on the recruitment of another 10 000 more police in the year to come has been made. An extra 5 000 police officers have been deployed to public order policing. We are confident that this promise too will be kept by the President.

SAPS launched Operation Shanela as a new approach to target crime hotspots, which resulted in over 285 000 arrests since May last year. A joint team operation by Limpopo Hawks and Limpopo SAPS resulted in four arrests and the discovery of a sophisticated drug laboratory in Groblersdal, where chemicals worth R2 billion were seized in one of South Africa's largest ever drug busts. Four suspects, including the farm owner and two Mexican nationals were arrested on 19 July 2024.

In an intelligence-driven operation, about R1,5 billion worth of drugs has been seized in KwaZulu-Natal since October 2023. In response to organised crime, the NPA achieved a 93,4% conviction rate in prosecuting organised crime. The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, DPCI, in collaboration with private organisations, continues to strengthen the fight against this cash-in-transit heist. For

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the final quarter of the 2022-23 financial year, 51 cases were reported, 20 arrests were affected, and 15 convictions were secured.

The President raised the issue of our borders and said that we must work urgently to resolve issues of illegal immigration and its impact on our economy and society. To this end, the Border Management Authority, BMA, was launched in October 2023 to provide for an efficient and integrated approach to border security. Since its launched, the BMA stopped over 281 000 people who tried to enter the country illegally.

During the Easter period this year, 3 841 people were intercepted from illegally entering the country, eight penalties were issued to some bus companies found transporting illegal migrants in various ports of entry to the value of R270 000. Another promise kept by the President.

Amika Cabral implores us to hide nothing from the masses of our people; to tell no lies; to expose lies whenever they are told; to mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures and to claim no easy victories. We can never mask the difficulties, which come with the commitment of ensuring that all our people are and feel safe. We still have a long way to go. The crime rates

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are alarmingly high, as are the levels of violence. While others may prefer perpetuating the lie that nothing has been done by our government, as led by the President, it is our role to clarify society by bringing facts and evidence to the fore. I have provided only few of those and I believe those who come after me, Ministers and Deputy Ministers will further explore on these examples.

Fraud and corruption are negatively affecting the economy. Arrest of over 148 million VBS corruption cases are underway. We are looking forward to seeing more arrests of those who stole from our poorest of the poor, who stole from ...

IsiZulu:

... ogogo nomkhulu bethu bakithi ...

English:

... being taken to task. Fraud and corruption and unlawful conduct in the private sector must be confronted with the same energy as in the public sector. We appreciate that the accused person in the Steinhoff matter has already appeared in court and was granted R150 000 bail. The matter has been postponed to October 2020.

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South African's National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB, STI 2023 to 2028 is committed to the United Nations Aids Global Strategy, which has set the 95-95-95 targets towards the elimination of HIV by 2030. Studies show that the percentage of all people living with HIV in South Africa has decreased from 14% in 2017 to 12,7% in 2022. The country is a step closer to an HIV-free generation, through the elimination of mother to child HIV transmission.

We can only defeat crime and feel safe if we work together as families, as communities, as leaders of society, and more importantly as individuals. The ANC supports this Vote. I thank you.

Business suspended at 17:30 and resumed at 17:51.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: House Chair, Your Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa, His Excellency Deputy President Paul Mashatile, hon members and fellow South Africans, the history of the democratic South Africa is made up of different epochs. One of the defining epochs ushered our democratic breakthrough was through the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, Codesa, negotiations that resulted in crafting our universally admired

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Constitution. Recently, the most defining epoch was the negotiations that followed on 29 May of 2024 after our national and provincial elections. Those who recorded history properly, President, will attest to the fact that you, Mr. President, have been there through these defining moments - both of them. You have not only been there, but you have also played a vanguard role as a true patriot of our beloved South Africa. You played your role uncontested. Even then, your revolutionary efforts were opposed, just as they are being opposed today.

We see today the continuing with the same destruction of opposition towards the Government of National Unity, GNU, but we understand it is an epoch of the development of South African politics. When the present determines the future, but the approximate present does not approximately determine the future, you must know confusion is likely to happen. That's what the definition of the chaos theory gives us, to say those who fail to understand the current present, even in the approximate present solution, they will never be able to see the road. The sun doesn't shine. They are bound to be confused. Nietzsche told us very well when he said that they muddy the water to make it seem deep, because they want to create an illusion of a complication in our mind on matters

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that are very clear, simplistic, and we can see that none of those difficulties or complexities exist.

Mr President, we know very well why in a Government of National Unity that is made up of different political parties to chart the way forward for South Africa to create its own prosperous route. Let me also, Mr President, on the same vein, deal with some inaccuracies which were discussed this morning in this House. Hon Trollip - no ntate - Nelson Mandela Bay's budget was transferred by the President from the Urban Settlements Development Grant, USDG. R450 million after he visited the floods invited by the Ministry of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

Subsequently, 600 households were assessed, of which currently, hon Malema, 257 transitional units have been completed and people are staying in those units. But that's not where we started. On the evening the President took flight, leaving Nelson Mandela Bay, almost half of the people who were in the houses which were dilapidated were moved into temporary utilities and three hotels. And this is what needs to be contextualised. The President, in the spirit of the District Development Model, DDM, collaborates and brings everybody together. Our response to Nelson Mandela Bay was

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because 72 hours had been prescribed according to the Disaster Act that the President is mandated to oversee.

It was just not a visit. Go there now, out of the 600, 257 are in the transitional unit, staying there, built with 171 slabs that have been created.

Sepedi:

Moshabi, ngwana wa ko gae ...

English:

... Giyani project - you and I know it very well. We are residents of Limpopo. As we are talking now, 30 megalitre project of Nandoni plant has been completed, finished, and submitted to the Giyani Municipality. The bulk transfer has been completed from Nandoni to Giyani, where receiving ultimately the water infrastructure is for 55 villages. Phase one, which has commenced already, is dealing with 24 villages. Phase two, which is to commence now in September, is dealing with the remaining villages.

The Special Investigating Unit, on top of that, the proclamation of 2016, which was confirmed by the Polokwane High Court, demanded R3,5 billion out of the R4,1 billion.

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[Inaudible.] ... he did nothing. Let me deal with the Mahikeng imbizo. As you go now, through the transfer that the President signed from the municipality into the province, the Nelson Mandela Road has been done - transferred back into Mahikeng municipalities. Internal streets have been completed, and we are continuing with the transfer of that. Because you didn't list others, I wouldn't go on. But I was going to tell you more on how the implementation of the DDM assisted in the Presidency pulling everybody to co-ordinate and deal with that.

Let me deal with the investigative directorate, now that I still have time - 117 investigations, and there are currently 39 matters which are on court. So apart from the investigative directorate, the Specialised Commercial Crime Unit also finalised cases which are dealing with about 419 billion, which has already been frozen. Today, as we are talking, before I deal with the drug syndicate of the Western Cape where the President is alleged to have done nothing, let me pull this one straight and deal with it.

As in today - this morning, our first DDM, championed by the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security, JCPS, Cluster saw the Asset Forfeiture Unit, SIU, and the Hawks visiting 34

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different sites in this country, in the Western Cape, in Mpumalanga, in Gauteng, and in the North West. They are four - the first of this kind, and someone tell you the DDM doesn't work. Twenty-two senior managers are answerable in court today - 16 service providers, and that gives us a tune of R52 million, and someone says he didn't show up.

But let me deal with this one, hon Malema. In partnership with Home Affairs in this DDM principle, on 26 April - not last year - but 2024, Home Affairs assisted us to deal with nonfugitives, amongst other things, who had violated the Identification Act, but who were dealing with crime, particularly possession and use of proceeds of unlawful activity. That amounted to the SIU recovering R300 million. We were able to send the nine to a total of R391 - 10 939 years, in total of what they were sentenced - that was in April 2024. Now in January, retrospect, 2024, the Western Cape High Court sentenced the drug dealer, Fadwaan Murphy, to an effective 18 years for drug possession and drug peddling. His wife was not spared. She was sentenced to 15 years as well, as part of our organised strategy. The wife is Shafieka Murphy. If you google her, you will find her. What are we told this afternoon? They will say that he came, and he did nothing - no.

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Tax prosecution is performing very well, hence the recent coward attack of Advocate Coreth Naude in Durban. You might have seen it in the papers, he was attacked by the inkabis [hitmen]. What are they trying to do? They are trying to silence a government that is committed to dealing with crime and criminal activities. We are wishing her a speedy recovery.

Minister Senzo Mchunu wasted no time, and the Hawks are on training, Hon President, because we want the tax evaders and wrongdoers in this country to be dealt with. Of course, in terms of the rollout strategy, we specialise in ensuring that we train individuals to deal with the issues that they are supposed to be dealt with. In May 2023, we welcomed - I am not going to debate according to what you want me to debate - 700 young professionals through the Aspirant Prosecutor Programme. The department continues to strive to improve the ease of access to justice. I will touch on the basket of the domestic violence as proclaimed by your strategy, Hon President - which has given us the regulations which were signed by the hon Lamola, ensuring that all the sexual offenses court provides the catalogue of victim support.

It is for this House to note today that 100 courts have been upgraded to meet the specifications of the regulations.

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Someone said the courts are collapsing here, with President doing nothing - that is also equally not true. At least eight capital projects are under way. Port Shepstone is finished, Polokwane on site, Durban High Court, and the list goes on. The Deputy Minister and I visited Philippi and we are in discussion with the Minister of Public Works already, ensuring that that becomes our ninth project.

Regarding the transformation of the judiciary, we will tell you some other day. We are here, President, to announce that each and every province now has a Specialised Commercial Crime Unit, which underpins your strategy of fighting complex crimes involving business. The success of this seventh administration is largely on the work of this department, which is what you are heading, hon President.

We support this because we want to ensure that the administration will meet the realisation of the aspirations of our people. These aspirations include access to gainful employment, ending poverty, defeating the scourge of crime and corruption. Now, I want to respond to the Rooiwal Wastewater Treatment Works. There is someone who claims that nothing happened. Hon Malema, we transferred R585 million to the City of Tshwane to deal with the Rooiwal Wastewater Treatment Works

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after the President has said and dealt with that. You can try and muddy the waters, but we will continue until there is adequate access to justice and all social amenities that our people need. Phala Phala, I am going to deal with you first before phalaphala comes into the room. [Interjections.]

Mr E M NTSHINGILA: Hon Speaker, esteemed members of the progressive caucus, we are unfortunately exposed to a second state of the nation address with nothing to offer. What is it that you are failing to commit in this Constitution that will require a separate framework outside to make it work?

The Government of National Unity, GNU, has no ideological characterisation. It is proving to be an ill-conceived idea that introduces the ANC's insidious factional politics and the DA's white minority fears into the highest democratic order.

Since the introduction of the President in 2018 we have experienced the high rates of unemployment amongst young people. There's a study and ... the statistics of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey, QLSF, in 2022 quarter 1, that the levels of unemployment have risen to 63,9% between the ages of 15 and 24, and 41,2% between the ages of 25 and 34.

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Yet, government has not done and remain or remain ... yes, government remain mere ... [Interjections.] ... the mere promises of government lacking tangible action to address these critical issues.

That the unjust energy transition will lead to job losses in the areas where there are power stations.

That we have noted with concern that the President has propagating and marketing Independent Power Producers, IPPs, of his brother-in-law.

That we don't support the unjust energy transition because it will never benefit the people of this country.

The businesses, since the introduction of the President, black businesses suffered so much, black businesses have lost opportunities and there are no benefits.

Since the introduction of the President, there's no improvement in the administration of hospitals and clinics, the infrastructure has not improved and there's high corruption.

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The water provisions in rural areas and towns, there's no infrastructure to roll out such an important service and the water remains contaminated, even in the City of Tshwane.

There's no commitment in addressing the issues of food security production and the issues of agrarian reform and rural development.

The unemployment and poverty remain very high since the arrival of the President.

We have seen high fuel prices and the rise in cost of living and situation has risen since the arrival of the President.

We have seen the shameful collapse of Denel that could have been used for the development of young people in this country and also for the advancement of their skills.

We have seen the deliberate collapse of the SA Airways, SAA, as a sudden rise of private airline corruption ...

[Inaudible.] ... green contracts.

Why are these so easy? Why are these not given to relevant departments instead of holding them into your office?

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May we be furnished with the President's annual performance plan, APP, for us to interrogate his activities because as ... [Inaudible.] ... most of the state enterprise into his office.

We have seen the collapse of the rail infrastructure, the privatization of the state intelligence where reports of crime intelligence are given by private security personnel.

We recommend that our country needs a single intelligence department that will combine defence intelligence, South African State Security, South African police crime intelligence, a single counterintelligence that will be ... [Inaudible.] ... departments and Department of International Relation and Co-operation, Dirco, that must draw its diplomacy from the above departments.

We, the people of South Africa, have come to the realisation that the South African's ... the 1994 breakthrough that seems to be a trajectory, a ... [inaudible.] ... victory to our people has turned into a ... [Inaudible.] ... defeat.

That the South African society is adrift from the core values and is struggling with moral decay.

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Compounding issues is a liberal Constitution that has
constrains to the political influence of the majority.

The true President, unelected businessmen, their institutions
and funded media ...

That only the return of land and mineral resources can end
unemployment, poverty and inequalities.

That every young person reaching the age of 18 serves a year
of military service.

As we reaffirm our commitment to challenge the exploitation of
our mineral wealth by settlers and external powers, hindering
industrial development and technological upgrade, the colonial
Constitution founded on Roman Dutch law must be aligned to
African jurisprudence. [Applause.]

Due to lack of oversight in the Presidency with no APP to
measure his performance ...

Mr President, are confident that from monitoring and
evaluation component within your office, have you done enough

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to ensure sufficient capacity, if so, please demonstrate to this House?

How much have we, as a country, spent on military presence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, and how has that translated on our political and economic interest?

Mr President, the nation is interested to know who authorised the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, to charter a flight to Cuba and Germany carrying passengers with irregular visas at a cost of R32 million?

Mr President, with no national security we can't claim that we have sovereignty in the state.

We recommend, as MK Party, that the foreign strategy document that will guide a multi-forum engagement and our position on the issues like the Palestine-Israel and land disposition, the Ukraine war and the Brazil, Russian, India, China, South Africa, Brics, membership, that which, when it comes to the issues of energy and oil and gas we don't understand why are we not procuring those goods and services from the Brics arrangement.

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That the national interest strategy document to reconceptualise our world view in identifying errors of strategic importance, strategic interest, strategic influence and South Africa as an area of strategic responsibility.

[Interjections.]

Be it, Mr President, these issues demand our immediate and unwavering attention that as we engage budget 1, let us commit to a transparent, accountable and effective national strategy.

Let us ensure that every rand allocated is utilised efficiently to safeguard our nation to support and develop our communities, to uphold the principles of justice and equality and our nation's security and integrity of our institutions depend on it.

As South Africans have demonstrated in their millions in support by casting their votes in support of MK Paty. Be it AfriForum or the Nationalist Party, Democratic Alliance, will not determine the plight of the people, their circumstances and demands.

Judge Hlophe will remain in the Judicial Service Commission, JSC, it is against the will of the people ... [Applause.]

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[Interjections.] ... you can go to the highest court, you contest it wherever you are, but the people of South Africa have spoken that Judge Hlophe will represent their plight, that Judge Hlophe will be the voice of the voiceless. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr F ESSACK: Hon Speaker, Mr President and my fellow South Africans. I am not there to criticise. So, I would ask you, Mr President, to perhaps just pay some attention because I'm here to try and give a constructive opinion as what I think you and your Cabinet should digest, perhaps for the betterment of all of us as fellow South Africans.

So, therefore, colleagues, one of the basic minimum programme of priorities that was contained in the statement of intent for the Government of National Unity rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, which is underpinned by structural reforms, transformational change and fiscal sustainability.

In short, the success or failure of the GNU will depend on the extent to which it pursues structural economic reforms to encourage investment, grow the economy and create jobs for the millions of unemployed South Africans.

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So, nowhere will this test be more pronounced than at the perennially troubled state-owned enterprises, SOEs. Failure, Mr President, to pragmatically resolve the SOE question will have profound consequences, not only for the term of this current administration, but for the country's long-term economic stability and future growth.

It would be remiss on my part if I do not caution that there is an urgent course correction needed, from the current policy trajectory to effectively resolve the systemic issues affecting SOEs and wean them off from dependency on taxpayer money.

Placing SOEs under the overall oversight responsibility of the Presidency and creating a holding company to centralise their management will not improve their operational viability – and I will explain why – and neither will this promote market confidence to encourage private sector investment.

If one was looking for a glimmer of hope on whether pragmatism will inform SOE reforms going forward, that optimism was quickly extinguished.

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According to media reports just last week, the Minister in the Presidency responsible for Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Maropene Ramokgopa ... [Interjections.] ... is said to be in opposition to private sector's participation in SOEs ... [Interjections.] ...

An HON MEMBER: You're misgendering her ...

Mr F ESSACK: ... through equity stakes, preferring partnerships where the state retains full ownership.

With most SOEs technically insolvent, which private sector is going to forego equity ownership in an SOE but agree then to part with billions of rands to fund the SOEs operations with no clear path of how they will recoup their investment? Of course, this is for those of you that can digest what I'm saying. [Interjections.]

In such an unrealistic expectation, you will either end up attracting opportunistic suitors, just as what happened with the SAA/Takatso - remember the - partnership that fell through, or you will succeed in scaring away investors altogether.

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In the current economic climate where the fiscus is stretched to the limit, we should be doing everything in our power to attract private investment and not to scare it away.

SOEs have been wholly state-owned for the past 30 years and during that time they have become case studies of mismanagement, corruption, state capture and half-baked interventions with no operational improvements – and I’m sure you understand that pretty well, Mr President.

When then do we want to keep pursuing a state-led model, funded through billions of rands in taxpayer funds and expecting different results? I must ask.

Better yet, Mr Ramokgopa, will you care to explain how 100% state ownership will help to deliver the financial stability and operational efficiency that these SOEs desperately need? I’m asking a simple one for you to work out.

The proposed creation of a national holding company to oversee 13 SOEs including Eskom, Transnet and the South African National Roads Agency, Sanral, raises several concerns.

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This new entity, as outlined in the National State Enterprises Bill, NSEB, aims to centralize ownership and supposedly improve the viability of these enterprises.

However, this approach is fraught with potential pitfalls. Firstly, the introduction of a national holding company will add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy to an already complex and heavily regulated sector. Our SOEs operate under a myriad of legislative frameworks, including the Companies Act and specific statutes for entities such as Transnet, Eskom and SAA. Adding yet another bureaucratic structure could lead to increased red tape, systemic inefficiencies and operational chaos.

Secondly, the financial implications of establishing this holding company are significant. It will require its own executive leadership, staff, budget and administrative centre.

In a time when our nation's resources are stretched so thin, can we afford to divert funds to create a new entity instead of directly addressing the inefficiencies and financial woes at the existing SOEs?

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Mr President, we need to seriously consider bringing in the private sector invasion and expertise in SOEs.

We cannot ignore the grave reality that SOEs have been mismanaged for decades, relying heavily on government bailouts.

The Finance Minister, Enoch Godongwana, has emphasized the urgent need for these entities to become self-sufficient.

Is it realistic to believe that retaining 100% state ownership, even with operational partnerships, will achieve this goal?

South Africa needs a bold vision for the SOE sector that puts the national interest first and looks beyond narrow, vested interests.

Transnet's weak performance has, over the years, severely impacted our mining, agriculture and energy sectors. You've heard this before in other debates.

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It is my strong suggestion that when Transnet proposes the introduction of private sector participation at its rail and ports, those efforts should be given unconditional support.

The idea of a national holding company for SOEs is deficient are:

The creation of a new SOE in the form of a holding company introduces yet another layer of bureaucracy to an already overregulated sector.

Establishing the holding company will be expensive. These funds could be better spent directly addressing the issues of SOEs.

The management structure between the holding company and the individual SOEs has the potential to create operational chaos and inefficiency due to duplication of efforts.

I want to end off sir by saying to you, and conclude, that I must caution that a holding company will potentially provide a fertile ground for state capture 2.0 and should the country have the unfortunate prospect of being presided over by an

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individual with the same disposition as the discredited Jacob Zuma. [Interjections.]

In conclusion, we must be vigilant and add complexity ...
[Interjections.] ... Let us work together to ensure that this industry ... [Interjections.] [Inaudible.] ... I realise I've touched a sensitive, but you would understand, a small ...
[Interjections.] ... thank you. [Applause.]

The MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Mr I K Morolong): House Chairperson, His Excellency the President, Cyril Ramaphosa, hon Deputy President Paul Mashatile, hon members, ladies and gentlemen ...

Setswana:

Bagaetsho dumelang.

English:

In his acceptance speech as the first President of the Organization of African Unity, OAU, Emperor Haile Selassie, whose birthday we will celebrate today said, and I quote:

History teaches us that unity is strength, and cautions us to submerge and overcome our differences in the quest for

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common goals, to strive, with all our combined strength.

With all our combined strength, for the path to true African brotherhood and unity.

Your Excellency, we, here in the most southern shores of our great continent have been taught too well by our own history of division, racial prejudice, and subjugation that unity is strength and that we must submerge and overcome our differences in the quest for common goals.

Madam Speaker or House chair, The Presidency, as a strategic centre of power and government, with all its convenient and co-ordinating power, is charged with the responsibility to support the President as the head of the national executive. We present this budget today to illustrate how the department seeks to translate the constitutional mandate of the President into a resource programme of action. Three important pillars characterised the Sixth Administration. Firstly, building meaningful social compacts; secondly, building a capable state; and lastly, putting the state at the centre of the country's development agenda. To this end, The Presidency will both pivot these pillars in the Seventh Administration and complement them with a decisive programme to build rapid, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth to create jobs.

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Therefore, as The Presidency leads the co-ordination of the implementation of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, ERRP, our driving agenda remains to build a South African economy that meets the needs of all its citizens. The ERRP must and will create jobs for youth, provide equitable distribution of income amongst South Africans, and create a better life for all.

Hon House Chairperson, over the next five years, the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, PYEI, will be institutionalized and the SAYouth.mobi optimized and integrated with other government platforms. These will ensure that the youth have a single-entry point to access services and earning opportunities. In our foreword to the 2023-24 Quarterly Report of the PYEI, we make bold the following assertions: A significant achievement of the PYEI is that the vast majority of earning opportunities have been accessed by the most excluded young people. Seventy percent of opportunities have been accessed by young black African women, 73% have been accessed by young people who attended poorer-resourced quintile 1-3 schools, and 65% have been accessed by young people who live in households where at least one member receives a social grant.

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Hon members, all of these are some of the victories scored from the co-ordinating effort of The Presidency. These and many other efforts ensure that we strive with all our combined strength, to build a globally competitive nation brand that attracts and retain both the foreign and domestic investment.

House Chair, it is easier to become an armchair critic, to offer so-called expert advice, self-righteous diagnosis, and cold dissection of matters from the safety of our screen and verbose media statements. However, it is completely something else to consistently find solutions to complex problems to marshal a nation out of a pandemic, to cushion the nation from economic crisis to sourcing strength and decisiveness in time of lurking threats and civil unrests, and to ultimately lead this nation into the next phase of the democratic dispensation. Many can only wish that they could possess half the skill, the discipline, and the prowess to lead as President Ramaphosa has led during his tenure.

As I veer off the speech ... [Applause.] ... there is one overzealous member of the opposition party, who sometimes would refer to his political credentials as having joined the struggle as a child. You know too well, hon Malema, that we too, joined the struggle as children. The difference between

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you and us is that we do not use our political credentials to unblemish your already blemished political career. I thank you. [Applause.]

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Revolutionary regards to the leadership of the progressive caucus. [Applause.] The Presidency is responsible for eight functions - 11 task teams and six state-owned enterprises, SOEs, and it is here to ask for money. Deputy president, Floyd Shivambu, when you spoke last Friday, you characterized the sitting President as being a candidate for an award in fiction - best fiction in literary sciences. But you see, it doesn't look like you were heard about what you were diagnosing. I think we must upgrade the diagnosis. And borrow from the ideological toolkit of Frantz Fanon. We may be dealing with psychosis, whose symptoms are delusions and illusions, because when Zakes Mda writes his D.P.S, he knows that he is writing fiction, but our candidate tonight truly believes in the delusions that he gives us. One million houses in Alex. He believes that it is a proper belief. [Applause.] And Fanon teaches us about cognitive dissonance, that when you tell such a person who suffers from these symptoms, the truth, they hold on so much to their core belief, they become agitated and uncomfortable. If you tell him now that he is

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wearing a blue tie, he may tell you he is convinced that he is not even dressed. [Interjections.]

Just today, after being warned of delusions, he comes to this platform and says that unsafe toilets have been replaced in 92% of schools needing safe toilets. The remaining 280 schools are scheduled for completion within this financial year. But the report of the Basic Education Department, titled: Education Facility Management System Report, published 3 July 2024, says there are 1 770 schools with pit toilets. Two hundred and eighty-one thousand, seven hundred and seventy, this is not a candidate of fiction. We have passed the stage of fiction, and we are dealing with mental illness. [Applause.] That is why those who come here to defend him ... [Interjections.]

Mr O M MATHAFA: On a point of order, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON {Ms Z Majozi}: Hon Ndlozi, can you please take your seat behind you. Yes, hon member!

Mr O M MATHAFA: Chair, hon Ndlozi on the podium is reflecting on the President' state of mind. I think it is in violation of

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Rule 85(1). I believe the Rule is being violated by hon Ndlozi, Chair. Thank you.

An HON MEMBER: He is not a medical doctor.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you, hon member. I think you were meant to quote Rule 84, "Unparliamentary or unacceptable language or gestures." Which says:

No member may use offensive, abusive, insulting, disrespectful, unbecoming or unparliamentary words or language, nor offensive, unbecoming or threatening gestures.

So, hon Ndlozi, please, when on the podium, can you refrain from doing so. And please withdraw that.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: With respect, Chair, what must I withdraw?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Withdraw calling the President ... [Interjections.]

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: On a point of order!

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

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Mr N F SHIVAMBU: I am sure, House Chair, with time, you will begin to appreciate some of the precedence issues on the rulings of this House. We had a contention in the Fifth Parliament where the ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON {Ms Z Majozi}: Can you get closer to the microphone because I cannot hear you? You can sit, it's fine.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: I want to talk to you while standing. ... we have precedence in this House where a word schizophrenia was utilised to characterize a Member of Parliament. After a process of the Rules Committee, proper interpretation, and even legal advice, it was concluded that such is a permissible word. That exactly describes what commissar Mbuyiseni is talking about now, which is of delusions, illusions, and imaginary articulations that were made by someone here. There is absolutely nothing wrong because the precedence has already been set about that ruling. So, please, don't do what you are doing now, to say he must withdraw because that is not consistent with the Rules of the National Assembly. So, your ruling is conclusively wrong, and you will realize later in the Rules Committee how these questions are handled. So, please, let's allow the speaker to proceed to characterize the

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phenomenon we are dealing with now. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you, hon Shivambu. Hon Ndlozi, as I had said that please refrain from using such insulting words from the podium, you may continue. We will consult Hansard, and later come back with a ruling. Thank you.

Dr M Q NDLOZI: ... Other cognitive dissonance and psychosis candidates - they are mere candidates at this stage - hon Khumbudzo ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon Ndlozi, can you please take your seat again. There is another hand. Yes, hon member.

Mr T B MUNYAI: House Chair, I insist with respect to Rule 84, that hon Ndlozi must withdraw because he insulted the President, His Excellency ... [Interjections.] ... Chair, can I finish?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Hon members, I cannot hear the point of order because you are drowning a member that I have given a privilege to speak now, please.

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Mr T B MUNYAI: I am arguing, Chair, that the hon member Ndlozi knows that he must withdraw. He is insulting the President by saying that psychosis has to do with the state of the mind. It is a mental illness. That is not allowed, hon House Chair, and it is unparliamentary.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Ms Z Majozi): Thank you, hon member. I have already made my ruling that we will consult Hansard, and a considered ruling will be made thereafter. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Dr M Q NDLOZI: Other candidate of this mental phenomenon is hon Khumbudzo, an admitted CR17 funds beneficiary, implicated in the Zondo Report on Denel ...

Sepedi:

Ebile okare kua Mmasepala wa Selegae wa Ba-Phalaborwa ba a o nyaka.

English:

Perhaps you might want to consult with hon Thembi on the VBS question. She may educate you because she was a mayor when the funds were deposited into the Polokwane local municipality bank. What was the purpose of building that bank? [Applause.]

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The President also says a lot about jobs, but the fact of the matter is, in 2019, when you were sworn in, there were 16,3 million employed people. Today, there are 16,7 million people. The difference is about 400 000, not two million. So, even the numbers seem not to be correlating. The reality is, there is no solution that is envisaged from the political and economic strategies of the current government. Because it does not centralized industrialization in macroeconomic planning. The development of the productive forces and the chronic problem of unemployment is only going to be resolved by a country that produces the things that it consumes, and therefore you got to centralized industrialization, which now is not happening, for example, the Public Procurement Bill does not align at all with industrialization. There is no mention of leveraging state procurement budget direct to reindustrialization. Instead, the Bill seeks to place measures to address professional ethics, pricing issues, accountability and transparency. You should use your buying capacity as the state to buy locally manufactured goods just from your procurement budget alone. That is not there.

The black Industrialist program is the greatest and tragic joke on black people. In 2022, we received a report that there was an allocation of R36 billion for 1 000 black

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industrialists. If you take these figures at a nominal value, you are looking at R37 million per so-called black industrialist.

Ford invested R12 billion of which 4,5 was a government incentive test scheme benefit to construct the Silverton plant in Pretoria. Toyota received R2,6 billion, and black people are expected to industrialize with R37 million. You see the joke there?

The Industrial Development Corporation, IDC, was at the centre of apartheid state-led development. It not only was creating companies like Sasol. Look at the industrial scale of Sasol? Perhaps there is a lack of understanding of what true industry is. The IDC was at the centre of the creation of Sasol, was at the centre of the creation and growth of Iron and Steel Corporation, Iscor. But since 1994, show me a single industry that the IDC started with the scale of the Iscor and Sasol.

Your chronic levels of unemployment can only be resolved by a bold step such as using the IDC within the Department of Trade and Industry to create large-scale industrial projects. The size of Sasol and Eskom. But also, when you are talking about investments and markets, the BRICS countries are where you

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should go. Your relationship with the West has been the most crippling economically. The West only wants your minerals. [Applause.] The West only wants you to consume its finished products. Even the consumer market of over 1,2 billion people in the continent of Africa, they still get products from their former colonizers. But China is the one that is developing in the last 20 years. They are responsible for large-scale infrastructure projects across the world. They are the ones that are building the biggest and the most sophisticated infrastructure projects than anyone else. So, if you want to industrialize, you must look to the BRICS countries. You must go to China and literally request, build, operate, and transfer project. So, if you want the bullet train from Durban to Musina ... Mr President, perhaps you do not enter the delusion of repeating the same thing that you have been doing over the last 30 years as the ANC. Go to China, the people of China will build a speed train in less than a year and then it will occur from Durban to Musina.

The industrialization project must also be at the centre of the competition laws, for example, competition laws are not the instrument of transformation, even when they are in place. Price fixing, collusion, market power abuse, price discrimination, and monopoly industries continue. When the

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Competition Commission makes findings, the Minister of Finance has the power to overrule them. When the Competition Commission identified that the private sector health market was abusing its power through price fixing and monopolization, nothing happened to them. That tells you the power of these industries. If you want to heal, Mr President, from this emerging mental condition within the GNU, perhaps you must come back tomorrow with a concrete admission that business cannot be usual. Otherwise, we will interrogate and scrutinize ... [Time expired.] ... the state of your mind to the end. Thank you very much.

Mr S S ZIBI: Hon Chair, Mr President and Deputy President, hon members, our country has entered an era in which we have to work together to deliver the promise of prosperity to millions of South Africans. The capacity and strength of the Presidency is critical to that mission. However, that comes with the responsibility to demonstrate that we are indeed in a new era. Our system gives enormous discretionary powers to the President and the exercise of that discretion can determine the extent to which Parliament is able to exercise meaningful oversight. Over the years, the size and scope of the Presidency have expanded significantly. The agenda that you set out, Mr President, in your opening of Parliament address

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and, in your response, yesterday is sprawling. It covers everything from the reform of executive oversight over state-owned companies to climate change and foreign policy. However, Mr President, the growth of the Presidency and his work is not being matched by efforts to ensure that the many issues that previously fell under Ministries continue to be data subject to parliamentary oversight, continues to be so. This situation should not continue because, Mr President, at the heart of South Africans unhappiness about that democracy is the sense that the government leaders are not accountable. There is no one more obligated to set an example than you, Mr President, by working with Parliament for this body to provide oversight over the work in the Presidency. It is also in this vein that you need to publish performance agreements with ministers so that we can see how they align with the Annual Performance Plans.

Secondly, the manner in which you previously chose to facilitate the appointment of senior officials, such as the SARS Commissioner and the National Director of Public Prosecutions, through Independent Public Panel is commendable, but it is not institutionalised, not by regulation and not by legislation. Please formalise it and include an expanded list of critical officials, such as the National Police

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Commissioner and others. While it does not guarantee a perfect outcome. It reduces the risk that outcomes with unfettered and secret Presidential discretion. Our country ended up on its knees precisely because of this.

We would also like to see you engaging the media more regularly in a way that enables them to pose questions to you, Mr President, not just through your spokespeople and Ministers. The one-way broadcast with no time for questions, serve a very limited purpose and often cause people that say you can just send the country a WhatsApp. I think we can do better in that respect. South Africans want to see you engage deeply with the issues that affect their lives. They want to know that our President does not just read speeches but is doing his job with empathy and passion. The norms you establish during the 7th administration will anchor the culture you cultivate in respect of executive accountability in the future.

We have a responsibility to decide how we are going to continue to build a more perfect democracy that we hand over to future generations. Part of that responsibility is building the right institutional culture and continuing to strengthen institutions and institutional accountability. It is

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important, Mr President, that you lead by example in that respect. It is greater accountability that will see us build a safe, prosperous and equal and United South Africa in one generation I thank you.

Mr M A MAIMANE: Hon President, hon Deputy President, ...

Setswana:

... bagaetsho dumelang.

English:

Mr President, I have heard you speaking extensively in this House about how we need to be builders and I thought it would be an opportune for me to say precisely why we started Build One South Africa. If it's possible, I would like to offer you an honouring membership, and perhaps we can build this country going forward. May I highlight that ultimately if you want to build the dynamic of one is important.

IsiXhosa:

Ndithetha ngolu hlobo nje yinto yokuba ngoMgqibelo bendityelele eSamora. Abantu baseSamora bachatshazelwe zizikhukhula, imvula inetha ngamandla kwaye idale umonakalo omkhulu. Abantu baseSamora balambe apha esiswini kuba

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abanamisebenzi, imeko yabo phaya imbi kakhulu. Bayakhalaza kum ngelithi thina apha ePalamente asichatshazelwa zimvula kwaye asisokoli, siphila kamnandi ukutya kukhona.

English:

It highlights the very point that this country faces. Is that there are two South Africas or multiple South Africas. Our job, and I'd like to suggest if we are going to create national unity, let's create national purpose and let me speak about a few things that I think are going to be important for us to achieve. Deputy President Mashatile, as Leader of Government Business, I want to ask you. The fault with the NDP was that much of the strategic objectives were not aligned to APPs, in fact, 45% to be exact, with 25% today being indicated as complete. If we are going to succeed, let's align on those, President. I want to urge that, particularly on this issue of state-owned enterprises. I want to speak just on two:

Firstly, Eskom, it's clear that, in fact, we've got to not only transition from coal intensive projects to perhaps sustainable energy, but I'd like to urge that we reject the demanded increase by NERSA. If we fail to do that, South Africans such as those who live in Samora are going to be

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double taxed. They are paying on a bailout on one end, and on other end. They are being asked to finance a high increase.

Secondly, Transnet, our people spend too much money getting to work. Let's fix Prasa so that at least there are trains getting people to work, so that at least whatever disbursement we give South Africans as a social wage, it can go further and not face up to the inflationary pressures that we see.

Thirdly, I think the people of Samara would highlight the fact that the ratio of policing relative to their lives is 1:450, which is woefully higher relative to how many police we allocate even to VIP protection. May I urge, Mr President, in my hometown in Dobsonville, 1:1200. I want to urge that let's rather invest more in the safety of South Africans. Our people are paying protection fees at home. They are having to say to people, how do I get to work if I'm not protected?

Lastly, we are going to have, in fact, I'd like to ask that we introduce a national civilian service, Mr President. You've spoken about projects like the Yes project and many others. Let's introduce a one-year mandatory programme for young people so that they can spend a year as interns and ultimately be able to work.

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This will give a sense of national significance for many young people, but an opportunity for them to work. I close with the call I've made earlier. If we are going to have a national dialogue which I would endorse, Mr President. Let it be a dialogue between the rich and the poor. The poor must be included in the dialogue. If we fail to have the dialogue with them, the poor will eat the rich.

Lastly, I know I said that. You will chair the G20 summit. Let's maximize South Africa's investment potential globally. Make it possible that we use that summit not as a talk shop, but as an opportunity for South Africa and Africa.

Setswana:

Ke a leboga, Moporesitente.

English:

Thank you very much.

Ms E R J SPIES: Hon Chairperson, Mr President, esteemed colleagues, and in particular, to the youth of this country, today, I stand before you to address the critical issues faced by women, youth, and persons with disabilities, who fall under the purview of the Presidency. The budget allocation for the

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Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities in stands at just over R1 billion. While this might seem substantial, it's important to note that a significant portion, R704,3 million, is transferred to the National Youth Development Agency, and R93,6 million to the Commission for Gender Equality, leaving the department with an actual operating budget of approximately R209 million.

The current issues in Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities are multifaceted:

Our youth unemployment rate remains alarmingly high. While initiatives like the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention and the SA Youth mobi platform, are steps in the right direction. We need a more sustained and scalable solutions. We need more sustained and scalable solution. The finalisation of the Draft Youth Development Bill must be expedited, Mr President. Despite the development of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide and the allocation of R21 million over the Medium-Term. GBV still continues to be a scourge in our society.

Implementation and monitoring of these funds must be rigorous and transparent. Economic empowerment of youth and persons

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with disabilities often remain marginalised in economic activities. We welcome, Mr President, the 40% prioritisation of women owned businesses when it comes to procurement. To truly empower these groups, however, we need to invest more and implement innovative policies. I propose, Mr President, that you take note of the following policy recommendations, which can assist the Government of National Unity in addressing these pressing issues.:

Youth Employment Opportunity Certificate, the certificate will empower young people to break free from the constraints of the minimum wage, giving them better chances of finding jobs. Establish apprentices as a separate category to encourage more employers to hire, train and enhance the skills of our workforce. Invest in programmes that provide skill-building and self-development activities to at-risk youth and develop community partnerships to reduce gang recruitment. Simplify the system for disability-specific grants and allow private doctors to conduct medical assessments required for accessing these grants. This will make it faster and more efficient for people with disabilities to get the support they need.

Let us finalise the Draft the Bill rights for people with disabilities. I invite you, President, to consider the

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strategic approach of Premier Alan Winde, particularly as it pertains to safety. Each ministry and department should develop a deliverable programme that focuses on the impact on women, youth, and persons with disabilities, and by doing so we ensure that safety and security are integral parts of our efforts to empower these groups. These policies are not just about spending money but about investing wisely in the future of our country. If we are serious about real empowerment of women, youth, and persons with disabilities, we must put our money where our mouth is and ensure that every rand spent translates into tangible benefits for these groups. The Department and Ministry needs a deeper review of its essence.

Mr President, the Presidency must understand that the empowerment of women and youth and persons with the disabilities can no more be a check box, but a necessity for the growth and prosperity of our nation. In this regard, and to conclude, Mr President, we will be constructive in our criticism and together we will take bold steps to build a brighter tomorrow for all South Africans. I thank you.

[Applause.].

Ms T M CHAUKE: House Chairperson, greetings to our hon President, Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, our Deputy President Paul

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Mashatile, the executives who are present today, hon members and my favourite, fellow South Africans. I come before you to deliver a very important message speaking not only to the South African citizens and hon members, but also to our officials, to say that, as South Africa we have seen significant growth and development since the dispensation of democracy.

With this significant growth and developments that have taken place, we have seen the empowerment, emancipation and liberation of our people. We have also seen many of the international laws being ratified in South Africa, to protect and enhance the lives of the most vulnerable. We look at the legalisation on same sex marriage. This was a significant milestone for us as South Africans, where we really spoke about advancing the rights of all South African citizens. We also ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UNCRPD, into the White Paper on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities.

I have challenged you before, my hon President, to say that we need to ensure that the Bill on the rights of persons with disabilities is signed for us to ensure that all rights of persons with disabilities are protected, their lives are

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enhanced, and they can no longer be subjected to inequality and exclusion.

We have seen significant progress under the leadership of the ANC when it comes to representation, participation and social cohesion. Now we need to advance and accelerate economic transformation. Economic transformation means the empowerment of each and every single individual who resides in South Africa. This South Africa is our South Africa and belongs to no one else. Therefore, it means no one must be left behind from accessing opportunity, services and also ensuring that they live a dignified life. Dignity is part of our Freedom Charter when we speak about the protection of one's dignity.

My President, fellow executives and hon members, before I proceed, I would like to first address what you spoke about, hon Ndlozi, referring to mental health issues. As a person with a disability, I am highly offended that you used cheap politics and used a medical condition such as mental health to insult our President. Nonetheless, we move on, hon Dr Ndlozi. I urge all hon members, when we are participating in our debates, let us refrain from using cheap politics and putting medical illnesses which are serious conditions to offend and insult one another. We are here to serve the interests of

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South Africans, and therefore we must not take opportunities where we are taking advantage of medical illnesses to throw cheap shots.

We have seen significant progress when it comes to our educational system where we speak about inclusive education and we have seen the former Minister, comrade Angie, who has promoted inclusive education and full-service educational institutions. We have also seen the establishment ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, there is a point of order if you are able to take a seat, please.

Ms T M CHAUKE: I will not be able to but I can step aside.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, why are you rising?

An HON MEMBER: Chair, I want to ask whether the member is willing to take a question? [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member on the floor, are you prepared to take a question? [Interjections.]

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Ms T M CHAUKE: Chair, I am not willing to take a question.

[Interjections.]

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

Ms T M CHAUKE: Hon members, as we stand here, we know that we are here to serve the best interests of our South African people. As I was saying, when we look and reflect on our basic education and higher learning institution programmes, we must also realise that there is some deficiency that requires us to really intervene.

We are not saying that we have not seen challenges and we have not put strategies in place to mitigate this, we are saying that if we put our efforts collectively together to towards a sustainable development programme that enhances the lives of students with disabilities, the most vulnerable and those who have been previously disadvantaged, an inclusive and accessible educational system is possible.

We must ensure that there is no child who is left behind and not in schooling because of their disabilities. We must be able to harness the talent of each and every single South

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African citizen. We must put mechanisms in place in order for them to thrive and become active citizens in South Africa.

We also speak about the health system. President and the Minister of Health, it is important for us to heighten our effort when it comes to the distribution of assistive devices, which is a programme that has been ongoing now. This programme has given an opportunity to persons with disabilities to thrive and participate in social activities.

As we reflect once again, social and economic emancipation is imperative in order for us to see a just society. We need to eradicate poverty where we have seen high rates of poverty within people with disabilities, the youth and within the women's sector.

The Department of Women and Youth and Persons with Disabilities needs to be capacitated in order for them to have better oversight capabilities. Now President, this falls within your office, and I say we, as members of this Parliament, should avail ourselves to ensure that we are able to effectively implement the policies that we constitute in this very House.

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Successful implementation of our policies relies on each and every single one of us. In order for us to achieve this, we must put our political differences aside and put the interests of South African citizens forward. It therefore means, regardless of our political differences, if it speaks about serving the needs of the most vulnerable, we must come to a consensus. We must say, whether I agree politically with them on this particular matter, if it's going to empower and change the life of that one South African citizen, I am willing to come to the part.

We have seen many of our policies or many of the international laws being domesticated or ratified in South Africa, and we need to do more. We need to do better. We need to look at the basic income grant as something that we need to prioritise, President, because this will allow for persons with disabilities, the LGBTQAI+ and those who are previously disadvantaged and most vulnerable to have an opportunity to become economic contributors and to thrive within society.

Now we all sit here, we have our differences, but we must understand that we must have political tolerance - that's number one. We must maintain humility, Ubuntu, comes first. We

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must ensure that regardless of the decisions that we are taking, we must have the interest of our people *pele* [first].

We know that there are leaders who have come before us, and we have respected them. Comrade hon Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa ...

Sepedi:

... re a go hlompha ...

English:

... and we have seen the work that you have done. We know that we speak about high rates of unemployment, and this is caused by COVID-19, which I'm not sure if the opposition did not experience this global phenomenon that we all experienced. Unemployment is not caused by a president, but it is caused by a global crisis like a pandemic we all went through.

However, in order for us to build this country, it's called constructive criticism, we must be able to identify the problem and offer a solution. Let us not be those people who identify problems but come forward with no solutions. This House must be made of revolutionary leaders who are ready to lead with solutions, not with problems. South Africans are not watching for us to be debating and howling ...

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, please take your seat again, and you have one minute left. Hon member, why are you rising?

An HON MEMBER: Leadership, it's a point of order ...

[Interjections.] ... It's Rule 92. The member is deliberately misleading the House by saying that we have an inclusive education while in this country you have an Afrikaner child ... [Interjections.] [Inaudible.] ... not given a chance to write exams in the language they use at home while the other one is privileged ... [Interjections.] That is misleading. Thank you, leadership.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you. Please now switch off your mic. Hon member, that is a point of debate and not a point of order. Hon member at the podium, please continue.

Ms T M CHAUKE: Thank you very much. When I speak about inclusive education - we have an inclusive education policy if you can perhaps familiarise yourself with that, you would know that there are plans to ensure that our educational system is as inclusive as possible. I did indicate that we have taken note of some of the deficiencies, and we are willing to work

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towards improving those. A great leader is one who is ready to identify their mistakes, their wrongs and deficiencies and is always willing to improve, meaning always willing to do better and be better.

Setswana:

Ke are ke mo teng.

Afrikaans:

Ek is binne.

IsiZulu:

Woza nawe.

English:

Let us ensure that we leave no one behind and that the Bill is signed. President, before International Day of Persons with Disabilities, please let that Bill be signed for the emancipation and empowerment of all South African disabled and their families. [Time expired.] Thank you. [Applause.]

Sesotho:

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Mong V ZUNGULA: Ke a leboha Mohlophahi. Ke batla ho dumedisa baetapele ba seboka sa tswelopele. Kajeno re tlo bua ka ditharollo. Re batla ho bua ka ditharollo ...

English:

... that will aim to see the economy transformed and jobs to be created. Firstly, the government must be deliberate in opening up the economy in order to have more players. It cannot be, Mr President, that the economy is concentrated in few hands. Go to the Eastern Cape, the majority of the roads in the Eastern Cape are built by H&I Construction. The national departments spent over R8,9 billion on cleaning, gardening and fumigation. And majority of this money went to Bidvest.

We as the ATM, want to make it clear, Mr President, that once we as a lawmakers pass the Appropriation Bill to give your government the power to spend taxpayers' money and you sign it to law. You as the head of the executive must direct your government to spend a certain percentage on Small Medium and Micro Enterprises, SMMEs. Your predecessor said it must be 30%. We say it must be 50%.

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The state must be the driver of economic transformation by strategically using its spending to create more diverse players in the economy. The state has over R2 trillion budget per annum, which is largely spent on big white businesses.

Thomas Sankara, who transformed Burkina Faso in under three years was very clear when he said, "We need to consume what we produce and produce what we consume." South Africa is a destination of goods that are produced elsewhere. We are importing goods that we should that we should be producing locally.

We are even importing tooth peaks. The local production of goods will industrialise the economy, create jobs and grow the economy. Basic goods like soap, toilet paper and candles must be produced in each district in the country. This way the economy of the country will circulate amongst different districts in the country as well as different companies.

Mr President, there is infrastructure. Go to QwaQwa, Qcuwa, Dimbaza, Enkangala Industrial Park, there are factories infrastructure. The market is there because people are consuming these goods on a daily basis. What is needed is

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political will to fund black industrialists to reopen these factories and create the much-needed jobs across our country.

Government intervention is also necessary to direct the spending of goods like school uniform, stationery from small businesses instead of having one company that is dominating that particular sector. If your child goes to a private, that private school will tell you where to buy the uniform and where to buy the stationery.

We are saying as the ATM, the government can equally do the same thing by redirecting the uniform from all the schools in the municipalities to be procured from SMME's and cooperatives from the very same municipalities.

These interventions will create the much-needed jobs. Jobs are not going to be created by big buzz words. They are going to be created by practical programmes. We have an economy in our country whereby all sectors are dominated by between five and seven companies and that leads to price fixing and low economic growth.

The economy must be transformed. Do not fear to transform the economy. The apartheid government was deliberate when it was

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transforming the economy by spending on Sanlam. You, Mr President, can equally do so when it comes to black companies.

Ms T A KHANYILE: Hon Chairperson, hon President, Deputy President, Ministers, Deputy Ministers, hon members. Michael Pashley eloquently points out that, I quote:

"Violence against women in all its forms, is a human rights violation. It's not something that any culture, religion or tradition propagates."

House Chair, women, youth, and persons with disabilities received for its programme 2 an allocation of R124,3 million. This allocation includes an amount of R93,6 million earmarked for transfer to Commission on Gender Equity and operational budget of R30,7 million.

However, we are concerned that the department has only allocated R5 million towards addressing gender-based violence in this programme. This allocation includes a provision for salaries and wages for secretariat amounting to R3,3 million and the operational budget of R1,7 million.

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We welcome the commitment from the Minister to approach National Treasury to request more allocation. We need to move with urgency in implementing programmes aimed at curbing the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide.

Last week, we learned of Zimbo Gudu, who went missing in Mthatha and Inam Tshakeni and Nqobile Hlophe who have passed away. A murder investigation has been opened for Inam and a hit and run was reportedly responsible for Nqobile's untimely death. We also learned of water and sanitation director-director, Mr Sello Machitje after he was reportedly kidnapped. We send our deepest condolences to their families.

In this Government of National Unity, we urgently call for South African Police Service staff to be trained so that victims that receive justice while their dignity is maintained. Health facilities and staff must also be equipped and trained to use necessary screening tools to identify gender-based violence, GBV cases, report them to the South African Police Service, SAPS and support victims.

Gender-based violence survivors must also be able to easily access the help they need. This includes the provision of healthcare, legal services, safe houses and dignity kits.

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While we welcome the establishment of Thuthuzela Care Centres, they must be fully capacitated.

I conducted an oversight to a few Thuthuzela Care Centres, TCCs in Mpumalanga last year and discovered that they do not have necessary manpower, only part time volunteers. We expect an adequate budget to be made available to hire full time, highly trained officials to manage this disease and the provision of all necessary resources to be made available.

Chairperson, we expect more budget to be made available to address the issue of teenage pregnancy. It needs to be acknowledged that in South Africa, children as young as nine years old have been reported to be pregnant. A study by Macleod and Tracey identified several factors that increase vulnerability to early unwanted pregnancy in South Africa which are early sexual debut, gender-based sexual violence and having all the sexual partners.

Several studies have argued that adolescent schoolgirls engaged in sex with older partners and have transactional sex exchanging gifts or money for sex. We need to have programmes to have teenage pregnancy awareness expanded. Healthcare practitioners also have a huge role to play in ensuring

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identification of all pregnant minors and sourcing the details of the alleged fathers. If they are adults, a case of statutory rape must be opened against them, and they should be prosecuted and jailed for taking advantage of our young girls.

In the President's reply yesterday, we were pleased when he announced that he will accelerate distribution of sanitary towels to schools. I want to urge all departments responsible for this exercise to ensure that this much needed sanitary towels do reach the intended beneficiaries and that is done on time. We have a responsibility to keep our girls in school.

In this Seventh Parliament, we expect all issues affecting women, youth and persons with disabilities with utmost importance.

The DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY (Ms N B Mhlauli): House Chairperson, Mr President, Deputy President, members of the executive, hon members...

IsiXhosa:

... molweni.

English:

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Mr President, it must be very ironic sitting here being labelled a sellout by the right-wing brigades, cheaply camouflaged as modern-day revolutionaries. It is the nature of these Disneyland combatants to sit here under the very same law they claim to hate, yet happily accept the salaries that come with that particular law. Similar to their cult leader, who for many years pocketed the spoils of the state only to now have a Damascus moment. Mr President, the behaviour of the regressive caucus is actually not surprising. It is, after all, the nature of those who earn revolutionary credentials in the time of freedom and democracy that you and true revolutionaries fought for, to come today, want to demonize and rewrite the history of our struggle. After all, the register of what a particular caucus does look like the index page of the Zondo Commission report.

Mr President, you asked a simple question yesterday. You asked, where were they? They could not answer you. For when they came into existence, their struggle was waged in the corridors of VBS Mutual Bank, in the demolition of R16 million houses in Sandton and in the looting of Limpopo through the Ratanang Family Trust and through other actions.

[Interjections.]

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Hon President, I can only imagine the amusement you feel when you are being labelled a project by the very same people who used to call you during the negotiations wanting to be squeezed in into the very Government of National Unity, GNU that they have a lot to speak about today. [Interjections.] They would go around talking about how they are going to be second deputy presidents in the very same government led by someone today who is a project. One must just wonder what that makes them hon Ndlozi? Perhaps that fits the description of delusions of grandeur that you spoke about.

However, as hon Mondli Gungubele reminded us a couple of years ago, when he characterised this behaviour as having no sense of self contradiction and today we have seen how that in indeed is very true. True to the characterisation of President Mbeki when he actually said, "this is scuttlebutt behaviour".

Hon members, the Presidency and Strategic Centre of government enters this phase of an ANC-led Government of National Unity carrying the hopes and aspirations of the millions of South Africans. As stated by the President earlier today, one of the most important innovations of Operation Vulindlela has been to put in place systems to drive delivery on strategic priorities

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to ensure that policy decisions made by Cabinet translate into tangible results.

To inform the hon Trollip, more than 94% of all reforms are either completed or progressing well. Operation Vulindlela has unlocked R500 billion in investment. The key reforms that have been completed since its inception in 2020, include a progressive review of the work visa system, completed with recommendations to overhaul the work visa system, attract skills and investment. The visa system has expanded to 34 countries with almost all countries now covered by either a visa waiver or eVisa.

The release of spectrum has contributed to reduced data cost, as the President said, increasing internet speed and helping to breach the digital divide. What does this mean? It means that a young person in Pofadder, in the Northern Cape now has access to high-speed internet and to be able to market their business, seek a job and do research online. More efforts comrade Trollip again, more efficient ports and trails will lower the cost of goods and help save jobs in the coal mining belts of Mpumalanga, the Natal corridor which the farmers of the Free State depend on, and the iron ore channel from Kathu to Saldanha Bay, among others.

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IsiXhosa:

Asimanga...

Afrikaans:

... ons staan nie stil nie en ons baiza nie.

English:

As we move ahead, Mr President, under your steady hand and under your steady leadership because our focus remains transforming the lives of ordinary South Africans, we are the weaver birds, the President spoke of. However, like the weaver birds, we remain conscious of what Ayo Kwei Armah said in his seminal offering, titled: *The beautiful are not yet born*. He says:

Alone, I am nothing. I have nothing. We have power, but we will never know it, we will never see it work, unless we come together to make it work.

We therefore present this budget united and conscious, that the ANC-led Government of National Unity has birthed the beautiful ones. We can and must do more. Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

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Mr F ADAMS: Hon House Chairperson, hon President, hon Deputy President, hon Speaker, hon members, you know the presentation from the Deputy Minister requires substantive arguments, but I will give you a small, small one [Interjections.] The last one, colleagues, the last one. I wish to quote. A very experienced politician, when he says:

When you have a compromised President fighting for his political life and the rest of his corrupt party circling like hyenas that critical work will not get done. If President Ramaphosa somehow tries that conference, we are stuck with the corrupt and a compromised President, no one forced him into the Phala Phala situation either.

Thank you, hon John Steinhausen. Now, somebody tell me that this GNU is not a government of convenience. Mr President, here is an appeal from the Progressive Caucus. Prove the right wing wrong. Go to court and let the court find you not guilty on the Phala Phala issue. [Applause.] [Interjections.] Then, you no longer need the National Party in your Government of National Unity.

Mr President, in your Government of National Unity, there sits a man who has advocated for the death penalty. Yet a killer,

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the man who killed Chris Hani never agitated for the death penalty for that man. You know him as Peter Groenewald, our new Minister of Correctional Services. Minister, what other name can we give this government if not a government of desperation?

Now I ask you, Mr President, in view of all these contradictions within the so-called Government of National Unity, how do we make this budget work? Because your budget deals with the when, the why, but not the how. How is the right wing going to accede anything to the poor people out there? How, Mr President are we, who advocate for better living going to give each other a compromise with the people who insist on the abolition of a minimum wage? They want to turn all of South Africa into the biggest sweet shop, Africa has ever seen. And you are asking us to go along with it. [Applause.] This is my minutes. This is my tone. You might learn something. Shut up. [Interjections.]

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

Mr F ADAMS: Hon House Chairperson, I heard members say I must not shout. If the man's English is limited to don't shout, you must just say so.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, it is not parliamentary language to tell somebody to shut up and in future you better address the Chair.

Mr F ADAMS: I withdraw, Chair. I will not do it again.

Hon MEMBER: Relax, relax, do not shout.

Mr F ADAMS: Why do you steal? [Laughter.] Am I not getting an answer?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, please sit down, I see a hand there. Hon Reddy, why are you rising?

Mr V G REDDY: Hon House Chairperson, on a point of order: shut up has not been declared unparliamentary. I refer you to this book that was given to us. Unparliamentary Expressions: it clearly says that shut up is not declared unparliamentary. It is the way you say it.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon Reddy, we all have a responsibility to uphold the decorum of this House.

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Mr F ADAMS: Hon Chair, for the sake of peace, I withdraw. Hon President, I wish to say this to you that in the history of this country, the name Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa will live in for me along with Verwoerd, Strydom and De Klerk. [Applause.] As the people who have done more for the oppression of the poor and the marginalised than anyone else hon President, hear me when I say to you and hear me well, that you had better hope that the hand that recalls history in this country is not a black one. Because hon president, when history is heard...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Adams, please you're your seat. There is a member rising. Hon members, please respect this member's right to stand on a point of order. [Interjections.]

Mr W T LETSIE: Hon House Chair, on a point of order: I think Chair, we must normalise bringing in breathalysers in the House. I think people are just not sober now. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, you are also not assisting in upholding the decorum of the House. Please do not raise frivolous point of order.

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Mr F ADAMS: House Chair, I am just happy that he can speak more than just shut up. Mr President, I want to ask you to please remember why we came here. We came here to serve, Thuma Mina, hon Ramaphosa, but Thuma Mina will not aid anybody while you are in bed with those people. I want to say that I am relieved you did not mention the triple challenges tonight. You know the triple challenges, of poverty - [Interjections.]

IsiXhosa:

LUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILEYO: Awuyazi.

English:

Mr F ADAMS: No, I wanted to say something else, but I do not want to be controversial. So, hon President, I will tell you the triple challenges that you often mentioned are nothing but a symptom, a symptom of a disease that is best expressed in the simple terms of colonialism, imperialism and Zionism. But it is hard to criticize this illness when you are in bed with it. Hon President, do the right thing, eject those people. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms I M MBIYO: Hon Chairperson, President Ramaphosa, Deputy President, Chief Whip, Members of Parliament ...

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IsiXhosa:

... ndiyanibulisa nonke.

English:

Creating equal opportunities for all South Africans requires government and private sector to open doors for learning. We need to focus on skills development to improve the skills of South Africa and their ability to participate in the economy. It is very important that as young people we receive skills from the Office of the President.

President, we acknowledge all the work that you have done and we plead with the President that we want to pass this Budget Vote to make sure that young people from Bekkersdal receive skills. We want to make sure that young people of South Africa get skills that will change the environment for our life. The reality is that we need skills such as plumbing. We need things like even if you don' make it after obtaining Grade 12, then you are able to make you are able to live on those skills. The reality is that ... [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order hon members. Give this member an opportunity.

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Ms I M MBIYO: Hon President, youth unemployment between the age of 15 and 24 is because of those that dropped out of school. So, we need those skills for them. The Department of Basic Education needs to make sure that by the time they leave or graduate in in grade 12, they have skills like - remember back in the days they used to do carpentry at school. They had ... - So those are the things that we need so that when you get your R350, you are able to take ... [Interjections.] Wait. When you get your R350 from government, then ...

IsiXhosa:

... wena kuba ukwazi ukulungisa izihlangu ...

English:

... when you go and buy, you don't buy ...

IsiXhosa:

... emakuleni kodwa uthenga kutata uMkhize wakho ...

English:

... so that you are able to generate the economy of this country. What is important is that ...

IsiXhosa:

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... bayekeni aba badlalela

English:

... the social media. Those that want ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, just take your seat for a moment, please. I see a hand to my right. Hon member, why are you rising?

Ms T MAHAMBEHLALA: Chairperson, I am rising because the hon members are drowning the speaker and it is her maiden speech.

IsiXhosa:

ILINGU ELIHLONIPHEKILEYO: Hayi, thula Mahambehlala.

English:

Ms T MAHAMBEHLALA: When it is your maiden speech, you are not supposed to be drowned by hon members. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: What is a kula?

Ms T MAHAMBEHLALA: They wouldn't know that because they've just arrived. Thank you.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon member. Hon members, we've not been informed that this is a maiden speech. But let me remind you that in the case of a maiden speech, we afford the member the best silence possible. All of us enjoyed that courtesy when we did our maiden speeches. Let me also hasten to add on hon members that the drowning was from both the left and the right.

HON MEMEBRS: Yes. [Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): So, please, let's give this member an opportunity then to proceed with her maiden speech. Hon member, please take the podium.

Ms I M MBIYO: Okay, thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, my apologies. Just take your seat again. Hon Reddy, why are you rising?

Mr V G REDDY: Hon House Chair, the member used the word 'amakula'. I would like her to explain what she means by that 'emakuleni' with your permission please. Please may she explain what she means by that. What is 'amakula'?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Reddy, we're not in the business of intervening and asking explanations.

[Interjections. If you want to raise a point of order, do so. Otherwise, the member may continue. Hon Dlakude.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon House Chairperson, if I may, on behalf of the ANC, apologise for the hon member. It's her maiden speech. Maybe she didn't understand what she said. [Interjections.] So, we apologise for her. We are pleading hon House Chairperson with the House to affect her an opportunity to speak and not to be drowned. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon members, please just take your hands down for a moment. If necessary, I'll recognise you just now. Order! Hon member Mbiyo, I am informed that the word you used is in fact an unparliamentary word by the Table Staff. Will you please withdraw that.

Mr V G REDDY: And apologise. And apologise.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon Reddy. Please don't switch on your microphone if you're not recognised. Hon Mbiyo.

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Mr V G REDDY: Yes, yes.

Ms I M MBIYO: Okay, thank you, Chairperson. No, I withdraw and I apologise. [Applause.] Can I continue?

Mr N S MATIASE: House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Mbiyo just take your seat again, please. I have another hand. Yes, hon member why are you rising? I.

Mr N S MATIASE: House Chair, I rise on a point of order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Yes.

Mr N S MATIASE: Before you proceed to allow the Member to retract or withdraw the remark on 'amakula'. You must first apologise for defending the defenceless. [Interjections.]

IsiXhosa:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILEYO: Hayi, wena. Hayi.

English:

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Mr N S MATIASE: To defend the undefendable. You must apologise for defending the undefendable. You must appreciate that it was wrong of you ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon Matiase, thank you.

Mr N S MATIASE: ... to allow the member to proceed without comprehending ...

An HON MEMBER: What point is that?

Mr N S MATIASE: ... without comprehending the meaning which is derogatory of a word like 'amakula'. You must apologise yourself.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, thank you. I will take that under advice. Hon member, please continue. Hon member my apologies. It's your maiden speech. Please have a seat. Hon Mahlaule, why are you rising?

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Hon Chairperson, I rise on point 92, a point of order. The reason why we are having this chaos is because you are not following the Rules. You are not sticking to the Rules. The Rules say anyone who stands up to speak, must raise

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their hand before they punch the microphone. Secondly, they must quote the Rule on which they are standing. If you selectively want to apply that, we will degenerate like this and find ourselves drowning the speaker.

An HON MEMBER: Are you Co-Chairing?

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Can you instil the Rules, hon Chairperson. [Interjections.] Do you see what I am talking about hon Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon member, yes. Hon members, this is again a reminder. Please do not switch on your microphone and begin to speak before you are recognised. May I plead with this House; the hon member made a mistake. She's withdrawn. She's even apologised. Let's now afford her the opportunity to conclude her maiden speech. Hon member.

Ms I M MBIYO: The implementation of no experience requirement in public service should be advanced in private sector to ensure the creation of work opportunities for the youth. The ANC has committed to create over 2,5 ... work opportunities in the next coming five years, which is reachable. It's reachable because what is done in Gauteng must be done in the entire

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provinces to make sure that all young people get the relevant skills. Secondly, it is important that if those skills are implemented in Gugulethu there is no need for people of Gugulethu to go and stay in in Johannesburg.

So as the ANC-led government we are saying that it's possible. Black child, it is possible. It's important that we create skills that will assist young people to open their own businesses. When they open their own businesses the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA must be there to assist them, which is what it has been doing and that is led by the ANC government.

IsiXhosa:

Kukho aba bathanda ukuthi iNSFAS yeyabo.

English:

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS was established in 1996, which was established by the ANC-led government. Yes, we must acknowledge that there were some issues that are there, but President Cyril Ramaphosa, we believe, and we know that you will assist those young people, that they get their NSFAS on time. They get their allocations on time, and they get their food. It's important that young

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people across the country, need to stand up to change this world. They cannot be ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Hon member, my apologies. Please take your seat again. Hon Mbatha, why are you rising?

Mr M S MBATHA: Chairperson. I'm rising to correct the member. She is actually not talking the truth. The National Student Financial Aid Scheme was Tertiary Education Fund of South Africa, Tefsa before. It was established in 1993.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): You know better than that. That's a point of debate. You've not risen on a point of order.

Mr M S MBATHA: That is misleading the House.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you hon Mbatha. That's out of order. Hon member, please continue.

Ms I M MBIYO: It is important that all those young people that go and receive skills, their diplomas and their degrees, don't mislead the country. Why I'm saying they must not mislead the

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country is that when, you are doctors, you do not have to make others to feel bad because we know you are well-educated.

The reality is that one of the reasons that other young people drop out from school is because of those emotional, abusive and the words that you are saying. Young kids drop out of school because of ...

IsiXhosa:

... nina nithi nibaphathe kakubi ngezinto enizithethayo.

English:

... because you think that now you are better than anyone else. What is important is that President, as young people of South Africa, we want to see change. As you've been doing, continue to do it, but now we want all your programmes to come to ...

IsiXhosa:

... ezilokishini.

English:

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All those mines that are from the West Rand that have been closed, we want those young people to get the skills. In West Rand ...

Setswana:

... le rona re batho, ...

English:

... we want our own universities. It cannot be that would have all these mines surrounding West Rand, but we don't even have a single university. What we want, it would be preferred that you give us an agricultural university so that the land that people are busy talking about claiming we would know ...

IsiZulu:

... uma siwuthola sibone ukuthi senzani ngawo.

English:

So that it can assist us that instead of us taking cabbages somewhere else, but we find them in our own country. President by saying that we as the ANC are supporting the Budget Vote. Thank you. [Applause.]

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Mr M G MAHLAULE: Chair, I rise on a point of order. Rule 65 says that, and I quote:

Members may not converse aloud during a debate.

When the last member spoke on the podium, the members were so loud in that they finally drowned out the speaker. I would ask you to bring the House to order on all sides so that we do not have to drown out the speakers on the podium. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon member. Hon members let us please uphold the decorum of the House until the end of this debate. And allow speakers to participate in the debate uninterrupted.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: House Chair, on a point of order. I think the basic tradition, consistency, and courtesy that we maintain as Chief Whips is that we should control the decorum of the House. And the Chief Whip of the Majority Party seems to be disinterested and not paying attention to what is happening. So, someone is trying to steer everyone out of opportunism. He talks about every issue, some of the issues which can be provided guidance on from the Chairperson there, every time he wants to speak. If he wants to speak, he must ask permission

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from you so that he speaks from the podium because he wants to appear on television, I do not know for what reason. Because he wants to punctuate everybody, all of us here are quiet and listening to the debate. Hon Ntuli, please take responsibility for your caucus, hon Ntuli, so that we have clear direction of where we are going. Please take charge of your caucus and not allow what is happening thus far. It is not proper leadership how you are dealing with situation.

An HON MEMBER: We are not going to hear from you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): You yourself could have taken that to the Chief Whips forum. Hon Reddy, do you still feel the need to rise?

Mr V G REDDY: Hon Chair, there is no consistency. Yesterday, the Chair said that no points of orders will be considered if there is no speaker on the podium when a speaker tried to stop an EFF member. Today, the ANC member is raising a point of order. And there is no speaker present, and it is allowed. So, can these Chairpersons sit down and agree on what is acceptable and what is not?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon member. Hon Mahlaule, do you still feel the need to address the Chair?

Mr M G MAHLAULE: Yes, Chairperson, I rise on Rule 92 on a point of order on hon Shivambu. You see, hon Shivambu should know the Rules of Parliament properly because it is allowed that any political party will have what we call a House Whip, who controls the House on the political party that they lead. Not only the Chief Whip can stand up and maintain order on behalf of their political party. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Thank you, hon member. I think let us close this sub-debate now. And let us continue with the real debate.

Mr N F SHIVAMBU: We clearly cannot help him.

Mr M G MAHLAULE: We cannot help you as well for not knowing the rules while you have been here for ten years.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr W Horn): Order hon members! You are now all making yourself guilty of switching on your mics and using that to interject. That falls out of the rules. Hon Kohler, please continue.

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Ms D KOHLER: Thank you, Chair. Globally, if you would disagree that the definition of national security is the absence of threat but the ability of security and law enforcement agencies to mitigate and neutralise the threats before and when they happen. Regrettably, our national security entities, the State Security Agency, SSA, crime and defence intelligence have failed South Africa in certain key areas. They failed before, during and after the catastrophic R50 billion riots of 2021, despite assurances from our SSA that our people were safe and secure, South Africans were suddenly faced with large scale rioting, burning, killing, and looting, that brought sways of the country to a standstill. That event was followed by further post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, inducing fighting between Ministers hassling to shove each other under the cover of various buses. They are all gone now but have left behind entities in desperate need of refocusing, reinforcing, and rebuilding.

The previous terms Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence, JSCI, was forged into a tough team which took on all three entities and the Cabinet when necessary to ensure that our state security apparatus was hauled into the 21st century, post the High-Level Review Panel Report and the Zondo Commission's findings into Allegations of State Capture.

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Our country was threatened with the spectre of being grey listed by international bodies in 2021, in large part because of the failures of these three entities to deal with, amongst others, crimes, serious money laundering, terrorist financing, state capture and corruption. We were well warned and given a year to improve on the sixty-seven recommendations, but in February last year, we were eventually grey listed and that carries with it massive reputational damage and leads to heightened risk factor assessments by foreign businesses and banks.

Amongst the failings I listed above, others also cited under resourced law enforcement, lacking judicial capacity and inadequate records and monitoring of beneficial ownership. Why, for example, have we been so singularly unsuccessful in recovering assets lost to state capture? Why is there only one person being prosecuted for terrorist financing?

If it were not for the establishment of the Government of National Unit, GNU, the likelihood of meaningful foreign investment would have disappeared like the morning mist. It was left to the JSCI to deal with much of the fallout and in many instances the lack of General Intelligence Laws Amendment Bill, GILAB, was frankly used as an excuse for the agency's

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inactivity and inability to deliver. So, we worked around the clock against what at times seemed to be insurmountable odds, to pass that legislation that have been promised to South Africa for some 80 years.

For a country that seamlessly pulls together during international sporting events, a singularly proud and usually united people to hear that we pose a threat to the international financial system is shameful indeed. As a nation, we have incredibly high levels of crime, but only a few realise that more than half of reported crimes fall into categories that generate financial proceeds such as tax crimes, bribery and corruption, fraud, trafficking and illegal drugs and other environmental crimes.

Our intelligence agencies are well aware that we are the regional financial hub of sub-Saharan Africa, and we know that we must get on top of foreign money laundering associated with the financing of foreign terrorism, which so seamlessly leads to domestic terrorism. There is just insufficient commitment to the initiative-taking identification and investigation of professional enablers of money laundering. And when there are convictions, they relate to self-laundering crimes. Because of our porous borders, the cash based informal economy is seen as

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an aggregating possibilities of money laundering and terrorist financing.

Where is our defence intelligence? I have personally watched as our South African National Defence Force, SANDF, members stood by as hundreds of undocumented foreigners strolled across the border into our country. As for beneficial ownership, it's our estate agents who turn a commission-based blind eye to dodgy cash purchases of mansions behind sky high walls, every drug manufacturer's dream home for every drug manufacturing mansion, be it in Mhlanga, Woodstock, government owned property in Gauteng where 68-hectare farm and still buy. There are countless others, currently ensuring we retain our status as a top illegal drug exporter.

Where is our crime intelligence? The same crime intelligence that has had various interesting heads, one of whom failed his matric certificate, another more recently who had his top-secret security clearance done in a matter of days. Now some are saying it was fast-tracked, but anyone on the inside knows that is an impossibility. We are waiting to hear from the Inspector General on Intelligence on that one.

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So, to turn the spotlight onto the State Security Agency with its anything but illustrious history, every probe and panel was excoriating when speaking out about the myriad failures of this entity. Their very job is to deal with terrorism, sabotage, subversion, espionage, and organised crime. So, we really have no other option but to ensure that they succeed.

It has been said that had the SSA not been captured, there would have been no need for the billion rands Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture. And now, the issue that needs to be high on the agenda of the JSCI, is the issue of Mr Arthur Fraser, formerly Director-General, DG, of the SSA, the man you, Mr President, put in charge of correctional services? I laid charges against him in 2009 for illegally distributing intercepted communications, - I am sure we all remember the spy tapes saga. And again, in 2022 regarding irregularities during his time at the SSA.

Now millions, if not billions of rands were siphoned off during his tenure. And there are the Zondo Commission's findings that the investigation into Fraser's 2006 principal agent network must be continued. That investigation was stopped by the then President Zuma. Once you, Mr President, signed the GILAB, into law, these matters may be dealt with.

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As I said in my budget speech, I know how hard it is to find your elusive of pen, I thought of posting you one, but the post office story, - you know it. So, I will give you this one today and keep my fingers crossed.

Under the new Minister, there are definite signs of movement, despite the fact that she has so many other official duties. I do, however, remain opposed to the Ministry being swept under the presidential wing. This could well be a gift to any president intent on repeating the abuses of the Zuma administration that has been laid out in technicolour detail what happened the last time a president used the SSA for his personal benefit, a possibility this Parliament must guard against.

The reports from various sources are are that the SSA systems were hacked last year are problematic, but then so with the break-ins when money once again simply went missing from what should be some of the most secure entities in the country.

We, as the JSCI have pushed, amongst other things, for the creation of the national security strategy for regulations for high calibre threat analysis. We need to build the nation,

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pull in investment and, as the hon Minister MacPherson said, "turn every province into a building site."

We must get on top of fighting terrorism; the transnational kidnapping and construction mafia syndicates are cybersecurity and large-scale corruption under our intelligence agencies turn a razor focus to these threats. We will stay as grey as a winter in Cape Town.

Until our intelligence services are on top of the increasing domestic threats, we face in crime riddled municipalities, such as the stealing of water tankers and selling what should be free water to desperate residents in Umlazi, while equally shutting down the cyber criminals looting freely from our banks, we will stay embedded in grey.

Training experts and specialist technologies only to lose them because the salaries offered are so low surely tells you, Mr President, where the financial aid is needed in all three of these entities. It sounds wonderful to say we have established an integrated cyber capability and capacity, but with zero budget it is going nowhere. We cannot fall still further behind when global criminals are already so far ahead. Today, they have the ability to outshoot, outfly and out manoeuvre

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us. As every South African knows, when the tough get going, well, we get going now.

Now that we are pulling together to build a more prosperous, more fair and more equal South Africa, the field is open for this Parliament and this administration to ensure that they do everything in their power to guard our people against threats, both foreign and domestic, ensuring a safer and more secure South Africa for all who live in it. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr S D SELAMOLELA: House Chair, hon President of the Republic of South Africa, President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa; the Deputy President of the Republic, Deputy President Mahsahile; the hon Chief Whip, hon Ntuli; members of the national executive of our beautiful country, South Africa; colleagues; friends and compatriots; we learn from history that revolution is not and can never be worse than the condition of our own making. The struggle of economic emancipation and uplifting our people from the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment should and must happen under the existing material condition of our time.

This is the lesson we have equally learned from the great giants of our liberation struggle on whose shoulder we stand

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here today. They taught us, as we know today that, if adversity and resilient is the answer, and if, out of hardship, the best will and shall be born, these giants have taught us in the same vein, never to rewrite history to fit the convenience of the moment. They taught us that it is not he who is the loudest, he who is the cleverest.

The task of fast-tracking economic development and inclusive growth requires that we deal with the impact imposed by the global economic crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, the aftermath of the June and July unrest and the consequences of the recent floods in KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga. And as we may know, these are realities of our time, some of which are manmade.

Inclusive economic growth cannot occur without purposefully dealing with the inherited legacy of apartheid. The historical injustice perpetuated by apartheid against the majority of the population in this country is an urgency we cannot afford to ignore. It is in this context that the successive ANC-led government had over the last three decades, paid attention to dealing with the challenges of poverty, inequality, unemployment and economic exclusion of the black people in general and Africans in particular.

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In responding to the low economic growth and the challenges I alluded to earlier, the ANC-led government developed the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery, ERP, plan. Led by President Ramaphosa, the ERP is underpinned by infrastructure development, local beneficiation, industrialisation and microeconomic development through the district development model, aimed at job creation.

The plan is already being implemented through the creation of Infrastructure SA - a government agency tasked with implementing strategic infrastructure projects. A critical part of this plan is the development of transport infrastructure focusing on rail, air, roads and ports.

The opening of commuter rail corridors and the development of major Sanral road projects will ensure a positive contribution to inclusive economic development and job creation, and these entities must be commended on the speed at which they are turning around.

The movement of goods from roads to rail remains our priority, as the ANC. We must commend the work of the National Logistics Crisis Committee to address the challenges in the country's transport and logistics sector. We must now move with speed to

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implement the White Paper on Rail, the refurbishing of locomotives, the opening of rail corridors in support of the work of the committee.

Infrastructure improvement enables the connection of the markets and connects markets through improved logistics. The improvement of critical economic inputs, such as water and electricity are also underway. The Economic Reconstruction and Recovery plan also encourages public and private-sector partnership, which is a fiscal burden for development of the state.

At the same time, the government embarked on a process on reducing regulatory red tape in the economy through Operation Vulindlela. This is an ongoing endeavour initiated by the ANC-led government and we implore you, hon President, that this process be taken to the next phase, as you earlier alluded to, when you addressed us today. Reducing red tape will enable investment, reduce the cost of doing business and enhance the competitiveness of South African. Most importantly, it must reduce the administrative burden on the development of small, medium and macro enterprises, as a key contributor to job creation.

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As part of this commitment, the President announced that, in an effort to allow the development of electricity generation by the private sector, private-sector players are now allowed to produce electricity of up to 100 megawatts without licensing required from Nersa. This initiative was coupled with the development of renewable energy to increase capacity, as part of the electricity plan to reduce and eliminate load shedding. And in this regard, Mr President, you had then appointed the Minister of Electricity to deal with the issue of increasing the maintenance of the Eskom plants, decreasing plant outage and increasing the energy availability factor, which is at 68% from an all-time low of 48%. Thus, in short, energy guaranteed to businesses and households. And as you earlier said today, Mr President, that we are 120 days without load shedding is a development that deserves a round of applause from this House. [Applause.]

It deserves a round of applause, Mr President, because false prophets, soothsayers, forces of doom and gloom, who wish no good for this country have said, when we said load shedding will be overcome, it was a mere electioneering process. We today commend you and your government for the 120 days of no load shedding.

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In the logistics sector, repeated progress is being made to reform the rail system and allow rail operators to access the freight rail. Private-sector participation is being introduced in container terminal, facilitating new investment equipment, expanding terminal capacity and improving operational performance. While there is still a long way to go, the performance of our ports and rail system is steadily improving, and progress is being recorded in this regard.

Significant progress has also been made in other areas. This includes the reinstatement of blue-green and no-drop water quality monitoring systems. The reform of the work visa system also goes a long way in attracting critical skills that we require to be invested in our economy.

The development of small and medium black farming to improve food security and reduce imports, while increasing exports is the aim of the programme. Transport infrastructure must be made more efficient in rural areas to ensure access to markets and their ability to succeed in agro-processing.

State-owned enterprises continue to play an important developmental role. There are several SOEs that have recovered in the Sixth administration and now viably operating as a

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going concern. Deliberate attention must be invested in this area to ensure that SOEs continue to grow, to support our country's economic need, especially under the new prescribed regime that we have announced on the occasion of the opening of Parliament. As I have said, the people expect from this government to build on the foundation laid in the past 30 years. Our people expect us not to spend time theorising, but to move relentlessly to defeat poverty and hunger.

Our forebearers, Elijah Barayi, James Motlatsi, President Mandela and many others expect of us to defeat inequality. Our youth expect of us to defeat the demon of unemployment. The youth in Lebowakgomo, in Nkowankowa and Xaba expect of us to defeat the demon of unemployment and to create jobs. We cannot postpone this task for another day. We must relentlessly wage this battle under the prevailing condition.

It will be unjust if I am to leave this podium, without responding to some assertions made by hon Ndlozi here. And I want to say, hon Ndlozi, for the Capella you are, we do not expect you to understand the development around the VBS, because when the master and the chief master were meeting in the house, you were there, but not on the table of discussion. You were doing exactly what is expected of you, together with

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... [Inaudible.] ... it. Now, you also spoke about psychosis. Now that is in line with the DSM 4 classification. Now when you speak. [Time expired.]

Mr K J MILEHAM: House Chairperson, Mr President, there is a Latin phrase dating back 2000 years. It goes, *Quiz custodiet ipsos custodes* which translates to *Who will guard the guardians*. It refers to the need to keep a watchful eye on those in power to ensure they do not abuse their positions for personal gain.

In the State Capture Report, Chief Justice Raymond Zondo noted, and I quote:

"It is necessary to consider what explains why state capture and corruption were able to become so entrenched and to persist over an extended period and to consider in particular why institutions which ought to have contributed to detecting or addressing these melodies may not have been as effective in doing so as one would have hoped. Amongst these institutions is Parliament."

Chief Justice Zondo goes on to note that Parliament has a constitutional duty to exercise oversight over the executive

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branch of government, including organs of states such as state-owned entities and the executive, which is accountable to Parliament.

In this regard, it's also worth noting that section 55(2) of the Constitution, states that the National Assembly must provide for mechanisms to ensure that all executive organs of state in the national sphere of government are accountable to it and to maintain oversight over the exercise of national executive authority, including the implementation of legislation and any organ of state.

Now you may well ask, what does it have to do with the Budget Vote on the Presidency, and that's a good question. You see, the Zondo Report identifies a lack of oversight over the executive, and in particular, over the Presidency, as one of the key factors permitting state capture and corruption to flourish.

The report recommended that a dedicated portfolio committee be established to oversee the actions and omissions of the President and Ministers in the Presidency. In a progress report on the implementation of the Zondo Commission recommendation in June of last year, the presiding officers of

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the Sixth Parliament noted that they were studying International Best Practices on the need for a portfolio committee to oversee the Presidency and that this would provide a foundation for the Seventh Parliament.

Well, here we are, and nothing has been done. The Seventh Parliament has been established and there's still no meaningful oversight over the Presidency. Impeached former Judge Hlophe suggested that by moving state owned entities into a centralised holding company under the Presidency, they would now be unaccountable to Parliament and ask whether the DA would reiterate its call for a portfolio committee over the Presidency.

Let me make it very clear. We do so and we do so proudly. But you can also rest assured that we will be calling those state-owned entities to the relevant line departments' portfolio committees to account to them. Dr Hlophe also raised the issue of the size of your Cabinet. He would do well to remember that his party's leader, the unlamented former President Jacob Zuma, led the largest Cabinet in the world. But I don't expect him to acknowledge that inconvenient truth.

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In 2019, at the start of the Sixth Parliament, President Ramaphosa, you announced that you would be implementing ministerial performance agreements for every Cabinet member. It took two years for Parliament to have sight of these, and we still have no idea of how any of those Ministers performed. No assessments were released and a guess, they did not do very well because if they had, they would be shouting it from the rooftops. So, Mr President, we implore you, put performance agreements in place over your Ministers in this administration and then report back to Parliament on a regular basis on how they are doing against those targets that have been set for them.

It was ironic to hear the hon Malema speak about broken promises. His own promises, such as the school he undertook to build in December 2019, remain unfilled. As a reminder, hon Malema said, and I quote:

"If we don't build that school in the next five years, don't re-elect us next time because we would be useless."

The people of South Africa were clearly listening and responded accordingly, as demonstrated in the electoral decline of the EFF.

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The hon Ndhlela came out strongly against the Constitution of South Africa. The very same Constitution that he and his fellow Members of Parliament in the MK swore to uphold just a few short weeks ago. The so-called progressive caucus are quick to point to the Constitution as the single biggest obstacle to uplifting South Africa out of poverty and transforming our society. But if the people of South Africa really wanted our Constitution changed so fundamentally or worse discarded, they would have rewarded those radicals and fascists with more seats in this House.

So, here's the DA promise as strict constitutionalists and believers in the rule of law, we are going to watch every commitment made very carefully. We are going to track performance closely, and we will hold every member of the executive responsible for their actions. Transparency, accountability and openness are cornerstones of our democracy in South Africa.

These hard-won values are enshrined in our Constitution. It is past time that the executive pay more than mere lip service to them and actually account to Parliament when we ask questions or interrogate budgets or seek to scrutinise their activities.

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We trust that the addition of other parties to the executive will lead to a greater degree of responsiveness and accountability. The DA in Parliament will not permit the malfeasance of the past state capture and corruption to stand unchecked. We will not absorb the Presidency of its responsibility to account to Parliament, not on our watch. I thank you.

Mr J S NGUBANE: Hon speaker, the progressive caucus and hon members of the National Assembly. Hon members, we are called here to come and pass a Budget Vote that is not known how much budget that we have voting for. And the hon Ntshavheni comes here and tells us about R600 million budget of the Presidency.

But we know here for sure that the Presidency has swallowed all the entities which are under the public enterprise. These enterprises are Alexcon, Denel, SA Express, South African Forestry Company and Transnet, and we are not told how much that budget is, but we are called here to come and pass the budget in the Presidency. Hence, the previous speaker has emphasized that we've been advocating now and again and that there needs to be an ad hoc committee that guards the Presidency on spend and utilisation.

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The markets or private sector have not been playing its role in your tenure, of contributing and developing this country. There has been profit forecast all along. They found their man in you. Triple Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment, BBBEE has been reversed. Affirmative action is now optional hence you'll never see the economic growth in this country.

The resource being mobilised has been insufficient by this government. Mr President, to prove that the economic advice that you have been given all along in your Presidency, it's on the previous occasion where you found out that economic adviser in your Presidency does not even have a Doctor of Philosophy, PhD or whatever. It was just misleading.

That's to prove that most of your economic advisory are misleading. Mr President, the transformation has been reversed over the years during your tenure. Freight and logistics, separation road mass is nothing but a privatisation in disguise.

Small miners will not participate in the rail networks. With the private sector participation, the PSP, you are busy planting private sector friends for takeover. What is

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happening in this privatisation is a serious crime, Mr President.

In your tenure Mr President, you are finishing all the SOEs. The privatisation of Durban and container terminal - this entity met all its financial obligation correctly with no hurdles. The rail reform is meant to exclude black people. The digital infrastructure you are talking in a mess state of affairs in Johannesburg, in Durban and everywhere else. But you stood here speaking as if you will be doing something to improve this part.

The unemployed youth has been marching with graduation gowns, not finding employment. Mr President, where have you ever seen unemployed doctors in the world? You've never seen that; you might have in Cuba because there's an influx of doctors. But we have doctors in this country that are unemployed.

Mr President, the R1,5 trillion investment on the International Monetary Fund, IMF has a lot of debt in it as well. The Special Investigating Unit, SIU is serving at your pleasure and it's not independent because you are controlling it. If you want to deal with the people, you just sign a proclamation in the SIU.

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State capture reports that we've been hearing a lot of about today are useless reports, Mr President, because you still have Ministers who were implicated in this report, but they are sitting here with you.

What you've been doing in a nutshell, is that you've been taking all these departments that ANC has failed to deliver on you've dumped them to the DA. For example, Mr President, the Department of Agriculture. It has never yielded anything to our people. Instead of solving the problem in the Agriculture Department, you take it and dump it to the DA. The pit toilets, Mr President, on the Basic Education, have been sitting with Minister Angie for years. She's been failing to solve pit toilets in our schools. What do you do? Because you know that the ANC has been failing in all this department, you're taking this department, you are dumping it to Minister Gwarube. That's all you've been doing because the ANC has failed on many occasions on the basic things of our people.

We will be an irritation to you, Mr President, because we want you to account, as all other Presidents. We've said this on all other committees. We've said that we need ad hoc committee in your Presidency.

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Mr Mdumiseni Ntuli comes here and speaks good English about the balance of forces and everything, the partner in GNU and all else. Whereas the development effort is not inclusive in this country and there's nothing political about this GNU.

Finally, Mr President, I would rather belong to a Parliament of wise owls than a mere collective of misguided weavers that you've been talking about here, Mr President. Mr President the hon Malema is telling the truth. You are the Bruno Mtolo of our lifetime. I thank you.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
Hon Chair, Mr President, Deputy President, hon members, indeed we are going through a particular phase. As I stand here, I'm worried about the risk of us being diverted. I was listening, for instance, to a man who doesn't want to be called a judge. Now I understand why he doesn't want to. He says we should borrow money from the Brics. He thinks we don't because he doesn't have records. That's why he says we should do.

[Interjections.]

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

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
The man who does not want to be called a judge says, why don't we order oil from Iran? He says, I am told it is cheap. It means he didn't check it. Now you can go and listen to yourselves. He says, I am told it is cheap. He didn't check it, but he wants to advise an august House to do that but let me read something for you ... [Interjections.] ...

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

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
... when the oil was cut with Iran. It was 2 August 2012. The President was ...

IsiZulu:

... uBaba. [Ubuwelewele.] Ningilalele?

English:

That is when the oil was cut with Iran. So, it's because the man who does not want to be called a judge ... he is very casual in this House because ...

IsiXhosa:

... uthetha nje.

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English:

For instance, ...

IsiZulu:

... uBaba uNdhlela, engimuthanda kakhulu, uzositshela ngoBaba
...

English:

... and attack the President for keeping people who are pointed in the Zondo Commission, but you are led here in this party by somebody who is before court for numerous charges of corruption. [Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
Right? Okay. The President of the ANC has not been charged by any court. As a matter of fact. [Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
Let's go to ... I listened to the commander-in-chief when he

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explained his knowledge of the National Union of Mineworkers, NUM, and how the President left NUM in tatters, the workers weak and all that. I just want to converse with the commander-in-chief for a minute or two. The NUM eliminated faction fight in the mines and united mine workers. The NUM in 1987 secured a retirement fund for the first time for black workers. The NUM fought against job reservation and fought for women to be employed.

Through the J B Marks Bursary, the NUM has produced over 5 000 graduates, including engineers and different types of technicians and accountants. The Mine Workers' Provident Fund has assets in excess of R32 billion and has never delivered a negative return to its members since inception. I am not surprised that you didn't care about these facts because by nature, you don't care about facts.

I will give you an example, Judge Hlophe here ... I was just ... during the break, I listened to you, commander-in-chief, as you said, Judge Hlophe, ... [Interjections.] ... hon Hlophe is an embarrassment to the integrity of the justice system. You said by yourself. Later, you tell us how black people are targeted in the justice system. It comes from the same mouth,

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and you say you tell the truth all the time, and this is the kind of truth you tell.

Now, there was a commission in as far as Marikana is concerned and a commission pronounced, and you don't care about that pronouncement because it does not articulate what you expected. The Nugent Commission, Judge Nugent pronounced on the SA Revenue Service, Sars, on what sank Sars, but what sank Sars in this House is your idol. The President submitted the Zondo Commission Report to be interrogated by this House. It is the duty of this House to call the Presidency at all material times to ensure that report is interrogated. Now, the President in the state of the nation address tabled here the number of billions frozen and brought back to the state because they don't say what you want, you do not care. Now, the problem is we are on a course here towards nation-building. One of the presidents of the ANC once said, "you will never fight a racially exclusive oppression through a racially exclusive resistance." And the same president said, "the difference between us and the oppressor is that the oppressor is about human division and we're about the alliance of humanity."

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I am, therefore, not surprised when I go back to the national democratic revolution, NDR, and the NDR in dealing with the contradictions with antagonistic contradictions, it is given the task that is national and democratic to do the following: To ensure that we realise a shared prosperity, social justice and human solidarity. The ANC leadership is about leading this country from the morass of both racial inferiority and racial superiority. Your crisis is, you are scared of sharing a table with white people because ... [Interjections.] ...

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

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
... your struggle, you have not been ... [Interjections.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members! Hon Deputy Minister, will you just take your seat. I want to recognise the member. Hon member, why do you want to be recognised? May I also request that those members sitting around you just quiet down so that I can hear you.

IsiZulu:

Mnu H D SELEPE: Sihlalo, nginephuzu lokukhalima okuphambukayo: Ilungu elingaphambili okungelona iqiniso. Thina ngeke sihlale

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nabacindezeli abacindezela umuntu omnyama. Ngeke sihlale etafuleni elilodwa nabo. [Ubuwelewele.] Sicela akuhoxise lokho. Asisabi, asihlali nabantu abacindezela umuntu omnyama. Ngeke sikwenze lokho. [Ubuwelewele.]

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, take your seat. That is not the point of order. Hon members, please do not abuse a point of order to challenge a political statement. Political statements by their nature are for debate. It is not a point of order. Please proceed, hon Deputy Minister.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
The challenge you have is that because of your racial inferiority complex. You think if you have a common agreement with hon Steenhuisen ...

IsiXhosa:

... uzakothuka uyilahle

English:

... the social empowerment because ...

IsiXhosa:

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... awunamandla oku ...

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Deputy Minister, will you take a seat please?

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

IsiZulu:

Mnu D M SKOSANA: Mgcinisihlalo, nginephuzu lokukhalima okuphambukayo: Hhayi, ngizokupha umthetho omnandi la. Uyabona u-40% ubuhlungu, wenza umuntu akhulume kanje. [Ubuwelewele.] Ngiyawubonga, Mgcinisihlalo. [Ubuwelewele.]

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Order, hon members. Hon members, every member in the House has the right to free speech. It doesn't mean that if you disagree with that member, that there's a contravention of the Rules. Let us respect the members to exercise their right. They've been sent here by their political parties. Please continue, hon member.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:

Let me quickly repeat what I was saying. It says, these three elements are premised on a united state based on the will of the people, irrespective of belief and race. The code and the education of our movement is that we must lead this country away from the ... correct the iniquities of the past, as we lead it to an inclusive society. You are scared of non-racism because you are so inferior in your mind.

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

Mr S NOMVALO: House Chairperson, on a point of order: If it was not for the CR faction, you would not be a Minister.

[Interjections.] You are an embarrassment. What kind of Minister are you? You are a huge embarrassment.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member! Hon member, take your seat. Hon members, let me remind you of Rule 92(9), and it says that members may not disrupt proceedings by raising points of order that do not comply with the intention of a point of order. So, I have the discretion, hon members, that if you do abuse this point of order Rule to ask you to leave the chamber. Please continue, hon Deputy Minister.

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
To the ANC, non-racism is not a tick-a-box. It is a principle.
It is a value for which our forebears lost their lives because
the South Africa of the past divided us in terms of those
groupings. Our forebears committed, made an undertaking and
lost their lives. We are working with all South Africans ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Deputy Minister,
will you take your seat please? Yes, hon member. Please take
your seat, hon Deputy Minister.

Mr J A MNGXITAMA: Hon Chair, on a point of order: This
Minister is deliberately misleading the House. Non-racialism
does not mean capitulation to the oppressor.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member! Order!

Mr J A MNGXITAMA: Non-racialism means you fight the oppressors
with tools to bring about change. This man is lying. He is
lying with a straight face.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, you must
withdraw the remark that you said the Deputy Minister is

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deliberately misleading the House. I expect you withdraw that remark.

Mr J A MNGXITAMA: Okay, he's just misleading the House.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you. Please continue, hon Deputy Minister.

Mr D M SKOSANA: It is a contestation for the camera!

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
So, we are committed to a non-racial South Africa. Now, I want to repeat what you don't want to hear. I want to repeat so that it sticks, that we are not going to change the course we are taking now of leading a Government of National Unity, GNU, that has got 10 stones according to the reverend that, Mr President, six days have gone ... the seven days you've got 10 stones and they constitute a GNU, blacks, white, purple, brown as per the revolutionary principles of the ANC.

Here, on this side, we've got leaders who are mentally liberated from racial and ethnic fear, who are committed to making sure that this country is one. Now, having said all that.

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Mr D M SKOSANA: it's not true.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
So, I want to say to you, we are saying to the President,
three priorities have been articulated, growing the economy,
and creating jobs, dealing with poverty, and the cost of
living. Dealing with ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Deputy Minister,
will you please take your seat? Hon member, why do you want to
be recognised? On what point are you rising, hon member?

Mr N NDHLELA: It is for clarity. It is a question.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, hon member,
there's no time for questions now. There's no time for
questions. [Interjections.]

Mr N NDHLELA: House Chairperson, on a point of order: He
refers to us as being inferior because we do not sit across
racists.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, you are
now challenging me.

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IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Muxoshe, Sihlalo!

English:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): You're now challenging my authority to preside over the sitting. The member further down, why do you want to be recognised?

AN HON MEMBER: Reddy, shut up!

Mr V G REDDY: House Chair, on a point of order: ...

AN HON MEMBER: This one must shut up!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, you see, do not commit also a transgression of the Rule because then you are doing exactly the same thing. Let's not go to that level, please. What is your point of order, hon member?

Mr V G REDDY: ... I rise in terms of Rule 85, reflections upon members, it says that no member may impute improper motives to any other member. The speaker there suggests that members on this side have an inferiority complex, which is wrong, it's

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misleading, and he needs to withdraw from that statement. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member, take your seat. Hon Deputy Minister, did you refer ... Order! Did you refer to any member in this House with a statement you made? Hon Deputy Minister?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
No, I'm saying ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Deputy Minister, did you or did you not refer to any member of this House?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
Wow... the reason you are scared of living with them.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): No, hon Deputy Minister, relax, just calm down, please. I will check the Hansard. The hon Deputy Minister says no, so the next thing that we do is we check the Hansard to see what the hon Deputy Minister has said, and then I'll come back with a ruling if I need to. Hon Deputy Minister?

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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:

So, I repeat, Mr President, you must be relaxed because 10 stones ...

IsiXhosa:

... ngamanye amagama eBhayibhileni bathi, awona matye acekiswayo alikho linye ngoku, alishumi. Ndithi ke ingxaki esinayo apha yile yokuba niduduzeliswa kukuhlala endaweni enye nabamhlophe. Ningcangcazeliswa yiloo nto. Kuba ukuba beningayoyiki loo nto, benizakuhlala nabo nibaxelele izinto eningazifuniyo.

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

IsiZulu:

Umfu N B GCWABAZA: Sihlalo, ephuzwini lokukhalima okuphambukayo: Umfundisi uGcwabaza, uthinta iBhayibheli lo baba, umhlonishwa, ukhuluma ngamatshe ayishumi.

[Interjections.] Intsimbi ayihlangani nobumba. Bhayibheli lithi intsimbi ayihlangani nobumba.

English:

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, that is not a point of order. It is not a point of order. Hon Deputy Minister, please continue.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:
I want to close by saying to Mr President, it must be according to a united state based on humanity, irrespective of race, irrespective of sex and colour, as long as it is along those lines, as long as the three priorities are driven along those lines, indeed, they are also going to be saved. Thank you. [Interjections.]

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

Hon members, I will request you to stand and wait.

[Interjections.] I want to identify this person who just switches on a microphone and just make comments without being recognised. It's a violation of the Rules of the House, ...

[Interjections.] ... and I didn't ask you. No, we'll find out. We'll find out because it has been happening frequently this afternoon that members on both sides of the House just switch on the microphones without being recognised.

AN HON MEMBER: House Chair, it is the hon Tebogo Letsie from the ANC.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon member, I said we will deal with it, and may I also request the Whips of political parties. You do have a Chief Whips Forum tomorrow.

Please have a discussion around the conduct of members in this sitting. We must keep in mind that the public and the voters out there are watching these proceedings, and they form an opinion about your conduct in the House.

I will now request members to stand and wait for the Chair and the Mace to leave the Chamber. That concludes the speaker's list on this Budget Vote debate and the business for the day. The hon President will reply tomorrow to this debate. The House is now adjourned.

Debate concluded.

The House adjourned at 20:41.