TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2019

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PROCEEDINGS OF MINI PLENARY – OLD ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

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Members of the mini plenary session met in the Old Assembly Chamber at 10:02.

The House Chairperson, Mr M L D Ntombela, took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Vote No 24 – Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; and Vote No 39 – Rural Development and Land Reform:

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Chairperson, Ministers and Deputy Ministers present, members of the executive council, senior officials of the department, chairpersons and CEOs of our entities, industry leaders, ladies and gentlemen, the land debate in South Africa continues 25 years after 1994 first democratic election. Many commentators have written on the successes and challenges of land reform in South Africa. In this very legislative Assembly, we too as public representatives of our

people, would like to find a lasting solution to the legacy of dispossession in our country.

For many of us, this matter not only relates to sovereignty and equitable access to land as a natural resource, but more so to address socioeconomic challenges that our country faces. South Africa continues to face the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality, whose face remain feminine. Our collective responsibility is how we continue to address these challenges in order to create a better life for all. We need to create shared value in tackling these socioeconomic challenges, and in building an inclusive, thriving and globally competitive agricultural sector.

Addressing the land question and its productive use, will need a meaningful conversation with land owners, be they farmers, companies or trusts. We need to be genuine and deliberate in transforming this sector. Historically, black South Africans were excluded from meaningful participation in the agricultural economy. The food value chain remains highly concentrated amongst a few players. This is hardly the basis of building a sustained agricultural economy that serves all. We need to work together to open up the sector, create opportunities for the historically disadvantaged groups, and make a concerted effort in growing the sector on an inclusive basis.

We are developing a deliberate strategy for youth and women in agriculture building on the initiatives that have been undertaken already. In addition, we have the responsibility to revitalise land that was given through restitution of land rights, as well as support farmers settled in agricultural state land and those in our communal areas who have acquitted themselves as farmers even when land scarcity remains a challenge.

Hon members, there are legacy issues that will require us to address in relation to restitution and security of tenure for farm workers and farm dwellers. The legacy issues I'm referring to are many. Among these is the community of District Six. We wish to thank the community of District Six, some of whom are present here, represented by their respective committees for allowing us to meet with them albeit the fact that there are legal issues between us. We have committed to work together to find solutions to the current stalemate. We also call for the other stakeholders such as the provincial government and the City of Cape Town, to remain true to commitments that were made in early 2000s when such a matter for development in the settling of claim was resolved.

The communities of Wallmansthal, Mangethe and many others reflect some of the challenges that we need to be alive to regardless of the fact that some of these claims might have been resolved. We have taken note of the Land Access Movement of SA, Lamosa judgement and

the need for us to clarify how we deal with the 1998 lodged claims going forward that have not be finalised to date.

Hon members, the challenges I have highlighted require a responsive and capable state. In this regard, we will need to ensure that in the reorganisation of the new department, we bring requisite skills. Strengthening the institutions becomes critical for service-delivery purposes. Strengthening the institutions and systems is critical for service delivery. Ethical conduct is important as we utilise public resources for the development of citizens. It is for these reasons that we will follow up on those investigations that have been conducted and act in accordance with proposed recommendations.

Good labour relations are equally important in any organisation. To this end, we have instructed the departments to resolve all outstanding labour relations matters by September 2019. We have taken note that some of the working conditions where our employees are, are not of standard. We will be engaging with the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure to improve on office infrastructure where our department is housed across the country.

As we table Budget Vote 24 and Vote 39 for your consideration and approval, we wish to thank the chairperson and the portfolio committee members for having given us an opportunity to present to them our annual performance plan as well as the budget that support such a plan. Your valuable insight into the portfolio is much

appreciated. We have taken seriously the criticisms, concerns and proposals that you gave us during the engagements we have had.

Chairperson and hon members, following the state of the nation address in which the President indicated the work that will be done in the reorganisation of the state, we have already set the process in motion. Together with my colleague, the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, we have signed a memorandum of understanding that will ensure that we manage decision-making on the areas that will be transferred to her department. At the administrative level, different workstreams are doing their work to ensure that transition is smooth.

In respect of Vote 24, there will be shifts in the budget as some of the functions such as forestry and fisheries including the compensation of employees of these functions will go to the relevant department. However, Programme 1 of Vote 24 relating to administration will remain and in the process, will be merged with the same function from Vote 39 which is currently in the Land Reform and Rural Development.

Programme 2 of Vote 24 will see some reorientation in that focus will be on priorities such as biosecurity in order to mitigate risks of animal and plant diseases. The national department will ensure that budget support goes towards stepping up surveillance on the red line zone of foot-and-mouth disease, which cuts across three

provinces of Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Kwazulu-Natal. Programme 3 will see enhancement of its monitoring capacity as it relates to transfer of funds to provinces such as the Comprehensive Agricultural Support programme.

The hon President, in his state of the nation address, indicated that agriculture is one of those sectors that will contribute towards growing the economy and job creation. In looking at our budget as well as our annual performance plans, we have identified critical areas that need to be aligned with the new direction of the sixth administration.

Hon members, agricultural production linked to market access will enable us to make contribution to the economy as expected. Opening up markets in countries such as the Republic of China for beef and fruits is just but one example of the growing opportunities that we can maximise. Together with my colleague, the Minister of Trade and Industry and Economic Development, we have agreed to work on the following matters: One, engaging our trading partners such as the Republic of China to increase commodities for their markets where we have a comparative advantage. In this regard, we also want to ensure that instead of negotiating one commodity by one commodity, we need to have a collective of commodities that we can negotiate for. Two, we will develop an agricultural business master plan because we need to look at the manufacturing process in the agricultural sector. Three, we will relook at the poultry industry; and four, we will

also prepare for the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area and engage labour and industry as we do so.

In order to sustain our biosecurity in respect of livestock industry, we will ensure that we recruit veterinary doctors and animal health specialists. We will also work with provinces to ensure that dipping services and other veterinary services are undertaken at scale. During this financial year, Onderstepoort Biological Products Company will commence with the upgrading of the facility to ensure that our vaccine production is undertaken within the prescribed international standards.

The Agricultural Research Council, ARC will also commence with the foot-and-mouth disease diagnostic facility. This has taken a bit of time owing to the lack of resources. Chairperson and hon members, in order to sustain the efficiency and expansion of these state entities, some of which I have just mentioned, we would urge provincial governments - and I am happy one of the MECs is here - in particular Departments of Agriculture to procure their animal vaccine products from OBP. We do produce quality and we have a competitive urge in that regard.

On innovation and technology, the Agricultural Research Council continues to be an important research facility that supports our work as the Department of Agriculture. Recently ARC has produced a variety of water-efficient maize seed for Africa. This maize variety

will assist farmers in water-scarce areas. However, as a science council, ARC reports to the Ministry of Science and Technology and Higher Education. We continue to produce doctoral students in agricultural research working with higher education institutions through supervising students and utilising our facilities for their research. Maybe I need to claw back some budget from the Minister of Higher Education in this regard.

Chairperson and hon members, commercialisation of black farmers remains an important objective if we are to transform the country's agricultural sector. Better policy instruments need to be developed in order to articulate what form of support government will give in this respect. Currently, we are working with Statistics SA to develop a farmer register that will tell us how many producers we have, and the scale and nature of operations. This data is important in order to ensure targeted support by government.

Agricultural finance in developing farmers is one of the important areas. Chairperson and hon member, financing of agriculture remains an important ingredient for farming, whether one is a new entrant or an established producer. Currently, the Land and Agricultural Development Bank of SA has a mandate to finance established farmers as well as developing farmers. This is an important mandate. However, we need to reflect seriously on whether, given the current mandate of the bank and the financial environment in which it operates, it is properly capacitated to undertake this work. Is it

properly funded to also undertake this work in particular, the development of new farmers?

We have various instruments that seek to support developing farmers which, in large measure, are grants for support in infrastructure such as the one that we utilise Comprehensive Agricultural Support programme for, as well as land development which lies in Vote 39. I have already instructed the two departments to look into areas of overlap and alignment. In addition, working with the Land Bank together with the department, we will need to look at how best we finance agriculture as a country particularly when it relates to blended finance which includes both grant and loan.

Skills development in this industry is actually key. We are working together with the agricultural colleges as well as the Minister of Higher Education to see how best we can strengthen our colleges. It is my view that, as we fund TVET colleges, we also need to look at the funding and remordenisation of our agricultural colleges. We also need to work with universities to ensure that we build requisite skills ... [Applause.] ... for the sector.

The development of markets and markets information remains critical for any agricultural economy anywhere in the world including our country. We will work closely with the National Marketing Council so that it becomes an agency that can give timeous advice to the Minister of Agriculture on market trends which will be of value for

policy development. It is in this area where we, as government, can leverage resources and skills that are there in the sector instead of reinventing the wheel on what exists, particularly when it comes to market information and market access locally as well as abroad. The resources that are there in the industry trust play an important role in developing new entrants into agriculture. More can be done to ensure that these trusts play an effective role. I know that in the grain industry in particular as well as in the wool sector, there's some work that has been done rather, by the trust, to ensure that we bring in the historically disadvantaged farmers in that industry.

Partnership with stakeholders remains important if we are to deliver at scale. If we are to achieve our objective of increased contribution in the economy, we have to work very closely with the industry. Our agribusiness industry and producer organisation remain our critical stakeholders. Therefore, the realisation of the government objective with regard to economic growth requires all of us in the sector to work together. I have started consultations in this regard and I will continue.

I now turn to Vote 39. Chairperson and hon members, allow me to table Vote 39 which relates to Land Reform and Rural Development. It is one of the important instruments that contribute towards progressively realising our socioeconomic rights that enable us as South Africans to have access to land. Land plays a multifunctional

role in our society which includes economic, environmental and settlement functions. In the state of the nation address, the President indicated that the state will rapidly release state land for human settlement and agriculture. My Deputy Minister, hon Skwatsha will speak in detail on the matter of land reform as this is his dedicated responsibility. I do however wish to highlight some of the challenges that we are experiencing.

The recent incident of Mthwalume in Mathuluni area, South of KwaZulu-Natal, is indicative of challenges experienced in respect of Communal Property Associations. The intention of the Communal Property Associations Act was to create a holding facility for the recipients of land from government in particular, when they do so in groups. The Act provides for the establishment of the trust which will then hold the land asset on behalf of communities. However, in the majority of instances, such structures - meaning the trusts - do not comply with the requirements of the law. They hardly convene meetings where they report on what is happening about the land where such land is leased to third parties. No reporting is given about the revenue which has accrued to the community whose land may be leased for purposes of generating income.

My predecessor had instructed the department to build the capacity of the Communal Property Associations, CPA’s through basic training that covers this aspect. Also, in this regard, we tabled in this Parliament in the fifth administration, the legislation which will

actually strengthen our capacity to regulate the CPA. As you know, that legislation lapsed and I am sure we will resuscitate it.

As regards land acquisition processes, hon members, during our presentation to the committee, the issue of identification of beneficiaries for acquisition and allocation of land came under scrutiny. We are reviewing such processes and will ensure that these systems are not easily susceptible to corruption. Present here in the gallery are chief directors of land reform in the various provinces. We met with them on Friday to look at how we can actually strengthen and have alignment on the identification and allocation of land for beneficiaries.

On rural development, concerns were also raised on the investment that the state has made and is making through Agri-parks. Hon members, Agri-parks as a concept relates to a combination of elements that, if implemented, can change the rural landscape of our country. These relate to the creation of a Farmer Production Support Unit. This is a facility where we will ensure that in a given district identification will be made of what is commonly produced and or what has a potential in terms of the soil types and climatic conditions. For example, in an area where grains are dominant the production centre will have relevant implements to support farmers though the provision of tractors, planters, harvester, seeds, fertilisers, sprays and pesticides.

Extension and research services will also be there to support farmers. The next phase will be to include a facility for storage, processing the grains, packaging and selling to the market. This widely targeted focus will then ensure that farmers produce at scale and are supported collectively rather than as individuals. The question we need to ask and have been asking ourselves is whether or not we have, in our implementation, actually explained the concept in detail to those it is meant to serve. Have we trained and ensured that those in the Farmer Production Support Unit programme are adequately trained to support farmers?

In this regard, we – Deputy Ministers and I - undertook spot checks to check some of these areas. To our disappointment – as members have said – not all of them are functioning optimally or even functioning at all. We have decided, in our strategic plan, that we will focus on the 27 and instead of doing everything and anything, we will focus on the Farmer Production Support Unit so that mobilise and support the farmers. This we'll do instead of doing the marketing there and storage facility here in a disjointed manner which does not support those we seek to serve in a given area. [Applause.]

Hon members, as the function of spatial planning resides in our Ministry, including Survey and Registry of Deeds, these remain critical instruments for the state and society. We are currently transforming our deeds registry. We are also training and building

capacity in respect of surveyors. Our mapping services continue to ensure that we support the demarcation board as well as geographical information systems that are required by the state. This may not seem an important function of the state to a number of us when we talk about the land issue in particular, but they are very key in supporting land administration in our country.

Before I can exhaust my time, I must thank the chairperson of the portfolio committee. [Applause.] Well, it will be difficult to count all parties that are in Parliament but I would like to thank members of the portfolio committee who are in Parliament as well as those who may not be in the committee but have an interest in these important matters. I also want to thank our senior officials, our CEOs as well as the chairpersons and boards of our entities, but more importantly, our workforce – those who work at the borders and the far-flung areas of department to serve our people.

I wish to thank Deputy Ministers Skwatsha and Dlamini for their teamwork as we lead this important work of government. To the MECs for agriculture in the various provinces, thank you for your commitment in ensuring that we lead the sector together. To the representatives of the farmers' organisations, the agribusiness industry, thank you for your continued hard work and support. I must also thank indeed uMamKhawula and I will miss her in my former capacity as the House Chairperson. I am sure she will be a good parliamentarian in doing her work in water and sanitation to ensure

that farmers get water rights which they need importantly for use in this sector. I am thanking you, MamKhawula in advance. [Applause.] Lastly, I wish to thank the officials in our Ministry - the offices of the Minister as well as the Deputy Minister - for your hard work and support. Thank you, hon Chairperson. My other five minutes I will use when I respond to the debate. [Applause.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Order! Order, hon members!

Mr Z M D MANDELA: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister and Deputy Ministers, hon Members of Parliament, members of the media in the gallery, comrades, friends and guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It is indeed an honour for me to speak in this debate on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, as well as Land Reform and Rural Development. From the onset, as the ANC, we would like to adopt this Budget Vote. [Applause.] Hon members, South Africa is a land of immense potential. When we look out over the vast expanse of our mountains and valleys from the north to the south, from the east to the west, we are humbled by its beauty and diversity of flora and fauna. The vista of agriculture and cultivated lands, and the sprawling acres and hectares of semiarid, wild and aloe-cultivated bushlands and nature reserves. This is our story; this is the canvas

of our dream. Agriculture and land is intermittently connected to us, who we are and how we define ourselves.

Hon Minister Didiza, it is indeed time that we revisit the notorious Land Act of 1913 and see how far we have come in reversing its disastrous consequences. This legislation legalised what happened over 350 years of colonialism and five decades of apartheid thereafter. It robbed us of our land, breaking down thriving and sustainable traditional communities.

To date, our focus on Land Act has not been inclusive and has been to the detriment and exclusion of brave traditional leaders who led the wars of disposition against colonialism, such as the first prisoner on Robben Island, Outomato Makana kaNxele, Maqoba, Langalibalele, Sandile, Fadana and Siyolo. Their stories of resistance tell the story of disposition of vast expanses of land and the agriculture that sustained our people, robbing them of both their agricultural and pastoral livelihood and the land inherited from their forefathers.

Ladies and gentlemen, according to a global report by Cropp Platjie, over one billion people worldwide work in the agricultural sector, generating over US$2,4 trillion for the world economy. At the same time, the demand for agriculture commodities is rising rapidly as the world’s population is growing. Today, there is no nation in the world for whom the issue of sustainability, environmental integrity

and food security is not a major concern. South Africa is certainly no exception. South Africa's agricultural economy and agroindustries are important contributors to the NDP Vision of eliminating poverty and reducing inequality by 2030.

According to trading economist, GDP from agriculture was at a record low of 3,5 billion in the first quarter of 1993, but stood at 71,1 billion in the first quarter of 2019. The value of agricultural production in South Africa increased by 4,7% and was estimated at 2,8 billion in 2017-18 fiscal year.

The primary agricultural sector has shown growth of 7,5 annually since 1994. Despite its decreasing contribution as a percentage of GDP, it continues to be the largest contributor to the employment sector, reaching more than 700 000 jobs in the primary agricultural economy.

Ladies and gentlemen, according to a study by Grain SA, the agricultural sector uses more than 80% of available land and around 60% of available water. The bulk of agricultural production however, came from mainly rural homesteads where such activity is pursued as a means of securing a secondary income. This highlights the fact that Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries have a critical role to play, both in terms of food security, health nutrition and sustainability. In this regard, agro-processing industry has a mammoth contribution to make. However, according to a study by

Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, DTIC, and the University of Johannesburg,

> The slow process of structural transformation in these value chains, has important implications for industrialisation in terms of value addition, employment creation and small emerging players.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is for this reason that agriculture, land reform and rural development mandate is at the centre of a number of key policy transformation and delivery priorities of South Africa as outlined by His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa in the Sona in 2019. These speak to the need of radical economic transformation in terms of the policy objectives outlined in the NDP, NGP, Ipep and other strategic frameworks and considerations in agriculture, land reform and rural development sectors.

Hon members, agriculture is identified in the NDP as one of the key sectors through which increased employment and poverty alleviation can be achieved, including the creation of approximately one million new jobs. And the trade surplus are expected to be created from agriculture, agro-processing and related sectors by 2030. One of the key focus areas is increasing the number of smallholder farmers and development of capacity by expanding irrigated agriculture. This in turn will impact on the industries transformation and enhance production output.

The NDP also challenges us, Minister, to achieve one of the key targets in this sector by ensuring that a third of the food surplus should be produced by smallholder farmers by 2030. To achieve the above, the implementation of the agricultural policy action plan as well as the revitalisation of agricultural and agro-processing value chain are critical delivery areas with a specific focus on food processing.

Other critical areas, hon members, include the following: agricultural production, health and food safety, food security and agrarian reform, trade promotion and market access. Hon Chairperson, during this sixth session of Parliament, some of the key legislation policies and other interventions must be advanced including inter alia the Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Bill, national policy on the extension and advisory services and finalisation for the implementation of the national policy on the comprehensive producer developmental support.

Hon Members, allow me to emphasize the critical nature of giving full expression to the agri-BEE sector code to ensure transformation in the agricultural sector. The father of our national democracy and our global icon, President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, reminded us that poverty is not an accident. This is nowhere truer than in South Africa where the alienation of the majority from the land and the agricultural productivity and output is directly related to the heinous policies of the past.

This sector was the greatest beneficiary of apartheid state support and one would expect a greater appreciation for the imperative to transform it. However, since the introduction of agri-BEE in 2003, the pace of transformation has been very slow and must now at a faster pace to gear two.

I appeal to all stakeholders in this sector to put shoulder to the wheel of transformation and build a shared dream for all in the sector and our beautiful country. Statutory institutions in the sector such as the Agricultural Research Council, the Onderstepoort Biological Products and the National Agricultural Marketing Council must all embrace their core mandates whilst collectively advancing the transformation agenda. Hon Chairperson, the Sona delivered by His Excellency President Ramaphosa emphasized the critical nature of the land reform mandate and hence the need for policy coherence, speeding up implementation and building institutional capacity.

Accordingly, two of the most important actions that we will be providing oversight over, is finalising the next phase of the land audit which must unpack the ownership of all land under the ownership of trusts and companies as well as finalising the survey of all land in the former homeland territories. In addition, we eagerly await the submission of an implementation plan for the identification of a well-located and strategic land in cities and periurban areas to be released for redistribution to landless people

as well as rural state land to be released for restitution and redistribution.

Hon members, with respect to land restitution, we must accelerate the finalisation of all land claims as outlined in Operation Phakisa initiative and ensure that all capacity constraints are adequately addressed. This must ensure that the capacity of the Office of the Valuer-General, OVG, is enhanced in order to support faster delivery of quality support services to land reform, especially acceleration of settlement of land claims.

As announced by Minister and the President, we shall take definitive steps during this session of Parliament to finalise and advance the implementation in respect of land expropriation without compensation as a means of historical redress and unlocking the vast economic potential vested in our land. We deferred such decisive actions at the expense of the landless masses, the land hungry and those who can make a difference in enhancing the economy of South Africa.

I want to make a bold call that all traditional lands be given equal treatment as they were all affected historically. This would be a fitting tribute to those who were the first in line of defence in the fight against colonialism and disposition. It is a noble act to bring the bones of our ancestors from Robben Island. But as long as their disposition is still structurally intact, we do them and their legacy a great injustice.

Their long years of incarceration and detention in Robben Island also deferred their dreams of restitution and restorative justice. In conclusion, hon Chairperson, let us ensure that all kings and queens of our land are treated equally as far as the utilisation of tax payer's funds is concerned and this is in reference to Ingonyama Trust. We would like to ensure that, if we are to spend tax payer's money, it assists all kings and queens throughout the country. Hon Chairperson, in doing so, we shall indeed bring hope and the new dawn to our people. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mrs A STEYN: Chairperson and hon members, this portfolio is holding the future of our country in its hands. Land reform is an emotive issue; it's an issue of justice and restoration. Land reform deals with emotions like hate, fear and hope. It is the basis of our divided past and one of the main reasons why we don't trust each other. How many times have I heard the words, "You arrived with the bible in your hands and left with our land?" We are all aware that we are sitting on a time bomb and that the land issue must be resolved.

The DA supports land reform but the devil is in the detail. Are we going to follow the path of countries like Zimbabwe and Venezuela and cause an economic meltdown or are we going to surprise the world and heal our divided nation with a land reform program that acknowledges the injustices of the past while building a future for all South Africans?

The agriculture and land reform portfolios have now been merged as one. This could be a positive move if we find the correct balance in dealing with all the issues. Both agriculture and land reform are extremely complex and would need focused attention.

I would like to propose that we divide our work in three main categories: firstly, dealing with the emotive issues in order to give people the opportunity to talk to each other. I would like to share one such a discussion with you. I met an elderly gentleman who was given a land from land-reform programme in Limpopo. He is a high-ranking and well-known official in the MK and would not like to have his name revealed. I visited the farm not knowing who I will find as I like to do oversight and drive around the country, stopping at any farm or smallholding to discuss issues of land and agriculture. The departmental officials will know this because I would take them head-on in meetings regarding my findings on the ground like you found, Minister.

The discussion started with distrust and a lot of questions from his side. After some time, he decided to tell me his story. His years in exile and the battles he fought; how he came back to South Africa and started teaching at a school but his passion was farming. After a long drawn-out process, he was given a land-reform farm. On the day of my visit, he was angry and emotional, returning from a meeting with land reform officials. He asked for a long-term lease

in order to get a loan from the bank; his business plan was approved and all he needed was a lease agreement.

I could see the pain and frustration on his face when he told me his lease was not approved because he was told he is too old. This, after he provided proof that his son would be returning home after getting a degree in agriculture.

I will never forget his words to me. He told the young land-reform official, “You are spitting in my face after I went into battle to fight for the return of our land.”

He ended off by telling me he is just back from the gravesite of his fallen friend, telling him, “We will never get back our land”. It is important that we talk about this and understand our fears and frustration.

After this meeting I realised why we are sitting with so much hate. We have sent children to war - black and white - and without any healing process, we are now expected to all get along just because we changed political leadership.

In this month wherein we honour the life of our first democratically elected President, Nelson Mandela, I remain hopeful that we will find a way. I am reminded of the words attributed to Mahatma Gandhi, “An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind”.

Secondly, Chairperson, we must agree on the reasons for land reform. Who needs land, what is it for and how will it be divided? Land transfers have all but stalled in the last few years. Was this a deliberate action to manipulate the crisis that we are now sitting with? The need for land, especially for housing, is real and the rate of land invasions must be a concern to everyone.

The DA agrees with the sentiments of former President Motlanthe, "If property rights are not protected, you destroy value, and if there is no value in property, you cannot have a thriving economy."

Relevant questions and practical proposals are already set out in the High Level Panel Report on the assessment of legislation. The proposals in this report need urgent attention.

We must strengthen Parliament's oversight role over the department in order to measure progress. We cannot leave it in the hands of the courts to deal with legislative shortcomings on this important matter. We must confront corruption in this department. The well-known Vrede Dairy Farm as well as Mala Mala are just the tip of the iceberg. The March 2018 Special Investigative Unit, SIU, report on land reform must be tabled and officials must be held accountable.

A full investigation into political interference in the land reform and agricultural departments must follow. We welcome the support and

request to investigate Comprehensive Agricultural Support programme, Casp, funding but this needs to be expanded.

Like with state capture, land capture has crept in and the politically connected is manipulating the outcomes of many land disputes to their own benefit. We must get a list of who the current beneficiaries of land reform are and how it is possible that political elite are constantly benefitting from the agricultural department. How did 100 cows make their way to Nkandla and how did the Speaker, Ms Modise, end up with a pig farm? [Interjections.]

Thirdly, agriculture must be a basis for economic growth.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr M L D Ntombela): Order, hon members!

Mrs A STEYN: We welcome the plans of the In-Transformation Initiative with the development of an Agricultural Development Agency, ADA. The good work of many farmers who were pioneers in partnering with black farmers needs to be expanded.

We must also look at the Western Cape model at linking farmers to mentors and a commodity approach. Farming is of a technical nature and needs people with experience to help you succeed.

Lastly Chairperson, we must recognise and deal with safety and security of farmers and workers. Thousands of rand and many hours

are spent on security. With the best plans in place, farm attacks and theft of property is a daily reality. Farm attacks are well-planned and executed by professionals, and will need a co-ordinated plan to stop it. I thank you, Chair.

Mr P SINDANE: Chairperson, as a consequence of colonial land dispossession and apartheid forced removals, our agriculture has not developed the way it should have; and has therefore failed to be a necessary catalyst for industrial development in the country.

From the Masters and Servants Act of the 19th century, to the Native Land Act of 1913, our agricultural sector has been premised on legislated superexploitation of cheap and disposable black labour. This inevitably created a dual agricultural sector - one white, highly capitalised by the state, and with unlimited supply of land and labour; and the other black, with virtually no land.

The results of this are still evident today. There are currently only 35 000 to 37 000 commercial farmers in South Africa, with an annual turnover of over a million rand. The majority of them are white. Since trade liberalisation and the deregulation of the agricultural industry from the early 1990s, we have observed an aggressive accumulation of agricultural land by only a tiny minority who have bought off struggling smaller farms and consolidated them into bigger farms; increasingly, these farms are owned by corporations.

In contrast, we have about 2,3 million agricultural households in South Africa and the bulk of them in KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape and Limpopo. They are mostly landless and engage in agriculture on a subsistence basis, with no government support.

The upstream and downstream agricultural activities are also dominated by huge white monopolies, blocking, at every turn, any potential transformation of the sector. The agricultural sector is like a cartel, and it requires a bold state to transform this industry.

The basis of this transformation must entail the radical and swift expropriation of land without compensation, for equal redistribution and use. [Interjections.]

Ms N P SONTI: Batshele! [Tell them!]

Mr P SINDANE: The main beneficiaries of redistributed agricultural land must be these agricultural households already engaged in agricultural production; the farm workers who are the ones doing the work on the farms, and the farm dwellers who know no other life but agricultural life. The state therefore, must do the following to support emerging black farmers:

One, reverse the liberalisation of the agricultural sector by providing comprehensive State support to farmers. This must take the

form of efficient extension services to help with production inputs, storage and marketing.

Two, tighten tariff and nontariff barriers to minimize the importation of agricultural products which the country can produce.

Three, build and support fresh produce markets in each municipality for access by small-scale food producers.

Four, reintroduce agricultural product marketing boards to ensure that farmers derive the most benefits from the sale of agricultural products while, at the same time, opening up market opportunities for emerging black farmers.

Five, identify agricultural development modes and offer tax breaks to companies that invest in catalysing agricultural investment based on strict principles of empowering local farmers to develop into independent farmers.

Six, outlaw the use of genetically modified seed in South Africa until the health hazards of these genetically modified seeds are fully understood.

Seven, outlaw the monopolisation of the seed industry by a few companies and this will allow the local production of seed for agricultural development.

Lastly, at the moment, the department has failed to show vision and leadership. We therefore reject this budget. We will be meeting the landless and the poor on 27 July at KaNyamazane Stadium, and we will be talking about these issues of land and agriculture. Thank you. [Applause.] [Interjections.]

Nk M S KHAWULA: Sihlalo, nginephuzu lokukhalima okuphambukayo. Mhlonishwa, bengithi mina kungenzeka ngikubone uzoshintsha la ... ngaphambi kokuthi uhlale lapho uzoguqa uthandaze bese uyahlala esihlalweni. Ngiyabonga. [Ubuwelewele.]

USIHLALO WENDLU (Nk J Manganye): Ayikho lento oyishoyo, kwawena uyaphambuka. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[Ms M S KHAWULA: Chairperson, I rise on a point of order. Hon member, I was thinking you are going to change here. Before you sit there, you will kneel and pray, then take your seat. Thank you.]

[The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): You are also out of order.]

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, hon Deputy Minister and hon members, we have entered into the Six Parliament of our new democracy with the amalgamation of two departments, Agriculture combined with Rural Development and Land Reform rightly so, as the two go hand in hand in addressing poverty alleviation through agricultural development and land reform in our rural areas.

This is critical if we are not only to address the legacy of exclusion that occurred under apartheid, but also to create jobs, stimulate the economy, prevent rampant and burgeoning migration to cities and decrease the rapidly expanding informal settlements around our urban areas.

Chairperson, to date, agricultural land reform in South Africa can be described as an abject failure with a number of farms that formed a part of the land-reform process now lying fallow and littered with nonworking agricultural machinery such as farm tractors and the like. These pieces of land were once productive and provided not only food security, but also income to the families who worked them. An urgent audit is required of all such redistributed agricultural land and assistance via skills transfer provided to current owners of the land in order to restore them to their previous states of success as agricultural farmlands.

Over 17 million hectares of land is what I am talking about here, and unfortunately, today we can say that very few smallholding farmers and African commercial farmers have joined the ranks of successful production agricultural farmlands in South Africa.

Lack of access to land is currently matched only by lack of government commitment to subsidise farmers for them to compete on an equal basis with their counterparts who are subsidised by their own

governments in foreign countries. Such lack of subsidisation severely disadvantages our local farmers in international markets.

Another serious challenge is countering the current widespread corruption associated with departmental employees in Land Reform. This cancer is endemic and must be uprooted by an independent specialist anticorruption commission such as the establishment of a new Chapter 9 integrity commission in order to combat, prevent, investigate and prosecute those found guilty of corruption.

Land redistribution and rural development in an agricultural sense is further hindered by government’s indecisive stance on land redistribution. Such policy uncertainty deters investment and also leads to capital flight. Government must not fall into the populist trap favouring short-term temporary gains over long-term and extremely detrimental losses.

What is additionally most worrisome is the fact that there has been such budget decline in availability for purchase of farms or in settlement of land claims for land-reform programmes. The Comprehensive Agricultural Support programme, Casp, is falling short in this respect due to unavailable funding which has a direct negative impact on the beneficiaries of land- and agrarian-reform support programmes and available funding that is further challenged due to departmental employee fraud which is not being investigated especially in KwaZulu-Natal.

Mhlonishwa uma kukhulunywa lapha kucatshangwa kuphela labo abasohwebeni kunemiphakathi esemakhaya, umhlonishwa iNkosi uMandela, usihlalo wethu uyazi ngalolu daba. Imiphakathi yasemakhaya kuyadingeka nokuthi nayo isizwe ngezinsiza zokusebenza.Uma ngabe uhulumeni angakwazi ukuthenga ogandaganda kodwa kunabantu abangasiza ukuthi baqashwe babe nekontileka ukuze basize imiphakathi yasemakhaya ukuthi ilime ukuze kuxoshwe indlala emiphakathini yasemakhaya.

Sengiphetha ngifisa ukusho lokhu Sihlalo. Kunodaba lapha olumayelana nomthetho obhekele ezezilwane. Inkinga yethu eNingizimu Afrika umthetho lo kufuneka uhlale ngqo ezandleni zeZemvelo ukuze bekwazi ukushaya imithetho evikela izilwane zendalo, okumanje abathile bahweba ngazo bazisebenzisa ukuzicebisa bona futhi baziqoqela ndawonye phecelezi “captive breeds”. Bazisizabona ikakhulukazi nje ngamabhubesi isikhathi esiningi. Lokho kulimaza ukuvikelwa kwemvelo yethu. Ngiyathokoza kakhulu Sihlalo. I-IFP nokho iyasesekela isabiwomali. [Ihlombe.] (*Translation of isiZulu paragraphs follows.)*

[Hon member, when we speak here, we are only thinking of those who are in business rather than rural communities. Hon Inkosi Mandela, our chairperson, is aware of this. Rural communities must also be assisted with resources. Government can afford to buy tractors for people to be employed on a contractual basis to help rural communities to farm in order to alleviate hunger in those communities.

In conclusion, I would like to say this, Chairperson. There is an issue I want to raise in respect of animal legislation. Our problem in South Africa is that animal legislation should be the responsibility of the wildlife sector. At the moment, there are certain people who trade with them for their own enrichment through what is called ”captive breeds”. They are enriching themselves especially with the lions and this hampers the protection of our environment. However, the IFP supports the budget. Thank you very much, Chairperson. [Applause.]]

Me T BREEDT: Voorsitter, President Ramaphosa het gedurende sy staatsrede in Junie gesê hy sal verseker dat grondonteiening sonder vergoeding nie voedselsekuriteit beinvloed nie, maar die President droom. Onteiening sonder vergoeding bedreig elke Suid-Afrikaner se reg tot die besit van eiendom en reduseer wit Suid-Afrikaners, in besonder boere, tot diewe wat die grond wat hul besit, gesteel het.

Na afloop van die Parlement se aanvaarding van die mosie het die landbousektor tydens die tweede kwartaal van 2018 met 29,2% gekrimp. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.)*

[Ms T BREEDT: Chairperson, President Ramaphosa said during his state of the nation address in June that he would ensure that land expropriation without compensation would not affect food security, but the President is dreaming. Expropriation without compensation threatens every South African’s right to own property and reduces

white South Africans, in particular farmers, to thieves who have stolen the land they own.

Following Parliament’s adoption of the motion, the agricultural sector shrank by 29,2% during the second quarter of 2018.]

Nk M S KHAWULA: Uxolo Sihlalo, akuyona inkinga yakho lena. Sihlalo angazi la kwenzakalani ngempela akusesekona ukudlala. Lapha akukhona neyodwa into ekhulumayo. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[Ms M S KHAWULA: Sorry Chairperson, this is not your problem. Chairperson, I don’t know what is really going on; it is no longer a joke. Nothing is making any sense here.]

The CHAIRPERSON: (Ms J Manganye): May we proceed, hon member.

Me T BREEDT: Die landbousektor het tydens die tweede kwartaal van 2018 met 29,2% gekrimp. Die ANC en EFF se populisme oor grond vernietig Suid-Afrika se landbou en voedselsekerheid.

Die voortbestaan van landbou in Suid-Afrika word verder bedreig deur ’n onbetroubare klimaat; stygende insetkoste; gebrekkige staatshulp in die vorm van navorsing en rampverligting; en teikengerigte plaasaanvalle met oormatige wreedheid.

Die VF Plus ondersteun egter groter staatsbesteding aan landbounavorsing, om te verseker dat instansies soos die Landbounavorsingsraad van Suid-Afrika op die voorpunt van navorsing, met betrekking tot skaars hulpbronne, kan bly. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.)*

[Ms T BREEDT: The agricultural sector shrank by 29,2% during the second quarter of 2018. The ANC and EFF's populism over land is destroying South Africa's agriculture and food security.

The survival of agriculture in South Africa is further threatened by an unreliable climate; rising input costs; deficient state aid in the form of research and disaster relief; and targeted farm attacks with excessive cruelty.

However, the FF Plus supports greater government spending on agricultural research to ensure that institutions such as the Agricultural Research Council of SA can remain at the forefront of research with regard to scarce resources.]

We welcome the appointment of the new chief financial officer, CFO, and CEO of the respective agricultural entities. These positions have been vacant for some time. The incumbents seem capable and show a willingness to improve their respective entities and fields, and this is welcomed. We hope that they will strengthen bonds between

these two entities, and that this should not remain a dream, but fruits to be harvested in the years to come.

Hon Minister, I have a fear! I have many fears when it comes to agriculture in South Africa, but this one I have seen multiple times. You and your department explain wonderfully the positive changes that Casp, Ilima/Letsema and all the rest can accomplish, but when these conditional grants and transfers to provinces leave your account, you have little to no say as to how they are being spent. This means that they are misspent and true beneficiaries who need upliftment are left helpless and the politically connected get richer. A lot richer, in fact, from R2,2 billion budget of this year alone.

Grondeise in sy geheel moet so spoedig moontlik afgehandel word, aangesien dit groot onsekerheid tot gevolg het wat ontwikkeling van die landbousektor benadeel en daarom voedselsekuriteit verder benadeel.

Grondhervormingsprojekte het ’n teelaarde vir korrupsie geword. Omtrent 91% van begunstigdes van grondhervormingsprojekte het nog nooit geboer nie; was nog nooit betrokke by landbou nie; wil nie boer nie; of, soos ek, kan nie boer nie. Daar is genoeg boere - wit en swart - wat wil en kan boer. Die regering moet hierdie boere bemagtig om van klein, ontwikkelende boere na kommersiële boere te groei.

Die staat se betrokkenheid by hierdie projekte moet geminimaliseer word en vennootskappe tussen opkomende en kommersiële boere moet eerder bewerkstellig word. Ek is egter bekommerd oor die regering en die department se prioriteite in terme hiervan. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.)*

[Land claims as a whole must be settled as soon as possible as this results in great uncertainty which harms the development of the agricultural sector and therefore further harms food security.

Land reform projects have become a breeding ground for corruption. About 91% of beneficiaries of land-reform projects have never farmed; have never been involved in agriculture; do not want to farm; or, like me, cannot farm. There are enough farmers - white and black - who want to and can farm. The government must empower these farmers to grow from small, developing farmers to commercial farmers.

The state’s involvement in these projects should be minimized and partnerships between emerging and commercial farmers should rather be established. However, I am concerned about the government and the department’s priorities in regarding this.]

It is great and noble to spend billions on smallholder and subsistence farmers, but this cannot be to the detriment of our commercial farmers. According to research, more than 63% of current

South Africans are urbanised and by the year 2030, 71% of South Africans will be urbanised. We can therefore not ignore our commercial farmers - neither black nor white.

Deur korrekte prioritisering sal landbou, as primêre bedryf in die ekonomie, ’n wesenlike rolspeler as werkskepper, voedselprodusent en inkomstevermenigvuldiger wees en dit moet daarom deur die regering gekoester te word.

Deur ’n positiewe sosiale, ekonomiese en politieke omgewing te skep, sal dit vir kommersiële boere moontlik wees om voedselsekuriteit vir Suid-Afrika te bevorder. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.)*

[Through proper prioritisation, agriculture, as the primary industry in the economy, will play a key role as a job creator, food producer and income multiplier and must therefore be nurtured by the government.

By creating a positive, social, economic and political environment, it will be possible for commercial farmers to promote food security for South Africa.]

Furthermore, Chair, a lot is being said about agro-processing in this department. And lots of money - more than R70 million - budgeted for this year alone, is budgeted for agro-processing as the

future of agriculture in South Africa. Agro-processing should, however, not stop, but let’s just talk. Agro-processing plants should be built and not just stand there as we are currently doing.

When I visited Xhariep Fish Hatchery less than a year ago, I saw the hatchery, state of the art agro-processing plant and the food-processing factories. Neither were active and millions still had to be spent to make the Chinese project viable to a South African environment.

My honest plea to this department is to not get sidetracked as we did with Vrede Dairy and end up trying to run farms, but instead build agro-processing plants.

Ek sluit af. Agb Minister, daar is baie hoop, maar die probleem bly by u party - u party se beleid en ideologie wat teenstrydig is met suksesvolle landbou. Spreek dit aan en ek het weer hoop vir Suid-Afrika, as die voedselmandjie van Afrika. Ek dank u. *(Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.)*

[I conclude. Hon Minister, there is a lot of hope, but the problem remains with your party - your party’s policy and ideology that is contrary to successful agriculture. Address this and I will once again have hope for South Africa as the food basket of Africa. Thank you.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Mr M Skwatsha): Hon Chair, hon Minister Didiza, hon Minister Pandor, Deputy Ministers Mahlalela and Mathale, hon chairperson of the portfolio committee, esteemed Members of Parliament, director-general and acting director-general, our stakeholders and entities, executive management from the department, distinguished guests, members of the media and ladies and gentlemen, a few days ago our country paid homage to an epoch-making moment in the political history for freedom when the high command of uMkhonto weSizwe was arrested at Liliesleaf Farm on 11 July 1963, 56 years ago.

More than 1 500km away, almost a month later in Cape Town, a man who was deeply involved in the underground activities of the ANC was captured at a hideout. Within a month, this SACP and ANC activist became the first political detainee under the National Party regime to die in detention at the hands of the notorious state security police. This is the same fate that befell Imam Abdullah Harun who was brutally killed in 1969. The name of this man was Khulile Looksmart Ngudle, a migrant from Middeldrift who had come to settle in what is known today as Gugulethu.

This morning, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to dedicate my contribution to the memory of Khulile Solwandle Ngudle. His son, Siyanda Ngudle is here with us today. [Applause.] I would like to specially mention one of the last people to see Looksmart before she

was detained who also has graced us with her presence today. That is veteran Mildred Mme Ramakaba Lesea. [Applause.] She joined the ANC in 1954 and because of her advanced age I will not ask her to stand up, but I will request her to wave so that you can all see her. [Applause.]

Ngudle was an organiser of note and was credited for recruiting many people into the fight for freedom and worked very closely with Isithwalandwe Dennis Goldberg. We should not forget such stalwarts and martyrs today when we enjoy the privileges of our freedom. We should remember that we stand on the shoulders of these giants. We may forgive but we should never forget.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Hon members, please desist from doing that.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Mr M Skwatsha): In two days our country and the entire world will honour the birthday of one of the greatest statesmen, Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela. His selfless sacrifice should be a source of encouragement and inspiration to us all. Hon Chair, as Mama Khawula says, I now turn my attention to the work we are doing in land reform which is constituted, Mama Khawula, by redistribution, restitution and tenure. In this regard we consider various interventions such as the promotion of food security, rapid release of land for urban human settlement and growing the economy.

We gather here on the cusp of history. Our roadmap is cast in stone and we have a serious challenge on our hands. We are faced with a massive task of speeding up the process of resolving the land ownership patterns in this country and tackling the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment as outlined in the National Developmental Plan, NDP. History will judge us harshly if we were to miss the opportunity of undoing one of the major hallmarks of oppression and colonial domination. We have the opportunity of restoring the dignity to our people whose land was dispossessed. We can create a better life for all by redistributing the land and facilitating the creation of an equal and just society.

Without being alarmists, we have arrived at the moment of reckoning and we have no obligation but to address the land question decisively. We have a duty to promote a diverse farming landscape in this country. As the song goes:

"Isikhalo somntana sihoye." Sisimamele isikhalo sakho Sihlalo weKomiti yeMicimbi yeSebe ngexesha ubuthetha apha. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)*

[Don't ignore the cry of the baby. We have heard your complaint, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development while you were speaking here.]

We heard the cries of our people on the platforms of the public road shows of the Constitutional Review Committee that investigated this vexing land question and they were unanimous that land must be expropriated without compensation. The legislative wheels of the vehicle are in motion to change section 25 of our Constitution. Those who always beat the drums of doom will be disappointed that the sky will not cave in when the legislation is finally changed. The expropriation of land without compensation will be a reality sooner or later. All this will happen in an orderly constitutional fashion. Land grabs are not regarded by us as any part of distributing land. [Applause.] We see that as chaos that we cannot tolerate.

Also, gone are the days when farming was the sole preserve of certain men in khaki-clad safari suit. Such stereotypes belong to the dustbin of history. Collectively, we have the capacity and political will to execute this task successfully. What counts in our favour is that in the past we have defeated bigger challenges. During the state of the nation address President Ramaphosa directed us by saying:

> We need to focus on those actions that have the greatest impact; actions that will catalyse faster movement forward both in the immediate term and over the next 10 years.

Today, Minister Didiza also reiterated the strides that the reconfigured department is looking at undertaking. We are in the process of revamping the extension of Security of Tenure Act of 1997 to protect one of the most vulnerable groups in our society, the farm workers. The revised legislation will go a long way to restore the dignity of farm workers. In the next few months our department will publish regulations for public comments as part of the compulsory consultative process.

In this financial year, the department assisted nine provinces to implement the spatial planning and land use management. To this end, the department developed 44 districts rural development plans to facilitate and enhance integrated spatial-planning initiatives in these poverty-stricken areas. Plans are underway to speed up the implementation and assessment of these initiatives in this current financial year. The provision of the capacity support to municipalities will be important. We have begun with mapping out environmentally sensitive areas and assessment of the project impacts of climate change to 2050 as well as targeted potential nodes for migration and various forms of development.

The National Spatial Development Framework will guide policies on population growth management and agricultural land tenure as it is projected to diminish in areas to 2050 against a projected population growth of 17 million. To date, the Valuer-General has approved cadastral service to create 44 772 sectional title units

from 2 649 sectional title schemes. This has resulted in the approval of general plans for 749 new townships, 122 518 land parcels and 167 219 new land rights entities.

As a result, we have seen growth in housing, infrastructure, commercial and other land-related economic activities. With respect to fulfilling the promise of conferring legally secure tenure, we'll need to learn from our own efforts and other experiences with recording rights to land and provide the basis for recourse in instances of rights violations, particularly against women and other vulnerable citizens like people with disabilities.

Hon members, in 2018, the department introduced to Parliament the Electronic Deeds Registration Systems Bill to facilitate the development of an electronic deeds registration system. The purpose was to boost the registration of large volumes of deeds and decrease the registration process. In 2019, a deeds registration transformation policy will be prioritised for tabling to Cabinet. The policy will result into the amendment or repeal of the Deeds Registration Act, Act 47 of 1937.

The magnitude of the challenges we face requires us not to be complacent or hyper but we are currently fine-tuning our vast land reform programmes to achieve maximum results. We are strengthening the capacity of the 1 602 Communal Property Associations, CPAs so that they can improve on the delivery of their mandate. We have

noted that CPAs are marred with various problems ranging from corrupt practices, bad governance and unaccountability. We owe this to our people to act when we encounter such problems. The challenges and changes are part of the process of improving the management of land tenure system to which our Minister referred earlier.

The mediation and legal services provided by the land rights management facility have been extended to assist CPAs in instances with tenure rights issues affecting them. In the financial year under review, our department acquired 85 000 hectares of land at a cost of R590 million for the benefit of several poorest districts and provinces such as the Free State, Northern, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. These communities are producing priority commodities ranging from crops, livestock, vegetables and forestry in line with our Agriculture Policy Action Plan.

It is common cause that we are also experiencing structural challenges in our economy. The triple challenges I have referred to are worsening and they adversely affect our children and women. Exacerbating this untenable situation is that pockets of poverty are concentrated in our rural and periurban areas. We plan to redress this by acquiring 94 050 hectares of which 42 750 will be allocated to smallholder farmers made up of women, youth and persons with disabilities. [Applause.]

The budget allocation for the land acquisition is R595 million. Chairperson and hon members, we want to go back to basics ...

... makulinyweni. *(Translation of isiXhosa sentence follows.)*

[... let us plough.]

Let us soldier on accordingly. Our commitment to acquire 81 000 hectares with 40 500 hectares of the land targeted for smallholders and 9 100 hectares for labour tenants and farm workers. Earlier on I referred to demystifying the character of a farmer. Perhaps we should run public campaigns to encourage our youth in the townships to take up farming. Young people should tilt the land. We should not allow land in arable areas to lie fallow. We must make farming cool and this particular point was emphasised in the portfolio committee about the future of our country in investing in young people.

On the Land Development Support we recorded some important progress. We concluded agreements with commodity organisations to support land reform farmers. In this financial year, we have undertaken to support 162 farms with a budget allocation of R1,3 billion for the year. We also committed to prioritising the implementation of on-farm infrastructure support for plus farms. We targeted 166 farms but we ended up supporting 208 farms.

On property management we completed the assessment of 2 200 Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy farms. In support of the Interministerial Committee on Land and Agriculture's call to prioritise state land for rapid release, we have assessed 2 155 farms for possible release and we are also prioritising the release of state land for the settlement of restitution claims.

The target of claims on restitution for 2018-19 was to settle 1 151 restitution of land rights claims and finalise 991 claims. Only 502 land restitution claims were settled because of various challenges. We experienced claimant disputes, beneficiary verifications, people who cannot be traced, delays in gazetting claims and disputed evaluations. Collectively, these factors led to the decreased and slow space of the finalisation of the process.

We therefore want to heed the call made on this podium by the chair of the committee that this matter must be acted upon expeditiously. However, we can report that we have 995 finalised claims and 140 phased projects approved. In the face of the challenges, we are fast-tracking the pace of settlement of claims through increased efforts to trace restitution claimants and hiring tracing agents. The approach has seen significant progress in KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Gauteng. We are confident that improvement is likely to continue in 2019-20 financial year.

I will continue to deal with the challenges in our midst, on the Office of the Valuer-General. We are about to implement a series of interim remedial measures to boost effectiveness of this crucial player in the land reform value chain. Top of our list is to approve the structure and recruit appropriate human resources. Some of the interventions will include the formation of a project management office within the Office of the Valuer-General to help speed up service delivery and eliminate valuation backlog.

In conclusion, we will continue to deliver to our people wherever possible and we shall proceed to introduce major policy framework, institutions and change in systems to manage the disputes pre-emptively and engage the difficult land-relations matters in support of finding lasting social solution amongst communities rather than the adversarial legal route. We shall always dedicate our allegiances to unlocking these barriers. We call on everybody, every political party and all of us in our nation to support the issue of the redistribution of land. It is the lasting solution to the problems that we face.

Consequently, we shall stand a good chance of contributing effectively to eliminating poverty and inequality by 2030. As I have indicated, the issues raised by the chair of the portfolio committee - I think the Minister will emphasise on them - are considered. I do not think that we should have any fears around a Zimbabwe situation. South Africans have proven themselves over and over again that we

are able to resolve our situation and do not let foreigners resolve them. [Applause.] I really want to say, what an opportunity lost by the EF! How do you say you want land for our people and when given an opportunity to contribute, you reject an opportunity to bring the land to our people? Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr W M THRING: Chairperson, the ACDP welcomes the movement of forestry and fisheries from the former Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to the Department of Environmental Affairs and agriculture to the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development. This is in keeping with the austerity measures needed due to the current downturn in our economy.

The ACDP also notes the budget allocation for Vote 24 of some R7 665 billion and for Vote 39 of R10 946 billion in the 2019-20 years. Of great concern to the ACDP is the failure of the department to report on targets set for 2019. I quote from the report of the portfolio committee dated 10 July 2019. The report did not include some of the targets that are specific to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, DAFF, for example, breakdown of smallholder support according to market access - outcome four, and production efficiencies - outcome seven.

Some three million hectares of land transferred through land reform should have been utilised, which is over and above the one million

hectares lying fallow in communal areas, but was not put to productive use.

Support for smallholder producers, job losses in the agricultural sector and food security remain major challenges. The commercialisation of Black Producers programme was temporarily suspended in the past financial year on the realisation by the department that it was benefitting officials responsible for its implementation or people linked to them.

Chairperson, this department has had the opportunity to transform lives of millions of impoverished South Africans, and by the evidence produced in its own report, it has failed.

It has been brought to the attention of the ACDP, Chair, that the national policy on organic production has been under development with DAFF for the past 10 years, and it’s stuck at draft 12. The benefits from finalising a policy include more jobs, higher economic growth, better health, food security and a protected environment. The ACDP calls on the Minister to finalise our organic policy within the next three months, as failure to do so, means the adoption of a private organic standard without a regulatory framework to support it. And this in turn, Minister, will cost our organic farmers dearly.

The ACDP has acknowledged the need for transformation and restitution on the land question. But the question really is, however, not found in the why; it is the how. And we, in the ACDP, have also consistently said that expropriation without compensation is not the panacea to the land question. Property rights must be protected.

Failure to protect property rights and to issue title deeds to property owners destroys the value of such property. As in any business if a product loses its value, it becomes nontradable and business will move to places where they can trade. Business and even the ordinary man in the street will not invest where there is no security of their asserts. It is for this reason that political and policy certainty on the land question is so imperative.

Allow me, hon Chairperson, to quote not from Stalin, Lenin, Karl Marx, Che Guevara or William Wilberforce, but from the former President Kgalema Motlanthe, who spoke at dialogue on agricultural development recently, who said:

> If property is protected by law, society as we understand it today, will disappear because the kind of anarchy and chaos that would ensue is difficult to imagine.

For the sake of our nation, we cannot allow chaos and anarchy. I thank you.

Ms T M MBABAMA: Hon House Chair, the DA and indeed the farming community heaved a sigh of relief when hon Thoko Didiza was announced as the person to head up this new Department. Congratulations, Minister, you have come full circle and we believe you are the right person for the job.

The challenges faced today by commercial agriculture in our country seem almost insurmountable. Besides a critical scarcity of water, commercial agriculture is faced with high risks from weather conditions causing runaway fires, floods and drought, which all have a negative impact on primary or on-farm agriculture.

The livestock industry is frequently challenged with tick-borne diseases, avian flu and foot-and-mouth, amongst others. In addition, stock theft and predators such as jackals have drastically reduced the number of sheep farmers, limiting supplies of mutton and wool.

Add to these tough conditions the challenge of high input and machinery costs, which results in squeezed margins, forcing the farmers into a vicious cycle of never-ending debt to try and keep their businesses afloat.

Competition from increasingly-fickle international markets is another challenge. Dumping from subsidised countries offers cheaper consumer prices as we saw in the chicken industry, which has put further pressure on the already-narrow profit margins. Stringent

protectionist policies such as tariffs and import quotas restricting trade further exacerbates this.

The myriad risks facing this fractious and politically incendiary industry are unfortunately not adequately mitigated by the very entities set up to assist. The Agricultural Research Council, ARC, is fraught with a history of poor audit findings and deteriorating financial health.

The National Agricultural Marketing Council, NAMC, is of little use to both emerging and commercial farmers in its core functions of promoting efficiency of agricultural products and ensuring optimised export earnings.

Onderstepoort Biological Products, OBP, needs to extend its reach into the provinces if it wishes to improve on marketing its products to fulfil its purpose.

The Land and Agricultural Development Bank, although not reporting to this department currently, has the potential to play a huge role in the agricultural industry but has unfortunately lurched from chief executive officer, CEO, to CEO, all of whom have seemingly failed to have a sustainable turnaround strategy.

As if this is not enough, hon Chair and Minister, the EFF and the ruling party are now adding to the already-heavy risks facing the

food-producing industry by pushing to change the Constitution to allow for expropriation without compensation. The perceived threat of expropriation without compensation and the resultant uncertainty is playing havoc on production and investment in the industry.

The DA-led government will ensure that all commercial farms will be ring-fenced and protected from expropriation to carry on with their critical work of feeding the nation, supplying much-needed jobs and contributing to the economy.

The DA-led government will ensure commercial farmers partner with deserving workers, as many have done already across the country, by affording them shares in the farm business. [Interjections.] We will ensure the equitable distribution ... [Interjections.] ... of all state and municipal land for both urban and rural use, while fast-tracking the resolution of all land claims backlogs.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Hon members, please reduce your voices; I can’t even hear the speaker. I wonder if the Minister hears what the speaker is saying. Proceed, hon member.

We will ensure that rural people specifically in the old Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei, TBVC, states have access to a bespoke form of title deeds that will unlock economic value for them.

Our heartfelt condolences to the van den Berg family in Boshof in the Free State where Ina and Sakkie were found murdered last Saturday. We implore the government to set up rural safety units as a matter of urgency.

These are but some of the initiatives we propose. We have welcomed the announcement of the launch of a development agency by the agricultural sector, and hope, Minister, it will make the daunting work ahead much easier. The DA wishes you all the best in this daunting task. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms K D MAHLATSI: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister, Deputy Ministers, chairperson of the portfolio committee, hon members of the august House, let me take this opportunity to remind hon members of this august House that history has no blank pages. The forced removal of African people under colonialism and apartheid resulted not only in the physical separation of people along racial lines, but also in extreme land shortages, insecure land rights and poverty for our people.

Hon Chairperson, the ANC acknowledges that the agricultural sector continues to play an important role in the economy regardless of its, sometimes stagnant or declining share of the Gross Domestic Product, GDP. We also accept that, South Africa is a poverty-stricken country. Our people are living in dire circumstances of

hunger and poverty. Therefore, ours in the Sixth Parliament is not to lament but to bring hope and solutions to our people.

In response to the challenges faced by the country's agricultural sector, the 2019 ANC manifesto enjoins us to carry out sustainable land reform programmes that expand, particularly, ownership of agricultural production to advance food security and help reverse the apartheid spatial separation. As things stand, the department needs to put much effort in ensuring that the following aspects remain at the centre of its business, firstly, improving food and nutrition security, ensuring that there is creation of jobs and increasing contribution to the GDP.

As the ANC, we welcome the commitment by the department for the allocation of R1,9 billion towards the Ilima-Letsema project grant that will be used to promote the Fetsa Tlala food production initiative, which forms part of the national policy on food security and nutrition. One of the most important programmes of the department is Operation Phakisa. Operation Phakisa entails facilitating access to markets and targets smallholder farmers. It is a well-known fact that one of the challenges faced by small businesses is access to markets and infrastructure.

As the ANC, we welcome the Rural Infrastructure Development, Rid, and Rural Enterprise Infrastructure Development, Reid, programmes as direct interventions towards development for smallholder farmers.

Chairperson, it is impossible to speak about agriculture without referring to the land. Secondly, the agricultural sector is highly monopolised by capitalist, especially by the descendants of Jan Van Riebeek.

As the ANC, we welcome the reconfiguration of the two departments, Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. This is a clear indication that land reform will be integrated into a wider agrarian reform and rural development programme, aimed at enhancing the multiplicity of diverse rural livelihoods. As part of this process, considerable investment should be made by government in developing the institutional capacity to deliver the inputs, outlets and support services needed by rural households to enhance livelihoods beyond the survivalist level, and begin to expand production for the market. This would provide the support needed to bring developing enterprises within reach of poorer households, particularly those headed by women.

There would be no agriculture without water. Our people can no longer witness rivers flowing through their villages and still have no access to water, precisely because there is monopoly over this natural resource executed through water rights. Government needs to engage extensively on this matter to ensure that our agricultural programme excels. Hon Minister, global warming in the South African context brings more stress to the development of the rural communities.

In agriculturally dependent communities that are mostly poverty-stricken and face food insecurities, it is essential to develop and implement adaptive measures to deal with climate change. The high prevalence of women in and dependent on agriculture requires an increased focus from government. Women must be majority beneficiaries of all developmental programmes implemented by the department.

The importance of young people in farming cannot be overemphasised. As members of the committee, we all agree that, in the Sixth Parliament, National Rural Youth Service Corps, Narysec, beneficiaries should be incorporated within other programmes of the department. This sixth administration has a responsibility to demystify the narrative that seeks to tarnish the image of a black child as lazy and who would rather be a beneficiary of social grant.

The ANC welcomes the animal health-care services programme targeted at 150 veterinary graduates to be deployed to rural areas, as well as the recruitment and training of extension officers. We welcome the revitalization of provincial agricultural colleges within the sector. This is the key towards skills revolution within the sector.

The 30% set aside for youth must apply to all initiatives to be rolled out by your department. Young people want an opportunity to take part in Micro Agricultural Financial Institutions of SA,

Mafisa, Agricultural Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment, agri-BEE, Ilima, and Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiatives.

Hon Minister, we know that you do understand the frustrations of young people. We know that you are part of a political struggle for change. You therefore have an ideological and conscious responsibility to ensure that young men and women of this country achieve economic freedom in their lifetime. As we wait for the publication of the Report of the Presidential Advisory Panel on Land Reform, you are duty-bound to prepare young people of this country to be farmers in defence against hunger and poverty for their communities. Young people want the land. In conclusion, Chairperson, The ANC supports both Vote 24 and Vote 39. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr L M NTSHAYISA: Hon Chairperson, let me first congratulate hon Minister Thoko Didiza on her appointment as a Minister. It was long overdue. I would also like to convey my condolences to Marc Batchelor’s family, who was shot dead at his home last night. He played for the two Soweto giants, Orlando Pirates and my team, Kaizer Chiefs.

According to section 27(1)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of SA, everyone has a right to access sufficient food. Therefore, it is important for the department of agriculture to provide food security and food safety for all South Africans. The critical policy goals of white people in 1994 were that the financial system should focus on

resourcing poor and beginner farmers. This was to enable them to buy land and agricultural implements.

Agriculture contributes a lot to the gross domestic product, GDP; however, the smallholder sector lacks resources in terms of land, finance and infrastructure. That is why the Micro Agricultural Financial Institutions of SA, Mafisa, was established so as to provide funds to development finance institutions, e.g. the Land Bank to assist smallholder farmers. This has not been handled well in some instances. This assistance has to provide technical support, skills and make market access possible for the smallholder farmers. The agricultural sector is tasked with the responsibility of fighting poverty and unemployment as well as to embrace and contribute to the growth of the economy.

The National Development Plan, NDP, identifies this sector of agriculture as one of the sectors that can create jobs and alleviate poverty. It is the vision of the NDP to create one million jobs by 2030. However, the development of the new irrigation systems of Umzimvubu River basin in the Eastern Cape and Makhathini Flats in KwaZulu-Natal seem to be on a standstill. It seems as if they are neglected and that can have a negative impact on this great idea.

The inclusive rural economy is very important in order to give an opportunity to rural economies to take part in agriculture. The national framework which is the New Growth Path, NGP, for the

economic policy is also meant to come up with new strategies of job creation. It is in accordance with this NGP that the living conditions of 660 000 farm workers were supposed to have their conditions improved. The plight of farm workers seem not to have been attended to. We support the budget and the report. Thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.] [Interjections.]

AN HON MEMBER: Isolate the EFF.

Mr N CAPA: Hon Minister and all the Ministers present, Deputy Ministers, hon Skwatsha and Dlamini in absentia, and all Deputy Ministers present, chairperson of the committee, hon Members of Parliament, leaders of the entities of the department, DG and officials from the department and the entities, guests in the gallery and fellow South Africans, I greet you through the hon Chair. [Interjections.]

In his June 2019 state of the nation address, the President emphasised on the critical nature of the Land Reform programme in South Africa. Therefore, the mandate of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development flows from this, as the chairperson has elaborated.

The very concept of rural development and land reform is a conscious effort to institutionalise radical transformation in land ownership and economic development in rural life. Therefore, it should not be

doubted that it is part of redressing the evil past in the socioeconomic development in our country.

It should always be remembered that it was born out of historic necessity. It is a historic mission of the ANC—led government that was born out of a protracted struggle for both political and economic freedom. That is why we needed a land reform that consists of land restitution, land distribution and land tenure.

The Land Audit Report of 2017 revealed that white South Africans own about 72% of the total hectarage of farms and agricultural holdings; followed by coloured people at 15%; Indians at 5% and Africans at 4%. This picture still depicts the apartheid legacy of skewed land ownership. In 2012, the department reported that since 1994, only about 8,3 million hectares have been acquired under Land Reform programme.

While this indicates the need to move speedily in acquisition of white-owned land for redistribution, it is worth noting that last year alone, the department spent about R1 billion on restitution. The ANC, in its 53rd National Conference, realised the importance of dealing with apartheid spatial development patterns, and resolved to accelerate land reform and rural development as part of radical socioeconomic transformation.

Rural development programmes such as Rural Infrastructure Development, Rid, and Rural Enterprise Infrastructure Development, Reid, are part of South Africa's rural strategy that aims to strengthen food security and agricultural competitiveness, while lifting marginalised rural households out of poverty.

The department has done very well in meeting its National Development Plan targets, NDP targets, around policy formulation, namely: The Communal Land Tenure Policy; National Rural Spatial Development Plan; and the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, as well as the establishment of Land Administration structures. The Commission on Restitution of Land Rights and the Office of the Valuer-General are adding value in the performance of the department in land reform.

As the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, we have been empowered by the presentation of annual performance plans of the department and its entities. In their presentations, they indicated that they have taken into consideration the alignment with the NDP and the Medium-Term Strategy Framework, MTSF. We have been appraised of quarterly and annual targets.

We interrogated all these presentations, came up with suggestions and recommendations, and satisfied ourselves that we know where to play our role of oversight - what legislation is needed and how to

hold our executive accountable. We acknowledge various policy initiatives that have been adopted by the department, such as Recapitalisation and Development programme, Mafisa, and Comprehensive Rural Development Programme, CRDP.

In conclusion, we also acknowledge and appreciate the initiative that was taken by the President in establishing the Presidential High Level Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture, to look into the viability of land expropriation without compensation, following the ANC 54th Conference Resolutions and parliamentary public consultation process on this issue.

Who, in their senses, cannot support such a budget that is in favour of the poor? On the basis of the above facts and all that the hon Minister has tabled in this House, as the ANC, we support Budget Votes 24 and 39. Therefore, who cannot support this? There is definitely none. This is something which addresses the evils of the past and is looking after the interests of the poor. With this, we support the budget. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Hon House Chairperson, congratulation to the Minister and her team, members in the gallery, allow me to welcome this report, but at the same time allow me to express our opinion that the NFP supports the report tabled here today. [Interjections.] One of our concerns is the transformation, particularly in the forestry sector, which still remains in the hands of major

conglomerates with the opportunities for small-scale entrepreneurs almost nonexistent.

In terms of the fisheries, the industry is still controlled by certain industrial giants and small-scale business continues to be marginalised. The Hout Bay fishing communities is one such example of those who are being marginalised and we need to deal with that. Yes, of course, it is in the Western Cape but we have other areas that have similar problems as well.

The NFP is of the opinion that a lot could be done in the agricultural sector, not only in terms of financial resources, but what is very important is the transfer of skills. If you have the land and the resources, but you don't have the skills, you are not going to succeed. We have seen in the past that lots of small-scale farmers have failed as a result of their limited skills. This is something that we need to look at.

Very importantly, I want to say that the opportunities – and I am going to give you one good example - There is a woman by the name of Funeka Mtiya, who has exhausted all means of contact communication with the department and others. She has what she wants to grow – a plant called pelargonium, which has an opportunity for export and is at the present moment exported by just one company in South Africa.

She has tried - She has gone to the department and various others, including Parliament. I have even sent her to the portfolio committee and the department was there. Opportunities for these people must be given and, as the department, we must take a greater interest in them.

In terms of the expropriation of land without compensation, we think it must be accelerated. We didn’t believe it was entirely necessary to amend section 25 because there is some provision there, but if it is going to help, then we need to consider that and accelerate it. Very importantly though, farm workers and the lives that they go through, particularly in the Western Cape, must be addressed. They are being evicted and the NFP has called for a moratorium on all evictions in the Western Cape. We pleaded.

The department needs to look at how to stop evictions. You understand? [Interjections.] [Laughter.] Well, wherever they are, but I see rise in the Western Cape. It is rising and this is where we need to deal with it. In fact, I now see that you also want to evict the Members of Parliament, which I don’t have a problem with, but follow due processes because we are not a lawless country. [Laughter.]

So, it is very important that we take that into consideration. Coming back to the issue – I don’t know what the clock says. But coming back again, the NFP, in any case, supports the report tabled

here today and we hope that the department will do what it has to do. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

Mr M K MONTWEDI: Greetings, hon Chair. We stand here, 25 years after the attainment of political freedom in this country. We have been forced to ask ourselves: What was the liberation struggle for? What did Anton Lembede, A P Mda, Robert Sobukwe, Chris Hani, Harry Gwala ... [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Hon member! Hon member! Please take your seat. Hon members, the EFF have split their minutes. So, don’t howl at me.

Mr M K MONTWEDI: Why ... What is wrong?

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Proceed! Proceed, hon member.

Mr M K MONTWEDI: ... Anton Lembede, A P Mda, Robert Sobukwe, Chris Hani, Harry Gwala and many others live and die for? Land ownership in South Africa must reflect the demographics of the Republic of SA.

At the centre of the liberation struggle was the quest for the reclamation of African land that was annexed by an evil settler minority which, through wars and laws, appropriated for itself the right to own African land while making Africans serve in the land of their birth.

Today, 25 years after the attainment of political freedom, black people in their majority are still largely landless, while the descendants of land dispossessors hold over 70% of the land. There is no risk associated with returning the land back to the rightful owners. Black people can farm; they only need land to farm. Don't come here and say it is a risk. Black people must be given their land to practise farming.

Today, 23 years after the adoption of the Constitution, tacitly legitimises land theft by the settler minority. The liberation movement, now in government, has forgotten why so many of its comrades died. Well, let us remind you, Minister - it was Frantz Fanon who taught us that:

> For a colonised people the most essential value, the most concrete, is first and foremost the land: The land which will bring them bread and, above all, dignity.

There ought to be neither confusion nor contradiction about this salient principle. Today, the ANC-led government has redistributed less than 9% of the land back to black people through a willing-buyer, willing-seller principle. Of the land they have redistributed, they have failed to provide any meaningful post-settlement support to the recipients of the land, condemning them to failure.

As I speak here today, there are 12 000 hectares of land sitting between Reivilo in North West and Kamden in the Northern Cape, under the communal property association, CPA: No government support; no camps; no water! How do you expect our people to farm if you are unable to assist them in making sure that they do continue with their business of farming?

The ANC-led government has, through the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy, given swathes of land to their own comrades who have not used this land for any productive purpose. That is a fact; you know it, hon Supra, from the North West province. This must come to an end! The ANC has, through its own internal incompetence, failed to use the recapitalisation programme to recapitalise land reform farms, but rather, have used this to entrench their patronage of networks.

Hon Mahlatsi, on what you said, two weeks ago, the department met with beneficiaries of the recapitalisation programme. I can safely say to you: Women were not prioritised there; young people were not prioritised either. The beneficiaries are those that continue to be part of this network of patronage, which the ANC-led government supports and gives them all this assistance, overlooking farmers who really do need this assistance. This must come to an end!

The first and most important principle towards the resolution of the land question in this country is the amendment of the property

clause in the Constitution to allow for the state to expropriate land without compensation. The EFF will lead the charge in this process once more. All land must be under the custodianship of the state for equal redistribution to all. This must be done in a manner that gives maximum security of tenure to citizens and businesses.

We must be in a position this term to pass overarching legislations such as the Land Redistribution Act and Agrarian Reform Act, to give effect to the goals of complete restructuring of land holding in this country. This must be geared towards promoting value-adding activities, such as aquaculture to create millions of jobs, in vitro-agricultural activities and other job-inducing land-based economic activities.

The state must establish a land ombudsman to ensure that people’s rights to the land are protected and not subjected to arbitrary abuse by state officials and injudicious mining companies. There needs to be a reconfiguration of the Land Claims Court into the People’s Land Court, with no less than 12 permanent judges to adjudicate on land matters on a full time basis. There is no seriousness amongst the ruling elite to resolve the land question, and the EFF rejects this budget.

I am worried, Minister. We spoke about the National Rural Youth Service Corps programme, Narysec programme, but you did not speak to the Narysec programme. I think it is now time that those

participants in the Narysec programme must not sit at home without doing anything. [Interjections.] Yes, you raise it because I said it in a committee last week, but I must say it as the author today. I thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.] [Interjections.]

Ms M S KHAWULA: Point of order, Sihlalo! Point of order, Sihlalo! [Interjections.]

AN HON MEMBER: Ola, ola, ola! [Interjections.]

Ms M S KHAWULA: Point of order, Sihlalo!

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Yi-order yani, hon Khawula kungeka khulumi nomuntu nje?

Ms M S KHAWULA: Awu, ngiyabonga mhlonishwa. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.)*

[The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): What point of order, hon Khawula, before anyone speaks?

Ms M S KHAWULA: Well, thank you, hon Chairperson.]

You see, when you ask what point of order, then we'll be in good terms. The hon member behind ... in KwaZulu-Natal when don't point a finger at a person. The hon member behind hon Skwatsha is holding

something in ... He has just put it down now. I just want to know what’s happening. It is a cup. I just saw lightning inside. Address it now and not today.

The CHAIRPERSON (Ms J Manganye): Proceed, hon member. I think it is your maiden speech.

Mr N P MASIPA: Yes. Hon Chairperson, I stand here today representing the aspirations of small emerging farmers in rural areas. They have lost their dignity. These farmers are faced with low yields, financial distress, lack of water and poor support from this department.

Their debts are piling up and there is no help. The past failures of this department give us little hope. Justice Mabena and Vhembe villagers are some of the victims of department’s failures. Justice Mabena from Gauteng sold his butchery to buy a 16-hectare plot. He farms only 1 hectare of the 16 hectares because of the lack of water. Poor quality soil meant more money on fertilizers to achieve decent yields. His proceeds from the sale of butchery went towards the drilling of boreholes, input costs and fencing of the property. No support was received from this department.

Vhembe villagers from the Masoma Irrigation Scheme are also facing difficulties due to failing support. Fifty three farmers farm on 79

hectares, where each member is allocated 1 hectare of land. These farmers share one set of poorly functioning irrigation.

The extension officer of your department claims their problem is poverty and old age. One day, an official from this department arrived on this farm. He randomly selected three farmers and planted some oranges for them. He promised to come back for training. However, they never saw him again.

The problems faced by these farmers are everywhere. However, the DA-led Western Cape government used these challenges to innovate. Due to the limited Casp, fund allocation from Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, DAFF, the DA-led government engaged the private sector and partnered with them to improve support to these farmers.

This support included technical, financial and extension services. The DA-led government initiated the first blended finance options, which we referred to as the public-private partnership model. [Applause.] This model has helped emerging farmers with pooled funding, technical expertise, cultivars and market access. Beneficiaries of this model are now thriving farmers. Since then, other models such as Hortfin and Partners in Agri-Land Solutions, Pals, were developed. Oom Ray Koopstad, who cannot be here today, is one of the beneficiaries of the models.

He said I must tell you, Minister, that public-private partnership is an ideal support mechanism that you need in this department. Other commercial farmers are developing great partnership models with their workers and previously disadvantaged individuals, but they need your support with a blended finance. The President, during state of the nation address, Sona, announced the R3,9 billion support for the black farmers. We have sadly learnt that the support has been suspended because some department officials misused the funds. Our farmers are struggling. This must stop.

The Casp and other funding allocations in your budgets are not going to be help you achieve your objectives. A proper public-private partnership that is incorruptible is required to solve the funding gap for the emerging farmers. The DA-led government has proven successes and is prepared to work with you. [Interjections.]

HON MEMBERS: Where?

Mr N P MASIPA: Here in the Western Cape, there are quick tried-and-tested tips to turn things around that we are giving this department for free. Collaborate with the private sector; don’t treat them as enemies; Improve extension services’ capacity; and work with commodity groups for technical support. Address water rights with your counterpart, Minister, to support the emerging farmers. Conduct proper rural village profile to ensure the provision of correct support for the farmers. Thank you. [Applause.]

Ms M M E TLHAPE: House Chairperson, hon Minister and Deputy Ministers, hon Members of Parliament, directors-general and senior managers, organised agriculture representatives, farmers, farm workers and fellow South Africans, I rise on behalf of the ANC to support Budget Votes 24 and 39.

The mandate of this department is captured but what President Ramaphosa has instructed us to do and, in fact, no person in South Africa should go hungry in the next 10 years. That is a bold plan and he believes it's achievable. We are debating here today two days before the birthday celebration of our icon, Tata Nelson Mandela, who in 2005, during his famous speech at the Make Poverty History rally in London Trafalgar Square said,

> Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the action of human beings.

We agree with Tata and President Ramaphosa that poverty can be eradicated, but what we need is our collective action as human beings entrusted with this responsibility. Our compass in this regard remains the National Development Plan as well as government policies and legislation as developed from ANC conference resolutions.

The portfolio committee remains pledged to hold the department accountable in a manner that will accord realization of Medium-Term Strategic Framework and the Annual Performance Plan targets for 2019-2020.

There is a saying that when you copy from an individual, it is plagiarism, but when you copy from many people, it is research. Now, this thing of land being an emotive issue started with us and we are no longer emotive now. We are saying we want the land back.

The majority of blacks who have been dispossessed of their land want their land back. Now, it cannot longer be an emotive issue. Because this is a research matter, hon Steyn, let me add to your pointers on your literature review for research. It is the ANC that started with policies of land reform and we will not waver them. [Interjections.]

HON MEMBERS: Yeah, yeah!

Ms M M E TLHAPE: We don’t need any advice on categories in dealing with expropriation of land without compensation.

The President has indicated that he is awaiting the advisory panel report that was led by the Deputy President and this will tabulate to us what we resolved on as the ANC, the mechanisms of implementation. So, we don’t need any categories.

Still for your research, let me give you pointers why we need to expropriate land without compensation, and I'll take this from what the Chairperson of tourism said when he debated the Budget Vote. It's for: One, reconciliation, healing and renewal; two, addressing the injustices of the past; three, dealing with poverty, unemployment and inequality and, because we are not a reckless organisation, we will do it orderly as the President has indicated following the Constitution.

On the issue of corruption, hon members, it is the ANC that is usually speaking out on this matter. The Minister has just said they are finalising the reports and they will fast-track implementation. In the portfolio committee - because we were all there - we have agreed that there's SIU report that must be brought before us and the implementation thereof for remedial action be taken.

Fela fa motho a re dipodi di a sisa, wa bo a bone tsa kwa gabo. [Legofi.]

Ke rata go raya lekoko la EFF ke re ba se ke ba nna di ila kgaka dinwa moro. A nna le lona re dumalane go fetisa tekanyetsokabo eno ka gonne e re kopanya ka dikgang tse di botlhokwa tseo e leng gore re na le bopaki ba tsone jaaka ntlha ya gore batho ba rona ba tlhoka lefatshe, batho ba rona ba tlhoka thuso, jalojalo. A re se ke ra nna bo seilakgaka senwa moro. *(Translation of Setswana paragraphs follows.)*

[But when a person says something, it means he has experienced it in his house. [Applause.]

I would like to say to the EFF that they must not be hypocrites. Let us support this budget because it connects us to the important news that we have evidence of - like the fact that our people need land, assistance, etc. Let us not be hypocrites.]

I will not quote the reports that we engaged with on issues because we all attended the portfolio committee. Maybe I must just say to the ACDP, don’t change your members that attend the portfolio committee for information sake. On the land that is lying fallow, we have agreed with the department when they presented the annual performance plan, APP, that bringing back fallow land and their target of 100 million hectares is not easy in the face of climate change and budget constraints, as the President has indicated. However, we support the merger of these two departments to pull resources together and work on such issues.

We said for the next 10 years we’ll focus on bringing this land that is lying fallow back into production as per our target. We have also agreed, hon Mbabama, that Agriculture Research Council, ARC, Onderstepoort biological products must continue to be at the forefront with innovation and research to deal with these issues that are challenges. Not only animal diseases but they must also develop smart agriculture technology that will improve on farm

productivity, deal with post-harvest losses, plant and animal diseases in light of the risk induced by climate change.

For the export markets, we will oversee - as this department - the rollout of African Continental Free Trade Agreement to expand our agricultural commodities markets throughout the continent. So, there is no crisis on export markets. We are in agreement; we have signed the agreement on the African and continental trade. We are also in agreement that our people are awaiting land and we are going to give back the land. We support the mergers - I have indicated - of the two departments to maximise their resources for supporting farmers' production and development. Adequate staffing and filling of vacancies in the provincial department unit dealing with land reform is very key and urgent in order for us to address the structural, institutional dynamics around Communal Property Associations, CPAs.

On rural development, the elephant in the room, hon members, remains household food security. Community surveys by Statistics SA have very interesting indicators in this regard. For example, they are dealing with households practising agricultural activities and 13,8% throughout the country ... and that cannot be correct; hence the President is appealing that nobody in South Africa must go hungry. They are dealing with distribution of households that skipped a meal because they did not have money. Now, we need creative and innovative ways, biased towards villages, townships and small towns to address issues of household food security.

On fisheries, the following needs to happen: We must allocate fishing rights to small-scale farmers here in the Western Cape; stop commercial companies from fronting and putting black names and people to get fishing rights; we must use our policy to ensure that people who live close to marine-protected areas derive living like they historically did, and allocation of rights must also be spread to other coastal provinces like KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape.

Hon Masipa, I want you to tell Justice Mabena that you are not willing to support us on giving land so that they can expand their butcheries and people farming on small pieces of land can benefit. You and I know the truth. Let’s help them and give the land back so that no six people should farm on 73 hectares of land.

The Budget Vote tabled by the Minister is responsive to the plight of black small-scale farmers, rural women, youth and people with disabilities. We support its approval by this House. The people have spoken; the ANC-led government has developed policies and legislation. So, we will not fail our organisation in conducting oversight. We will not only be swamped with reports in offices; we’ll go down to communities to see, listen, feel and touch the impact that this department is making to better our lives as the people of South Africa. #RainMustFall. I thank you. [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon members, thank you very much for your inputs on Budget Votes 24 and

39. They were very insightful and indeed we take criticisms where members have pointed out on the issues that we must address. We also acknowledge suggestions that have been made on how best we can improve.

If one were to ask, "What is our responsibility in this sixth administration, collectively as government and the legislature?" I would put it in three ways:

Firstly, I would say it's to fix and renovate. And fixing relates to the issues that members said we must deal with, of urgency on issues of staffing so that we have adequate capacity in our department at national and the provinces - the MECs are here and they've heard for themselves - as well as in our entities.

Secondly, I would say it's to re-imagine a new future, an inclusive agricultural sector in our country. Deal with the issues of land reform and land access. I'm happy that all of us, both the governing party and the opposition parties, have all acknowledged the need for resolving this legacy of our past. We may differ about how best we need to do it, but agreeing, we are, that our country will never go forward without the resolution of the land issue.

For me, this is and it must be a new conversation amongst South Africans. We don't need to fear the inevitable, but we can shape that future of an inclusive South Africa. And it is upon us,

particularly as the legislature, on how we craft that amendment to the Constitution. If we remember what the resolution of the NA said, it said we will amend section 25 to make explicit what may be implicit. Because there was an argument that there is already mechanism in the Constitution, why are you amending? There were those who were feeling that well, it might be but it's not quite clear. We need to make it clear. So, it is this responsibility that we all have, as members of the NA and the NCOP, to make what is implicit to be much more explicit.

And for me, if we have that conversation, as South Africans had that conversation last year, I don't think we can fail. Everybody thought that the sky was going to fall but it never fell. We went into the rooms across the country listening to our people. What are the challenges that we are facing with the pace of land reform in our country? And in many ways they pointed out where there were challenges - some of them were legislative; some were practical implementation, whilst others were issues of corruption. These are what our people said to us and they gave us a mandate on what to fix. And I don't think we should outsource that to anybody. As this legislature, we need to do it. [Applause.]

But as the Deputy Minister has highlighted, we are already preparing various scenarios. What are the things, therefore, that we need to do in order to ensure that, when the amendment happens, we stand ready to implement?

Thirdly, I would say is to live rich. Working in partnership with our producers, both small and big, and with our industry in the agricultural sector to ensure that we succeed.

And I like the point that was made by hon ... is it Masipa? That our partnership must not be corruptible, and I agree. Because even if we praise share equity schemes, we all know - seated here - if we've been doing our work, that there has been corruption; there has been instances where some land owners have inflated prices working in collusion at time with valuators, sometimes working with financial institutions and at times with our officials to ensure that they increase the value of the assets; and that is corruption. It doesn't matter whether it's done by the ... you know ... Western Cape government is promoting share equity schemes or national government. The truth is, even in those instances, we need to deal with the corrupt practices. [Applause.]

But at the same time, where such partnership happens, we also need to support our farm workers who are part of the schemes. You know, there are very sad situations where farm workers only know when the farms are in crisis that actually they were part owners. They were never told in the beginning. The farmer continued to farm as though these other people had no share in the enterprise. These are the fixes we have to do collectively.

I also want to say, with farmer support, we all agreed that we need to do it. That's why we said we will invest and reprioritise our budget to focus on those areas, both in terms of extension support and research, and reorientating our entities to actually support the sector collectively. We have also said - if you looked at the speech as we were tabling both the Minister as well as the Deputy Minister - It's how we will actually ensure that in the segmentation of our farmers, we support those rural farmers who have shown requisite skills in farming and those who have been given land either on Proactive Land Acquisition or even on restitution so that, that land becomes productive again. We have to do that as we have no choice.

I want to say, hon Steyn, farm security and rural safety is important, not only for the farmers but for rural communities as well as farmworkers because all of those comprise of a thriving rural economy. And I'm happy my colleague - Deputy Minister Mathale has now gone - but good work has been done; it might be slow. Six people have been condemned to life sentence by our courts as a result of the investigation and the work that was done by the police in responding to farm attacks. And we need to applaud that. [Applause.]

On the mater of the Land Courts, indeed hon member, Montwedi, the Inter-Ministerial Committee, IMC, in the fifth administration instructed the Minister of Justice and Minister of Land Reform to address this issue of the amendment of the Land Claims Court, the

permanence of that court so that there can be full-time members of the judiciary who sit in that court. But also to look at the scope of the Land Claims Court and whether we don’t need to expand it to be a Land Court so that we can develop jurisprudence on land matters that we don’t have in South Africa.

On other matters I would like to say thanks to my colleagues and particularly the members of the ANC and all other members of other parties for their inputs.

I want to say, you can’t separate the Minister and the Deputy Minister who are members of the ANC from their party. In finding the solution on the land question the ANC is equally at one with us to we have to resolve this matter collectively as South Africans I thank you. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

The mini plenary adjourned at 12:30.