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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
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PROCEEDINGS OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

The Council met at 10:01.

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

The Chairperson announced that the virtual sitting constituted a sitting of the National Council of Provinces.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much, hon members. We want to take this opportunity and thank the hon members, and we hope that you have rested during these holidays, and we say compliments to your good self. We wish you a fruitful 2026 in ensuring that we embark on our responsibility in the NCOP of ensuring that we better the lives of our people.

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As this NCOP, we also had an opportunity to witness and oversee the official announcement of the results by Minister Gwarube for the matric class of 2025. And we would like to commend them for the sterling work that they have done. We also want to indicate that we have also witnessed the official handover of Rust-Ter-Vaal Secondary School by hon Premier Panyaza, as well as our MECs, hon Matome and hon Kolobe. Those are the MECs that were engaged in this. That school, as we all know, it's a school that we prioritize during our provincial week site visits. And we want to kindly appreciate the work that has been done by this NCOP to hold the executive accountable. We want to indicate to the people of South Africa that we will continue doing our work so as to fulfil our mandate in ensuring that service delivery goes to the people. In that regard, we highly want to appreciate our delegates from Gauteng as well, and our Premier of the province for the prompt response in line with the resolutions of the House.

Having said that, hon members, we will proceed with the business of the day of the House. Once again, hon members, I want to take this opportunity and remind you that we will run this virtual sitting in line with the Rules of the House, and also indicate that sub-rule 21, 22 and 23 of Rule 103 shall apply in this sitting. I have also been informed that there

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are no notices of motions or motions without notice, except for the motion on the Order Paper. I want to take this opportunity now and call upon the Chief Whip of the Council to read the motion on the Order Paper. Over to you, hon Chief Whip.

MOTION

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP (Mr K M Mmoeimang): Chairperson, greetings to yourselves and hon members, both permanent and special delegates, on the platform, ...

Setswana:

... le baagi ba naga ya rona ka kakaretso.

English:

Allow me, Chairperson, to rise on the motion that the Council resolve that Rule 218(1), which provides inter alia that the consideration of a Bill may not commence before at least three working days have lapsed since the committee's report was tabled, be suspended for the purposes of consideration of Special Appropriation Bill [B22-2025] (National Assembly - section 77) and Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B27-2025]

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(National Assembly - section 77). I so move, hon Chairperson of the NCOP. Thank you.

Question put: That the Motion be agreed to.

Voting [TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

Motion agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

SITTING RULES

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon delegates, before we can proceed to voting on the Votes and Schedule to the Adjustment Appropriation Bill, I wish to remind you of the following: That each delegate, including special delegates, has one vote. And I heard earlier on, before we start with the sitting, the official has spoken to that effect that the special delegates that have been designated to attend the sitting today has equal voting right as the permanent delegates. Therefore, we humbly request that they vote by show of hand on the virtual platform. Those who are unable to do that, they can vote by indicating verbally. But if you did that, please don't also vote by show of hand because one person is eligible for one

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vote. So please, once again, I just want to state and put that in record that we really want to make sure that every process runs very smoothly in this regard.

Where there is no call for a division, a Vote shall be carried, and we shall proceed to the next Vote. Where a party wishes to object to a Vote, that objection shall be noted and there will be no need for a division. A delegate wishing to call for a division must draw to my attention to that effect. In terms of Rule 8, sub-rule 3, a call for a division must be supported by at least four delegates. And in accordance with Rule 81, when a division has been called, delegates who are outside the virtual platform will be given, in this respect, an opportunity to come back to the House. And we want to allow them 30 seconds to do just that. No delegate shall be allowed to access the House whilst the voting is in session.

Once the question is put, delegates on the virtual platform who wish to cast their votes must do so by using the raise hand button. Delegates must keep their hands raised until the voting closes. The procedural staff shall tally the votes for us and the host on the virtual platform shall lower all hands on the virtual platform after every Vote. If a delegate is disconnected from the virtual platform, and I know a member

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who struggles the most with that would be hon Billy. So I'm sure we wouldn't want to deny him an opportunity to cast his vote. There will have to be other ways and means in which he should be able to exercise his voting right as a member. That would be the process that we will follow through throughout the day. Hon members, we are now proceeding to the First Order, which is the Consideration of Votes and Schedule, the Adjustment Appropriation Bill.

CONSIDERATION OF VOTES AND SCHEDULES-ADJUSTMENTS APPROPRIATION

BILL

Vote No 1 - Presidency - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting)

Vote No 2 - Parliament - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 3 - Co-Operative Governance - put.

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Declarations of Vote:

Mr E NZIMANDE: Hon Chair, and good morning to hon members. The MK Party objects the Bill for it does not elevate and accord the required authority of traditional leaders on local government in the municipal government processes but coerce them to be conformist in the Eurocentric design institution.

There is no real value brought by the appropriate Bill, and consequently, the local sphere of government shall not be able to address water and sanitation infrastructure challenges, governance and capacity of municipalities. Recurring challenges having ... [Inaudible.] from poor planning and lack of oversight to deal with warning signs not addressed by the Bill. The Bill ought to have been unable ... [Interjections.] ... let me hide myself. Can I hide myself?

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon members, may I kindly request that when the speaker is on the floor, can we remain muted so that we allow him an opportunity to make his presentation? You can mute yourself, hon Nzimande. I can hear that you are struggling with the network.

Mr E NZIMANDE: Thank you, hon Chair. The recurring challenges having ... [Inaudible.] ... from poor planning and lack of

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oversight to deal with early warning signs shall not be addressed.

The Bill ought to be an enabler and not a panacea through genesis of the poor, service delivery, governance failure, incapacibilities and inability and absence of water service plans. The non-existence of water service development plans have a negative impact in ensuring that the present environmental factors and future water services need the operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of existing and future infrastructural adequate addresses citizenry needs and expectations.

Supporting this Bill is equivalent of supporting that our people continue to drink unsafe water mixed with sewer bucket system is good to continue for the black child. Non-driven water continues to increase owing to inadequate and maintenance of water infrastructure. Potholes in municipal roads increases.

Traditional leaders continue to be subject of the Eurocentric institution designed to make them inferior to the elected public. We refuse to be part of such a reckless conduct. We object.

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Thank you.

Dr I SCHEURKOGEL: Hon Chairperson, the Department Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, is a department that involves the lives of all South Africans. Local government touches every home, business or government institution. Collapsing municipalities have roads unrepaired, water and electricity disrupted for days, even years, refuse uncollected and sewage running in streets, putting our health at risk. These constraint investment and job creation.

When local government works, when basic services are provided efficiently and equitably, people's quality of life improves and the economy grows. The review of the 1998 White Paper on Local Government is the foundation on which local government reform rests.

Municipal performance has regressed terribly, and a modern, fit-for-purpose system and funding model is needed. The review must be finalised urgently so that we can agree on a new funding mechanism for local government that rewards professionalism and enforces consequences instead of throwing more money at corrupt councils.

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Over R5 billion was wasted on fruitless expenditure last year. Nearly R80 billion in municipal debt remains unpaid. Up to 40% of clean water is lost to leaks. Yet, incompetent officials face no consequences. Ring-fenced utilities and consequence management is essential. The slow pace of shop talk and roadshows delay legislation that is intended to fix broken local government.

The Intergovernmental Monitoring Support and Intervention Bill will provide targeted support, early warning systems and provide clear roles and timelines for interventions to be successful. In 2018, the DA warned that Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs had sat on it for five years. How many more municipalities must collapse?

Chairperson, the time for talk shops and workshops with no outcomes and targets should end. The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs must prioritise the finalising of the review of the White Paper on Local Government so that crucial legislations, like the Intergovernmental Monitoring Support and Intervention Bill, can be passed.

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The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs must send resources where they matter, to technical support, capacity building and oversight, not to conferences. Only then we can build municipalities that deliver services, attract investment and drive our economy. When local government works, the economy works.

I thank you, Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much, hon Scheurkogel for the declaration. I'm also told that the hon Peter, representing the UDM, would like to make a motion in this regard. Over to you, hon Peter. Hon Peter? Hon Peter, I'm affording you an opportunity.

Mr M M PETER: Hon Speaker, the UDM approaches this Budget Vote against the reality of a deep and dangerous collapse in basic service delivery across our municipalities. Where is this failure more visible and more harmful and more indefensible than in the province of water?

Water is essential to public health, economic activity, and human dignity. When municipalities fail to provide safe and

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reliable water, the state fails in its most basic constitutional duty.

Hon Chair, in Buffalo City, the water crisis has reached an alarming and unacceptable stage in Nxarhuni and Tshlomnqa, rural communities within the Buffalo City Metro Municipality. Household taps have not had water for years. Residents have been left without a dependable supply, forced to leave with uncertainty and indignity. At the same time, tests conducted on a tap water elsewhere in the metro have revealed contamination directly linked to failing storage water, storage infrastructure.

Approximately 25% of water coming out of taps in Buffalo City contain sewage alongside other harmful pollutants, a present and a serious and ongoing public health risk. The collapse of water treatment works lies at the centre of the crisis.

Buffalo City has 15 water treatment works, yet only three are functional. Several operate without the required licenses, while raw sewage continues to flow in the Buffalo City. The main water source for thousands of residents.

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This situation reflects years of neglect, poor maintenance and ineffective oversight. Despite this, the department continued to brief Parliament on turnaround plans submitted by municipalities.

The UDM is clear that plans alone do not repair infrastructure, do not stop sewage from contaminating water sources. and do not protect communities without firm intervention and consequence for failure. These plans will remain meaningless.

Hon Speaker, Johannesburg, the richest city in Africa, reflects the same pattern of decline. On a large scale, despite its economic strength, the city loses a significant volume of treated water through leaking pipes, illegal connection, and aligning infrastructure.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Peter, can you round up? Your time is up.

Mr M M PETER: Thank you, hon Chair. I am done.

Declarations of Vote cont:

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Mr T M KAUNDA: Hon Chair, I hope you can see me from the screen. Special greetings to His Excellency, the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, the hon Paul Mashatile, all office bearers of our National Council of Provinces present, special delegates and permanent delegates. We are saying to all of you, compliments of the new season.

Hon Chairperson, I hope this House will join me in congratulating KwaZulu-Natal as a province for having been declared the number one province in the country with the grade 12 matric results that were produced in the past two days. The province has done very well in terms of quantity, the number of students registered as well as the fields where all streams produced quantitative results. I think we are congratulating this province for having done well and it's reflected on good governance.

Hon Chairperson, cooperative governance remains one of the most important pillars of our democracy. Local government is the closest sphere of government to the people, and it is at a cold face of service delivery in delivering basic services.

If people experience less of local government, it means they have no sense of government at all. Thus, it is important that

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we take care of local government and ensure that the people begin to have a positive view of government through local government and its performance.

We wish to commend His Excellency Deputy President for leading from the front in terms of dealing with the turnarounds in turning the municipalities around so that they become more responsive to the aspirations of South Africans.

In the past few years, climate change disasters have been devastating, resulting into unprecedented infrastructure damages that impacted negatively on the people's livelihoods. Moreover, these disasters in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and other provinces have disturbed local government ability to serve the people since municipalities had to do their adjustment budget to respond in this aspect of life.

This adjustment Bill, for the right reasons, has focused on allocating funds in infrastructure projects that are aimed at rehabilitating and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure during the floods that affected these two provinces and other provinces.

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The ANC sees this as a significant step that shows the seriousness of this government in fixing local government. We are hopeful that the process of reviewing the White Paper and the funding of municipalities will be expedited so that municipalities will be turned around. In this house, local government is represented.

Thank you very much, Hon Chair, I submit.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Before we proceed to the next vote, let me also take this opportunity to welcome hon Deputy President Mashatile, who is here with us today. We really appreciate your presence, hon Deputy President, as well as in your capacity as the leader of government.

You are more than welcome to be part of this sitting, as you are always with us all the time. We really and truly appreciate your presence.

Thank you very much, Deputy President.

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Vote No 4 - Government Communication and Information System-
put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe
Party dissenting).

Vote No 5 - Home Affairs - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr S A ZULU: Chairperson, the MK party rejects this Home
Affairs budget because it rewards failure instead of fixing
it. Let us be clear about the failures of the Department of
Home Affairs.

Firstly, the chronic service delivery failure, South Africans
queue from dawn, sleep outside offices and wait months,
sometimes years for identity documents, IDs, passports, birth
and death certificates. A state that cannot issue an identity
document is a state that has failed at its most basic duty.

Secondly, the collapse of the immigration and asylum system,
this fuels illegality, exploitation and social tension, yet
government blames immigrants instead of its own incompetence.

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Thirdly, corruption and weak consequence management, officials implicated in fraud, bribery and document syndicates remain in the system. There are fewer arrests, fewer prosecutions and almost no accountability.

Now, the Government of National Unity, GNU comes with a budget that does not confront any of this. No radical capacity building, no serious investment, no urgency. This is not a project for reform; it is a project for managed dysfunction.

The MK party rejects this budget because it does not serve the people, it does not secure the state, and it does not restore dignity. A broken department cannot be fixed with a broken budget.

I thank you, hon Chairperson. We reject this budget.

Ms A MATSHOBENI: Greetings to the hon Chair Mtshweni-Tsipane, hon members, special delegates. Chairperson, the EFF rejects the Budget Vote for the Department of Home Affairs. The Department of Home Affairs and its entities are collapsing due to mismanagement, chronic underfunding and a so-called digital revolution that exists only on paper, while our people continue to suffer in queues that stretch for hours.

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We reject this budget as residents from communities such as Mbhashe still struggling to access basic services from Home Affairs offices. This is particularly so in Idutywa, where the Idutywa branch is without offices and has instead a mobile truck which is used to move around to other districts.

The truck sometimes goes for days to other districts, which means that residents of Idutywa are not served on such days. As we understand, our communities are so vast, for one to arrive at Home Affairs, you must take three taxis to get to home affairs. Just imagine.

This mobile truck also faces other challenges, such as limited resources and shortage of essential equipment, and as a result, they cannot issue a smart card. They only assist with registration, and a person must travel to another nearby town to get their IDs and passports. And due to lack of office spaces, there is also no space where the staff can store their files.

In the Willowvale office, there are currently only three office workers, and as a result, they have divided their working hours partly among themselves to break them down to ease the workload. There is also no immigration officer

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inside, meaning that the existing staff members have to double up and do the work of an immigrant officer.

The EFF rejects the budget of a department which is out of consequence management, lacks modern information, communications and technology, ICT infrastructure, and has a lack of immigration services. Hon Chairperson, the people of South Africa deserve a Home Affairs that works, not a department trapped in excuses and audit regressions.

Thank you, Chairperson.

Declarations of Vote cont.

Mr M BILLY: Chairperson, good morning again to your good self and to the hon members. Hon Chairperson, the DA supports the Adjustment Appropriation Bill as it relates to the Department of Home Affairs, because these allocations are finally being used to fix a department that was systematically broken under the ANC government.

For years, Home Affairs was defined by collapsing systems, endless queues, identity fraud, corruption, and porous borders. This was not accidental, Chairperson. It was the

direct result of ANC neglect, cadre deployment, and the collapse of accountability.

Chairperson, that decline is now being reversed, under the leadership of the Minister, Minister Dr Leon Schreiber, we are seeing real progress being made. We are seeing the digitisation of core services coming into place by incorporating banks, expanding the services, a move away from corrupt manual systems, improved turnaround times, and renewed efforts to restore the integrity of South Africa's borders and immigration system, again which has been broken over the past 30 years by the ANC government.

Hon Chairperson, these reforms matter because Home Affairs is the gateway to the state. When it fails, the entire systems fail, from elections and policing to social services and economic participation.

Chairperson, the funds before us are therefore not just adjustments on paper. They are about correcting historic damage, properly resourcing digitisation, strengthening border management after years of neglect, and permanently dismantling systems that enabled corruption.

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It is welcomed and we should celebrate that the Border Management Authority, BMA will finally be receiving additional funding, a department or an entity that has been collapsed by defunding. Chairperson, this we must welcome strongly.

Chairperson, the DA is clear. We will not defend waste, and we will not excuse failure, but where funding supports genuine reform, improved governance and long-term savings for the state, we will support it.

Chairperson, this progress is happening despite the ANC's historical stewardship, not because of it. The contrast is clear. When the DA governs systems work, when the ANC governs, they collapse. For these reasons and firm expectations of strict oversight and measurable outcomes, the DA supports this Bill.

I thank you.

Adv Ink M NONKONYANA: Chairperson and hon members, I salute everyone present, including our Deputy President. The ANC, as the only people's movement in this House, supports and welcomes the Adjustment Appropriations Budget Vote No 5 for

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the Department of Home Affairs, for the reasons contrary to what EFF and DA have said.

The ANC has been in the forefront of making sure that the services to our people, especially to the downtrodden, are delivered. The adjustment therefore will contribute towards digitisation and human resource capacity of the department.

Chair, our firm belief is that the digitisation and human capacity of Home Affairs will contribute to the efficiency of provisions of this department to the people. We are aware that our people have long raised concerns regarding the long queues at Home Affairs offices.

Even though the adjustment appropriations may not be at the desired level to address the challenges in Home Affairs, we are hopeful that in addition to human resource capacity, the digitisation program will contribute to the speedy provision of Home Affairs services to the people.

We also appreciate that the appropriation of funds to the Border Management Authority has positively contributed to this country's hosting of G20 Summit last year, and the first G Summit in the African continent.

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The ANC supports the Adjustment Appropriations Budget Vote No 5 for the Department of Home Affairs. We must make it clear that the Minister who oversees this department, although he is a DA Minister, has been appointed by the ANC and is implementing programmes that are influenced by the policies of the ANC that has been ruling this country for the past 30 years.

We are determined to watch him, and he is implementing what we want. If he is not delivering what we want, we will not hesitate to recall him from that post. I want to make it clear to the hon Billy and others that we don't have a department run by the DA in this country. We are run by the Minister that has been appointed by the Government of National Unity, which is led by the ANC.

The ANC therefore supports this Budget Vote and will ensure that, of course, this department is run properly in line with the policies of our movement to deliver a better life to all the people of South Africa.

Thank you, Chair.

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Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 6 - International Relations and Co-Operation put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr S A ZULU: Hon Chairperson, what the United States did to Venezuela was a violation of the United Nations, UN Charter and international rule of law. The MK party condemns the illegal invasion of Venezuelans territorial sovereignty for oil, land and resources theft.

The MK party mourns the senseless murder of innocent Venezuelans and Cubans to force regime change as part of your other strategy to reimpose colonialism through military force across the Western Hemisphere, Middle East and Africa under the renamed Tandoori doctrine.

The United States President's colonial ambitions are now clear and from day one has been against South Africa, falsely accused South Africa of the now widely debunked white genocide. This anti-South African narrative can be used as a justification for American intervention in South Africa sovereign affairs.

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The MK party therefore welcomes the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Brics naval Will for Peace joint exercises and thanks China, Russia and Iran for participating to defend peace and justice to a forced projection and physical military deterrence against United States military action and colonial aggression against South Africa.

The MK party decries the following of SA National Defence Force, SANDF by ANC general government with eight years of budget cuts resulting in South Africa having no credible air, sea or land to defend. That is not incompetence. That is exposure. The MK party will reverse this completely.

Thank you so much, Chairperson.

Ms J S MANANISO: Hon Chairperson, hon members, this vote before the House affirms our country's principled commitment to international relations grounded in multilateralism, solidarity and the pursuit of a just and equitable global order.

Hon members, the allocation under transfers and subsidies to foreign governments and international organisations are a clear expression of South African foreign policy orientation.

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Our contributions to international bodies such as the United Nations Development Programme, the SA Development Community and the Commonwealth of Nations are not discretionary expenditure. They are strategic instruments that enable South Africa to advance peace, development and collective action in a rapidly changing international system.

Chairperson, our membership fees and operational contribution to SA Development Community, SADC reinforce regional integration, political stability and economic cooperation in South Africa. In a region facing shared challenges of underdevelopment, insecurity and climate vulnerability, SADC remains a vital platform for coordination responses and African solutions to African challenges.

Similarly, our continued engagement with the United Nations system, particularly through the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, strengthens South-to-South cooperation, supports sustainable development initiatives and aligns with our national development priorities.

Through this multilateralism platform, South Africa amplifies the voice of development countries and advances a development

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agenda that places people, equality and sustainability at its centre.

Hon members, our participation in the Commonwealth of Nations, who modest in financial terms, carries diplomatic and historic significances. It provides a platform for dialogue, cooperation and reforms, particularly on issues of development, finance, governance and the reform of global institutions.

Chairperson, in an international environment characterised by geopolitical tensions, unilateralism and growing inequality between the Global North and the South and South Africa's complement, multilateralism institution in both necessary and principled.

This allocation ensures that our country remains an active and credible participant in shaping pro-violence, defending international law and promoting peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Hon embers, this vote therefore sustains the South African diplomatic strength and regional and global partnership and advances our foreign policy objectives in line with our

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constitutional vision. For these reasons, as the ANC we support this vote.

I thank you.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 8 - National Treasury - put.

Declarations of votes:

Mr J S MAJOLA: Madam Chairperson, greetings to the members of this House.

Madam Chairperson, before I declare Vote No 8, can I request to declare it with my camera off because of the network connectivity.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: That is fine hon Majola. You may proceed.

Mr J S MAJOLA: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In declaring this Vote, the MK party believe that the National Treasury is an engen of the institution.

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Further, the MK party believe that the National Treasury should reflect a strong revenue collection and invest through the appropriation processes on an item of a developed nature.

Madam Chairperson, we further believe that the National Treasury should strive to address three critical challenges as a target contained in the National Development Plan, NDP, 2030 which are inequality, poverty and unemployment.

Madam Chairperson, the reality is that we are struggling in both real gross domestic product, GDP, growth, and also in terms of the economic growth as per the 2024 annual report. The reality is that we are sitting at above 30% and unemployment rates which declares South Africa as the highest unemployment country in the world. While we are facing the high unemployment rate, the Social Relief of Distress Grant provided to our poor as a relief measure, R380,00 Social Relief of Distress Grant is far below to the current inflation consumer rate.

Madam Chairperson, as the MK party, we reject this Vote as it does not put the money where the mouth is. The largest single item of the expenditure of R380 billion allocated to the debt

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services cost above the priority items like the Police, education and health.

Madam Chairperson, we were fully aware that the National Treasury will adjust this Vote arising from the three versions of the tabling of the Budget during the budget period. Therefore, Madam Chairperson the MK party reject this, Vote. Thank you.

Ms M SIWISA: Hon Chairperson, greetings and compliments of the new season. Hon Chairperson, the EFF reject the Budget Vote of the National Treasury which has a mandate and the responsibility to promote economic growth to ensure fiscal stability, yet the National Treasury has not met their own mandate and objective when it comes to its Budget. We reject the Budget of a department which is responsible for more than 15 entities, yet Parliament barely knows what is happening inside most of them.

These entities include the Public Investment Corporation, Financial Intelligence Centre, Government Technical Advisory Centre, SA Special Risk Insurance Association and the Land Bank amongst others. Yet year-after-year these entities table glossy annual reports but very little interrogation but when

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we know more about the failures of municipalities than what we do about institutions handling trillions of rand and central to the country's financial governance.

This Budget does not address the issue of economic growth, nor does it speak to the township economy that ensures employment for people with no skills or limited skills or citizens that run Small Medium and Micro Economies, SMMEs. Weak economic growth has seen the economy not growing fast enough to meet government spending and the continuous rising debt. Without addressing the unemployment matter there is no guarantee that there will be any increasing tax collection as the state will still depend on the same citizens that are already strained by the high cost of living and living under the poverty line.

Despite the SA Revenue Service requesting an increase in Budget to ensure an increase in revenue collection, they have failed to meet their planned target. Revenue collection is still lagging with a shortfall of R22 billion, and we cannot ignore government debt that has ballooned to R5,3 trillion when the debt services cost the largest item in the National Treasury.

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Hon Chairperson, we need to implement budget reforms, enhance revenue collection and manage the expenditure.

As the EFF we have always being vocal in advocating for a budget that does not put our people through poverty. We advocated for a budget that is not an austerity measure put in place to promote an elite privileged group that only cares about their bank balances and not service delivery. As such hon Chairperson, the EFF unapologetically reject this Budget Vote of the National Treasury. Thank you very much.

Ms S NDHLOVU: Greetings to yourself hon Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, NCOP and the Deputy President of the country and hon members on the platform. Infrastructure is an important element of driving economic development and meeting the different social and economic needs of the people. The government made an observation in relation to the state of infrastructure in most urban areas which have been neglected over the period.

To optimise economic activity in metros government introduced an Urban Development Financing Grant which targets strengthening the provision of various basic services which are traded by municipalities such as water, electricity,

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sanitation and waste. These services are important for cities and their people. A weakness in basic services can negatively impact investment and lower the level of development in arrears.

Hon Chairperson, with the increasing population in metro areas and an increase in illegal immigrants, a number of basic services have been negatively impacted increasing maintenance demands for infrastructure. Without sufficient maintenance of infrastructure in line with the life cycle of the development infrastructure the reliability and quality of the provision of basic services are undermined.

The government is currently implementing various mechanisms to ramp up maintenance and infrastructure investment through increasing a number of public private partnerships which should crowd in financial sector allocation to increase the impact of interventions to resolve challenges impacting various trading services.

Trading services are also critical in revenue generation of metros, and their efficient management also translates to improve basic services provision and revenue collection as residents become satisfied with government services. The

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adjustments of appropriation allocated R2 billion for the Urban Development Financing Grant which should contribute to strengthening trading services in line with the objective of Operation Vulindlela reforming the manner in which metro managed infrastructure to have a more integrated approach.

The allocated funds will help increase the inflow of the private sector investment in metros that comply with the condition of a reformed model of managing the projects and infrastructure life cycle. With that hon Chairperson, the ANC supports this Budget Vote. Thanks.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 9 - Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 10 - Electricity and Energy - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

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Vote No 11 - Public Service and Administration - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 12 - Public Service Commission - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 13 - Public Works and Infrastructure - put.

Declarations of votes:

Ms M MAKESINI: Hon Chairperson, complements of the new season. Greetings to the members. Chairperson, I have a problem with my gadget for the camera. If you allow me to continue without the camera.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: If we can just see your face hon Makesini before I allow you to switch off your camera.

Ms M MAKESINI: Alright, Mama.

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The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you so much. You can switch off the camera. Thanks.

You can switch off your gadget, hon Makesini and switch on your mic.

Hon Makesini, you can continue.

Ms M MAKESINI: Thank you very much. The mic is now working.

The EFF categorically rejects the Budget Vote of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure as it ceases to be an instrument for the development and transformation that has instate become a weapon of economic suffocate for black-owned companies. The Department of Public Work and Infrastructure has positioned itself as a brutal administrative executioner using deregistration and exclusion as a blunt instrument against the emerging black contractors while failing to decisively confront the real architects of corruption who loot the public resources with political protection. This selective application of the clean governance has nothing but institutionalise the economic racism.

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We ask the fundamental question of how fair is justice if it punishes the entire black companies through deregistration without proper due process and transparency and rehabilitation of mechanisms while political connected in cities continue to operate without impunity.

Chairperson, the current approach does not fight corruption it destroys the livelihoods and collapse the small business and deepening the black poverty.

The EFF is not defending corruption, we are demanding a fair and lawfulness transformative consequences. Corrupt companies must be investigated, Chairperson, through credible forensic processes afforded due process and where wrongdoing is proven individuals must be criminally charged and assets must be recovered.

The collective punishment through the mass deregistration without support for compliance and correction of this is counterrevolutionary and is antitransformation.

Chairperson, we reject the Budget Vote of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure has failed to build and maintain public infrastructure with dignity and efficiency and

protect the growth of black contractors while the radical economic transformation acts inconstantly and transparency in combating corruption. Use procurement as a tool for inclusive economic participation instead of this Chairperson, we also observed the gatekeeping for exclusion and enforcing the bureaucratic violence against the black enterprises while preserving a white monopoly capital and the politically connected elites.

Chairperson, with these words we reject the budget of public works. Thank you very much.

Mr F J BADENHORST: Hon Chairperson, I wish to place on record the DA's firm support for this Vote and to commend the decisive leadership of the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure Dean Macpherson for his role in stabilising and reforming South Africa's construction and public infrastructure sector. After three consecutive quarters of decline the latest data from Statistics SA confirms that the construction industry has returned to growth recording a positive 0,1% expansion along the creation of approximately a 130 000 jobs in a single quarter.

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This is not accidental nor cyclical luck, it is early but measurable outcome of deliberate reform, improved governance and renewed focus on delivery.

Under Minister Macpherson's leadership long-standing structural weaknesses are being addressed. Stronger procurement oversight, decisive action against nonperforming contractors, the reduction of construction mafia disruptions, improved project preparation through Infrastructure SA and a clear drive to unblocked steel projects have begun restoring confidence across the sector. For the first time in many years both the output and employment are moving in the right direction.

Central to this turnaround is the SA Construction Action Plan, Sacap, endorsed nationally at the 2025 National Construction Summit. The Sacap provides a clear practical roadmap to professionalise the sector, enforce accountability, improve cashflow, modernise procurement, digitalise project tracking and strengthen governance across the entire infrastructure delivery chain. It is a shift from excuses to execution. While challenges remain, the direction is unmistakable. Construction is a powerful engine for job creation and economic growth. Under this reform agenda it is once again beginning to fulfil that role. I therefore fully support Minister Macpherson's

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efforts and call on all spheres of government and industry partners to back the implementation of Sacap so that early gains translate into sustaining growth, jobs and reliable infrastructure for communities across the whole of South Africa. Thank you, Chairperson.

Ms T I LEGWASE: Hon Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, NCOP, as the ANC we wish to declare our support albeit the concerns for the Public Works and Infrastructure Budget Adjustment Appropriation Bill No 13. Infrastructure and public works are essential to the socioeconomic growth of South Africa and its provinces.

In addition to resolving historical injustices leftover apartheid era design they serve as a foundation for service delivery, economic expansion and spatial transformation. In order to promote development and raise citizens standards of living, the provincial governments, national agencies and municipalities needs to collaborate mostly relying on infrastructure and investment.

We do, however, wish to raise critical concerns on the lack of improvement in funding because of already existing challenges in our departments and entities.

The Property Management Trading Entity, PMTE, is one example where we are faced with sizable property portfolio valued at billions. Many of these facilities are underutilised, poorly managed causing other departments to pay more for private leasing.

Additionally, the PMTE has large deficits that calls into doubt the sustainability of its operational paradigm.

Infrastructure SA faces inadequate project co-ordination and delivery where we have seen in our provinces a significant percentage of planned infrastructure projects that are still in early stages of planning and implementation hampered by delays, inadequate cost control and disjointed responsibility. This affects efficiency and quality of critical infrastructure in diverse sectors.

Decreases in budgetary expenditure towards the Expanded Public Works Programme is a grate concern as there has been continued experiences in governance oversight with reports showing inadequate monitoring and assessment system as well as disproportionate advantages go more to train providers and not to employees.

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Failures and transparency have occasionally been compromised by political meddling and favouritism in hiring. There is continued mismatch between training and skills. Although we agree with the critical skills development programmes, training occasionally does not match the demands of the labour market. Inconsistent implementation across areas results in desperate outcomes for participants. I thank you, hon Chairperson.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 14 - Statistics South Africa - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 16 - Basic Education - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Ms L P MHLONGO: Chair, and compliments of the season. With your permission, Chair, am I able to switch off my video due to network issues?

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The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: That's fine, hon member.

Ms L P MHLONGO: Thank you so much. Okay, as the MK Party, we do reject the budget for the Basic Education. Education is not a mere social service, but a constitutional right, an investment, a foundation for every South African child. Section 2 of the Constitution guarantees every child the right to education. Millions of learners are still in crowded classrooms. No reliable electricity, no textbooks, proper sanitation, the list is endless.

The learning crisis, reading and writing, mathematics and science threaten South Africa's future, and the education system is dismally failing. Posts are not being filled, and students are without educators. Technology is taking over the whole world, but we see no transition with our education, exposing our future generation to being subjected to more poverty and job losses.

Looking at our infrastructures, the school buildings are unsafe and falling apart. Cold and rainy days mean no school with all the broken windows and broken doors. Many schools still contain asbestos. Children and educators inhale the fibre every single day and are at risk of lung disease and

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cancer. The huge gap between the rural and urban schools remains a critical concern. Rural areas and locations suffer because of their postal codes, and funds never reach them.

The system has failed, and with no proper planning and consequence management, the education system will surely collapse. The recommendations by the AG are never implemented, and yet there are no accountabilities. The people of South Africa remain objects of the chess game, as uMkhonto weSizwe fighting for every African child, the seed of this nation. We therefore reject the budget of the basic education. Thank you.

Ms J M ADRIAANSE: Honourable Chairperson, the Democratic Alliance places on record its clear support for strengthening Basic Education as a national priority.

We support a system that delivers quality learning, strong foundations in Literacy and Numeracy, safe and functional schools, and supported accountable educators. We affirm that success in education is not measured solely by-pass-rates, but also by learner retention throughout the schooling journey, by meaningful access to gateway subjects, such as Mathematics and Physical Science, which can significantly impact future opportunities. Expanding access to gateway subjects must go

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hand-in-hand with strengthening foundational learning, so that learners are prepared to succeed and not set up to fail.

This adjustment adds funding to the important early childhood development programme and is in line with Minister Gwarube's vision of ensuring that focus is placed on the entire education process, and not only on matric results. We support reforms that prioritise early intervention, protect learner support programmes, and strengthen accountability at provincial and district level. Our support is firmly grounded in the proper use of resources and clear consequences for underperformance.

Through the NCOP, the Democratic Alliance commits to rigorous oversight to ensure every learner is retained, supported, and given a fair opportunity to succeed and thrive. We further acknowledge and support the innovative steps being taken to stabilise the system and provide South Africans with quality basic education. I thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Honourable Feni! Is hon Feni on the platform? Hon Feni, can you make a declaration?

Mr M S PHEEDI (Limpopo): Hello

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The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Feni, can you make a declaration?

Mr M S PHEEDI (Limpopo): You mean Pheedi. Maybe I'm the wrong one who's answering here.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): It's Feni, not Pheedi. Sorry, yes, it's Feni.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Okay, that's fine. Hon members, we don't have hon Feni. We shall proceed with the proceedings. Accordingly, I want to indicate that this vote has been agreed to, and I'm informed that the EFF and the MK Party have since tendered their objection in this regard.

Declarations of votes made on behalf of the uMkhonto weSizwe Party and Democratic Alliance.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 17 - Higher Education and Training -put

Declarations of Vote:

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Ms L P MHLONGO: Hon Chair, as uMkhonto weSizwe, the persistent underfunding of the TVET and NSFAS poses a serious threat to South Africa's education system. The inadequate budget allocation has resulted in structural failure, outdated equipment, a shortage of qualified lecturers, and compromised student support services within the TVET colleges.

NSFA's delayed allowances have led to growing uncertainty for students, placing many at risk of exclusion. Many of our young women have resorted to prostitution in order to secure a meal for the day as they struggle through the crisis of being underfunded and delayed payment. TVET colleges play a huge role in the economy as they provide skills and also produce entrepreneurs.

The class of 2025, we applaud the KZN for their outstanding results. But looking at the class of 2025, we have around 927 000 learners who wrote the National Senior Certificate exam and more than 760 000 learners passed. The 345 000 passed with the bachelor's passes and qualified for university, but unfortunately, our public universities can only absorb up to 230 000. Meaning all the bachelors pass will not secure placement. Unemployment scale goes up.

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Higher education is not an option, but it is essential for building an inclusive economy, reducing youth and unemployment and securing South Africa's future. Gwaza Mkhonto, we reject. Thank you.

Mr M F MOKWELE: Chairperson, hon members in this august House, special greetings to the ever-present Deputy President of the country, hon Paul Mashatile. I rise on behalf of the ANC to speak to the aspirations of the young people across our country and provinces, guided by the revolutionary call of the ANC Youth League and the Student Section Conference of 1982, and I quote: Fight, Produce and Learn. We reaffirm our commitment to access, discipline and transformative education. The ANC 55th National Conference correctly identified the widespread abuse of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme and persistent delays in disbursement to students. The conference also resolved to expand access to higher education for the poor and the working class while decisively addressing administrative inefficiencies and governance failure with the same scheme.

The reports presented to this House clearly demonstrate funding allocation for the Post-School Education and Training, PSET, sector is not sufficient for the planned targets and

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realities on the ground. Therefore, creating a substantial shortfall that impacted more than 140 000 students in the Technical and Vocational Education and Training sector, the underfunding against set target further excluded thousands of deserving students. These figures underscore the system pressure confronting the student funding model.

We further note with concern the R40 billion in the outstanding and uncollected student loans alongside the projected budget deficit of nearly R14 billion. These pressures are compounded by the rising cost of living which has expanded eligibility criteria and placed additional strain on the system of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme is under threat. Urgent interventions are required to stabilise funding and strengthen loan recovery mechanism and enforce accountability. The future of our youth and the national development depend on the sustainable, efficient, and corrupt free student funding system. As the ANC, we support the Bill and the means to advancing access to ... [Time expired.] I thank you.

Declarations of votes made on behalf of the uMkhonto weSizwe Party and African National Congress.

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Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters, Freedom Front Plus and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 18 - Department of Health - put and agreed to.

Vote No 19 - Department of Social Development - put and agreed to.

Vote No 20 - Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities - put.

Declarations of vote:

Ms L P MHLONGO: Chair, I rise as the MK party, as the voice of the unemployed youth, women who are subjected to abuse and disabled persons. South African youth unemployment rate is among the highest in the world, far above the overall national unemployment. This reflects ongoing structural issues in the labour market, education to work transition gaps and limited job creations. Entrepreneurial skills learnership need to be promoted to help fight the high rate of unemployment and curb poverty. Many of our youth resort to crime, drugs and prostitution and that is a parent's reality in South Africa.

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Women are subjected to abuse every day and being murdered not by the stranger they expect but by their loved ones. Women are subjected to limitations and often their voices are not heard. Persons with disabilities are too often excluded from schools, workplace, transport systems and public life. Disability is not an ability, barriers are. Universal access needs to be ensured, inclusive education, accommodation and employment opportunities so that they are not left behind.

The Constitution commits us to human dignity, equality and freedom for all. The principles must be made real in budgets, policies and programmes. Inclusion must not be treated as an add-on; it must be central development. By empowering youth, advancing women and including persons with disabilities, we are not helping minorities, we are strengthening the nation. Therefore, as the MK, we reject. Thank you, Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much, hon Mhlongo. We are proceeding to the declaration of the ANC in the name of the hon Masumpa. Over to you, hon Masumpa. Hon Masumpa, it is your turn to make a declaration. Yes, you can proceed, hon Masumpa. We can see you. Hon Masumpa, you are not audible. We can't hear a thing from you. Hon Masumpa? She is not audible.

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Hon members, we can't hear you. [Interjections.] Okay, you can proceed.

Ms S MASUMPA: Okay. Chairperson, thank you very much. In 2025, when the Appropriation Bill was presented, the Department of Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities praised the Minister of Finance for addressing some of their demands. We know the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, was in the process of recruiting and now a fully functional board in place with an operational budget dedicated to addressing youth inclusion in the economy. The National Council of Gender-Based Women previously had a secretariat with an operational budget of R5 million. Currently, the National Assembly has initiated the process of appointing board members to the council with interviews scheduled to begin soon.

The ANC acknowledges the work accomplished thus far, regarding people with disabilities, especially children attending schools. We must prioritise oversight to ensure their well-being, both at school and at home, where they receive care. While the current adjustment Bill does not ... [Inaudible.] ... we would like to see increased budget allocation to enhance the department's programme and promote greater economic inclusion and protection.

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We acknowledge the employment targets for people with disabilities have not yet been fully met. However, we are encouraged by the progress made in prioritising the fight against gender-based violence and femicide, as well as the collaboration between the NYDA and sector education and training authorities, Seta, to equip youth with skills and promote entrepreneurship. The agency and this House will continue to exercise oversight through local government representatives to ensure that all municipalities actively support the department's programme that guarantees that no one is left behind, especially those in remote areas. Thank you, Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much, hon Masumpa. That was her maiden speech in the House in a form of a declaration. Thank you very much once again, hon Ms Masumpa.

Vote agreed to.

Vote No 21 - Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

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Vote No 22 - Correctional Services - put

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 23 -Defence - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr M M MAMPURU: Chairperson, we need to make it clear that as the EFF, we categorically, without fail, reject this adjustment budget. This happened, that while only 50% of the SA National Defence Force, SANDF, is combat ready, which poses a security threat to the people of South Africa and the South African sovereignty. This happened under the leadership of the ANC and DA grand coalition, which is termed the Government of National Unity, GNU, who they do not see anything wrong with them underfunding the SA Defence Force. We are saying this, that there is a lack or no maintenance or poor maintenance to the armoured vehicles of the SA Defence Force, including the logistical supply which the SA Defence Force is being subjected to.

This comes after we have witnessed an incident which happened in Mpumalanga over the festive season, where an SANDF vehicle

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was swept into the river, simply because the car itself was not roadworthy, the tyres were worn off, and the brakes were not working.

As a result, this tells us that the ANC-DA grand coalition, termed GNU, have done nothing but deteriorate the status of the SA Defence Force. It also leads to say that Minister Angie Motshekga appointment as the Minister of Defence Force has reduced the capacity which the SANDF had previously as the owner and also the superpower of African military. As such, Chairperson, the EFF reject this budget. I thank you.

Mr P PHALA (Limpopo): Hon Chair, my apology. The network is failing me. Can you give me ... I'm just organising myself, wherever I am.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Yes, you can proceed, hon Phala. I was actually about to declare the Vote.

Mr P PHALA (Limpopo): Good morning, hon members.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Phala, please do proceed. We can hear you. Your time is running out.

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Mr P PHALA (Limpopo): Thank you very much. Hon members of the National Council of Provinces, the Defence Force before this House reflect a clear commitment to strengthening SA Defence capability and ensuring that South Africa's National Defence Force remains fit for purpose in a complex and involving security environment.

The allocation of approximately R1,9 billion with a strong emphasis on capital assets, particularly through the Special Defence Account, is a positive and necessary intervention. It enables the continued acquisition and upgrading of key weapons, systems, and defence technology, which are essential for improving the operational readiness and maintaining core defence capabilities.

Chair, we welcome the support provided to the Armaments Corporation of South Africa, ARMSCOR, whose role in acquisition, maintenance, disposal services, and defence research remains strategic. A capable ARMSCOR underpins a sovereign defence capability, supports the domestic defence and industry, and contributes to the long-term sustainability and skill development.

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It is acknowledged that the defence sector continues to operate under financial and operational pressures, including the ageing equipment constraints maintenance capacity.

However, this Vote provides an important platform to stabilise critical capabilities and to begin addressing these challenges in a structured and a responsible manner. A functional and credible Defence Force is essential not only for safeguarding the sovereignty, but also for enabling South Africa's contribution to peace, support operations, border safeguarding, maritime security, and disaster response. These roles have direct relevance for provinces and communities across the country.

This Council therefore supports a gradual and sustained recapitalisation of the SANDF, building on the investment contained in this Vote, and align with long-term defence planning and fiscal stability.

In conclusion, Chair, the direction of this Defence Vote is sound. It balances immediate capability needs with long-term renewal and provides a constructive basis for strengthening our Defence Force for these reasons.

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As the ANC, we support this Vote. Thank you very much,
Chairperson.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe
Party dissenting).

Vote No 24 - Independent Police Investigative Directorate -
put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr S A ZULU: Hon Chairperson, the MK Party rejects the budget of the Ipid because it does not protect the people of South Africa; it protects police impunity. The Ipid is constitutionally mandated to investigate deaths in police custody, police shootings, torture, rape by police officers and serious misconduct. Yet, this project deliberately underfunds that mandate. It expects the Ipid to confront a violent and militarised police service with insufficient investigators, weak forensic capacity and collapsing provincial offices.

One investigator carries hundreds of cases, dockets sit for years, families wait without answers, evidence disappears and justice is delayed until it is denied. This budget does not

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resolve backlogs; it normalises them. Hon Chairperson, whilst the Ipid still remains dependent on the SA Police Service for forensic and technical support, which is a conflict of interest by design.

An oversight body that relies on the very institution it investigates cannot be independent, no matter what the law says. The MK Party rejects this budget and demands a revised allocation that expands investigator capacity, strengthens forensic independence, enforces SA Police Service compliance and places the dignity of our people above the comfort of institutions. Thank you so much, Chairperson. We reject this budget.

Mr P A PHALA (Limpopo): Once again, Chair, good morning. My apology, Chair, where I am, the network is bad. Hon Chairperson, hon members of the NCOP, the ANC support Vote 24 and recognise the Ipid as a key institution in promoting accountability, integrity and public confidence in policing, particularly at provincial and local levels where communities experience policing most directly.

For the NCOP, the Ipid's work is essential in ensuring that policing standards are upheld consistently across provinces.

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Communities must have confidence that complaints against police officers are investigated independently, professionally and without delay, regardless of where they live. The adjustment under this Vote, which largely involve internal reallocation, must therefore be assessed in terms of the impact and provincial investigative capacity.

The ANC emphasises that provinces with high complaint volumes require adequate investigative support to ensure timely case finalisation and effective co-operation with SA Police Service provincial management. We encourage the Ipid to continue strengthening its engagement with provincial legislatures, the community safety structures and the SA Police Service at provincial levels, so that investigation outcomes contribute to the improved discipline and professional conduct within the police.

In supporting this Vote 24, the ANC reaffirms its commitment to the rule of law, accountable policing and co-operative governance, ensuring that the oversight institution effectively serve communities across all the provinces. The ANC supports Vote 24. Thank you very much, Chairperson.

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Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 25 - Justice And Constitutional Development - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr S A ZULU: Chairperson, the MK Party rises to vehemently reject this report because it completely failed to confront the catastrophic crisis unfolding within the Department of Justice and its entities. From the day we entered this Parliament, the MK Party made it clear that we do not give blank checks. Any report that refuses to place the poor and working masses at the centre of justice is not worth adopting.

A report divorced from the lived reality of our people deserve rejection; not endorsement. The report on the Masters Offices deliberately ignores the collapse taking place across the country. Communities face endless chaos, month-long delays in letters of authority, critical staff shortages and weak internal controls. Yet, this report turns a blind eye of this daily injustice suffered by widows, orphans and families.

In terms of Legal Aid South Africa, legal practitioners were denied performance bonuses in 2025. Despite working under

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extreme pressure, overwhelming caseloads and severe resource constraints, this exploitation is not even acknowledged in this report. In terms of the State Attorney, chronic backlogs persisted due to poor administration and lack of leadership. Justice cannot function when one legal practitioner is buried under impossible workloads and systemic neglect.

Hon Chairperson, the administration of justice in South Africa is structurally compromised. To support this report would be nothing short of a betrayal of the mandate given to us by our people. For these reasons, hon Chairperson, the MK Party rejected this report. I thank you.

Adv Inkosi M NONKONYANA: Chairperson and hon members, I rise again on behalf of the only party that has just celebrated its 114 years of its commitment to uplift the quality of life of all the people of South Africa and to liberate them. We rise to support the Budget Vote 25 for this department. We do so, Chair, precisely because this adjustment appropriation for this department is key because it includes, amongst other things, the allocation of funds to the Justice Madlanga Commission.

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This is important given that the commission is dealing with a matter that is of utmost importance and concerns the law enforcement agencies that are critical for the safety and security of all the people of this country. We also note that the adjustment will also allocate funds for Justice Khampepe Commission. The commissions are part of our constitutional legal system, which is critical for the deepening of our democratic system through the recommendations that they are to relay to our government.

As Parliament, our interest is that these commissions should conclude their work in a meaningful manner and on time. For that to happen, they require the necessary funds to continue to conclude their work. It is quite clear, Chair, that the party that is almost two years old, the MK Party, does not understand this.

.
There is no report. The report that they are talking about, I think, is the figment of their own imagination. What we need here is to allocate funds for our department to be able to dispense justice for all in South Africa. We have no hesitation, therefore, Chair, to support this Budget Vote as the ANC. Thank you, Chair.

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Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 26 - Military Veterans - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 27 - Office of the Chief Justice - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 28 - Police - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr M M MAMPURU: Chair, once again, I am here to stand on behalf of the EFF to make it clear and categorically clear that we reject this adjustment budget. Chairperson, let me say that on 22 August 2022, Mr Thami Mbonani had all his livestock stolen in his farm. That was the first time he had his livestock stolen. His livestock was also stolen in 2024, and also last year in 2025.

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Mr Thami Mbonani have been reporting all these crimes, which were happening at his farm, to Delmas Police Station. Until today, no one was arrested and no feedback was given to him as to what happened to his livestock. It is not only Mr Thami Mbonani, who fell victim of a well-organised and well-co-ordinated livestock criminality which is taking place in the Devon and Delmas areas.

Mrs Zinhle Abdul, who is also in the piggery, had her livestock stolen in 2024, and also in 2025. She reported all these crimes at Devon Police Station. Until today, no report or progress was given to her as to how far are they with her livestock being stolen.

Lastly, Mr Isaac Mampana had his livestock stolen also in the area around Devon. He reported the case at Devon Police Station and until today, no report was given. Chairperson, this happens because the SA Police Service is underfunded, and South African police officers themselves are undercapacitated to deal with issues of stock theft.

This happened because the only area where they are combating stock theft, or the offices of stock theft, are centralised in Vereeniging. A case gets opened in Devon, only to be

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transferred to Vereeniging to send one Mr Van Vulen to come to Devon and deal with that matter - only one man dealing with an area of over 60 farms where they are farming livestock! In that regard, we are rejecting this budget because it does not speak to the real issues which are affecting our people. But

Lastly, we would like to invite the people of South Africa to come into their numbers in East London on 23 January to come and support the commander-in-chief and the president of all the marginalised, when he is been persecuted by the state through a case which has been nonexistent. We call upon our people to come and show solidarity by saying, "If one African child has been persecuted, all African children are being persecuted." [Time expired.] Thank you, Chair.

Mr O J MOKAE: Hon Chairperson and to the colleagues on the platform, compliments of the new year. Hon Chaperson, the SA Police Service is constitutionally mandated to prevent, combat and investigate crime; maintain public order, protect and secure the inhabitants of South Africa and their property; and uphold and enforce the law.

However, it is disheartening that the service is in a state of near collapse. This negatively affects the safety and security

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of South Africans every single day. Crime hinders economic growth by raising business costs and deterring investment and stalling job creation. South Africans want to feel and be safe in their homes, in their streets, towns and cities. This will ensure that their livelihoods are protected and lives thrive.

We constantly laugh in fear as criminals are running amok, terrorising our communities. Delayed crime statistics, poorly functioning forensic labs, malfunctioning digital systems and unchecked tender irregularities directly put the lives of people at risk.

It does not bode well also for strong community police relations when the budget for the community policing forum fell from over R70 million in the previous financial year to a mere R28 million in this current financial year that must be shared by the nine provinces and their stations.

Additionally, public trust has fallen through the revelations at the Madlanga Commission and the other committee, which show systematic leadership failures in the upper echelons of the servers. It is therefore welcomed that the Hawks will be receiving additional funds.

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Hon Chaperson, to this end, the DA demands the following: Lifestyle and skills orders for all SA Police Service senior management; the introduction of Treasury-aligned tender reforms with strict due diligence; and fast tracking of digitisation of crime and forensic systems to produce accurate timely data.

We understand that these measures, amongst others, will require additional resources, and through this adjustment budget process, every cent must be spent to keep South Africans safe and tackle crime head on. We need to up the ante on visible policing and utilise these resources to make sure police stations are adequately staffed and operational vehicles are maintained and repaired on time. For this reason, we support Budget Vote 28. I thank you.

Setswana:

Ke a leboga.

Afrikaans:

Baie Dankie!

Ms J S MANANISO: Chairperson and hon members, let me start by congratulating the SA Police Service for their successful

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festivities during festive seasons in terms of their achievement. Hon Chairperson, the ANC supports Vote 28 and approaches this Vote through the NCOP mandate to ensure that national policing priorities respond to provincial safety needs and local crime patterns.

Policing is experienced at community level, and the effectiveness of SA Police Service is shaped by provincial realities, such as urbanisation, rural safety challenges, cross-border crime and infrastructure constraints. The adjustment appropriation under Vote 28 reflects government efforts to sustain core policing functions while responding to operational pressures within a constrained physical environment.

Hon Chairperson, hon members, the ANC welcomes measures that support visible policing, detective services and specialised capabilities, which are critical to addressing violent crime and organised criminal activities in provinces most affected by these challenges. We emphasise that effective policies also require strong co-ordination with provincial and local government, including municipality and community policy forum.

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The ANC further encourages the SA Police Service to continue strengthening management, discipline and accountability at provincial level, ensuring that resources are deployed efficiently and that communities experience improved safety outcomes. In supporting Vote 28, the ANC reaffirms its commitment to building a capable and community-centred police service, aligned with NCOP's role in promoting co-operative governance and equitable service delivery across all provinces.

Hon Chairperson, as I conclude, as the ANC, we support this Vote and we want to encourage hon Mampuru to submit his concerns and queries through the Secretariat Office so that we can address issues that he has raised when he was speaking about rejecting the vote. I thank you.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Having said all that, I now hand over to hon Ryder to take the next Vote. Over to you, hon Ryder. Thank you.

Vote No 29 - Agriculture put.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Good afternoon to all the members and all South Africans participating by watching at home. Hon members, we now move to Vote 29, which is Agriculture. I have been informed that the following parties would like to make declarations of votes in terms of Rule 78. Be reminded that it is a maximum of three minutes per declaration. And let us start with the UDM represented by the hon Peter.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr M M PETER: Hon Chair, this Budget Vote must force us to confront a deeply uncomfortable reality. In a country with fertile land, generations of farming knowledge and the ability to feed itself, people are dying in poverty. This is happening, not because South Africa do not know how to farm, but because the state has steadily withdrawn from supporting people to sustain themselves.

We must ask serious and uncomfortable questions. How did we reach a point where hunger exists alongside arable land? Why has government allowed rural communities to become dependent on a grant and food parcels when, in the past, people farmed to feed their families? How has poverty become normal in villages that once produced food?

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There was a time when farming formed part of every life in rural South Africa. Communities planted crops, kept livestock, and sustained themselves. This was not accidental. It was supported by political leadership that understood the value of organised agriculture.

In the Eastern Cape, leaders such as Lennox Sebe recognised the required food security structure extension services, and visible state support. Every village had a person who acted as a point of reference for farmers, someone who could be contacted when challenges arose. That system also faded.

Lastly, today, many black farmers, particularly small scales and communal farmers, receive little to no meaningful support. Even where assistance exists, farmers do not know how to access it. They do not know who to contact, where to apply, or how to navigate bureaucratic processes. Information remains inaccessible. while rural communities are left to fend for themselves. Therefore, the UDM supports this budget on the principles of development. Thank you.

Afrikaans:

Mnr H J VAN DEN BERG: Voorsitter, dit is met 'n mengsel van hoop en diep kommer dat ek namens die VF Plus praat oor die

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Departement van Landbou se aangepaste begroting en hul
ambisieuse planne om bek-en-klouseer binne 10 jaar uit te
roei.

Die Minister het gister aangekondig dat hy 'n nasionale
ramptoestnd sal versoek, wanneer die Kabinet weer vergader, 'n
stap wat die VF Plus voorheen voorgestel het, en ondersteun.
'n Noodtoestand kan meer hulpbronne en ander departemente se
ondersteuning verseker, ten einde hierdie krisis, wat nou ons
veebedryf lamlê, na behore aan te vat.

Maar, die vraag bly: Sal die departement bek-en-klouseer binne
10 jaar kan uitwis. Kom ons kyk eerlik na die feite. Die
departement praat van massa-inentings, streng bewegingsbeheer
en kwarantyn. Dit klink goed, maar die realiteit op grondvlak
vertel 'n ander storie. Volgens ons inligting is daar slegs
ongeveer 320 staatsveeartse in die land. Met vakante poste,
provinsies soos KwaZulu-Natal en Mpumalanga, waar die uitbrake
die ergste is, hoe gaan die paar staatsveeartse 14 miljoen
diere, met so min hulpbronne inent? En waarom is daar so min
veeartse wat opgelei word? Die VF Plus het al jare lank
gewaarsku, en tog het die regering nie opgetree nie. Waarom
sal dinge nou verander?

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Vertroue is laag, want dieselfde amptenare wat die krisis veroorsaak het moet ons nou daar uitlei. Ons kort dringend finansiële hulp vir boere, privaatsektorvennootskappe, en dis tyd om op grondvlak te mobiliseer. Sonder ekstra hulp, sal die departement nie hul doelwit kan bereik nie.

Begroting wys op herprioritisering van fondse vir biosekuriteit, maar met vakante poste en vertraagde projekte en tans geen beskikbare entstowwe is dit nie genoeg nie. Alles wat nou belowe word kon al sedert 2016 gewees het. Dit is 10 jaar van agteruitgang, wat nou op 'n spits gedryf word. Dit is ook nou tyd vir die departement om hul wetgewing rakende die hantering van aanmeldbare veesiektes soos bek-en-klouseer op te skerp en meer relevant te maak.

Ten slotte, die VF Plus sal aanhou om politieke druk toe te pas, omdat almal wat met diere boer aksie nou bitter nodig het. Ons ondersteun die aangepaste begroting, maar voel dat dit te min, te laat is. Baie dankie.

Mr M K MONTWEDI: Chairperson, compliments for the new year.

The EFF rejects this Budget Vote and calls for serious action to be taken against the Minister of Agriculture by the President, as the Minister has dismally failed the sector. Let

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us remind South Africans once again that the current situation of the foot-and-mouth disease, FMD, must be located at the doorstep of the DA Minister, John Steenhuizen.

The Minister dissolved a multidisciplinary team established by former Minister Thoko Didiza and replaced it with some task team of DA-like veterinarians, only to reinstate the multidisciplinary team later after his task team had failed.

We are calling for National Treasury to avail resources to the Onderstepoort Biological Products, OBP, to start as soon as possible with the manufacturing of FMD vaccines, as we cannot expect to fight FMD without making any investment to produce vaccines locally.

Countries like Brazil bring back cattle to the market as soon as they are vaccinated. And here in South Africa, it is a different story. And this is the reason that farmers are not disclosing the status on their farms. They fear to keep stock for more than a year without making no income from sales and without any government support. We are calling for an urgent review of the law on quarantine and F-branding.

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We warned the department almost a year ago that another ticking time bomb is the shortage of veterinarians, where we see only 60 to 70 veterinarians servicing a population of 1 million citizens against an international norm of 400 to 600 veterinarians servicing a population of 1 million citizens. There is a vacancy rate of 45% on veterinarians and this Budget Vote does not make any provisions to address this challenge.

Extension services also remain a key support needed by emerging farmers on a daily basis. So, once more, after raising this over and over, this Budget Vote does not make provisions to appoint more extension services. The Budget Vote is not prioritising animal identification law, which will assist with the traceability. And without this, we will continue to have challenges of disease outbreaks without being able to actually know where they are.

We said before that the department must prioritise the process of migrating agricultural colleges to the status of institutions of higher learning, as students suffer a lot, incapacitating the department, a process that started some 12 years ago and it is not completed thus far. This Budget Vote is far from addressing that.

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We want to welcome and note the appointment of Mr Mcebisi Skwatsha, the former Deputy Minister of Rural Development of Land Reform, as the Chair of the Land Bank. We want to tell him that serious developmental reforms must be introduced in the Land Bank, as the Land Bank is far from operating as a developmental financing institution bank, and the bank is failing to spend money allocated for blended finance, which leaves farmers frustrated and at the brink of collapse.

Because of the Land Bank, sellers are no longer willing to give the offer to purchase to those interested in buying farms. Transactions take ... [Time expired.] The EFF does not support the Budget Vote. Thank you.

Afrikaans:

Mnr N H PIENAAR: Huisvoorsitter, ek wil die VF Plus gerusstel dat die Minister reeds aangekondig het dat hy gebruik gaan maak van die privaatsektor se veeartse vir die toediening van die entstowwe.

English:

As the DA, we stand firmly behind the adjustment to the Agriculture Department's budget, as tabled by the Minister Steenhuisen and his department. These amendments come at a

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critical time for South African agriculture, particularly, as farmers look to government for decisive and competent leadership, in the face of the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak, which threatens not only our domestic meat industry, but also our trade relationships across Africa and globally.

What Agriculture needs now is stability, certainty and evidence-based decision-making. That is precisely what the Department of Agriculture is delivering under the leadership of Minister Steenhuisen. This response is science-driven and focused on safeguarding both livelihoods and food security.

Collectively, farmers, industry leaders and governments must work together to contain and eradicate this outbreak. Mass vaccinations will continue from early February in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng, followed by Limpopo and Mpumalanga. From this month, the department expects to receive deliveries for almost a million vaccines per month, building on the nearly 1 million animals already vaccinated in recent months.

The department has rightly declared war on foot-and-mouth disease. Vaccinations must go hand in hand with strict movement controls, and I am pleased to note that Limpopo's provincial government has already implemented stringent

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movement protocols, and that is how we stop the spread of this disease decisively.

As a collective, we will ensure the safety, resilience and long-term sustainability of South Africa's agriculture sector across both rural communities and commercial farms. Only through co-operation, discipline and sound policy will we succeed. Thank you.

Mr M G MODISE: Chair, do you mind if I switch off my video? At least I am here.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): No, I can see you are here and I can see the clouds rolling in, so I am sure that there is a storm about to hit your area. Yes.

Mr M G MODISE: Chairperson, firstly, greetings to yourself and all members on the platform, including the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa. I also want to start by firstly apologising for what happened during Budget Vote 10, but I am happy that IT has worked on it and I am able to address the House. And secondly, I want to wish myself and the glorious ANC happy belated birthday, and everyone that has a birthday in the month of January.

The ANC rises to declare its support for the Adjustments Appropriation Bill. We acknowledge the Department of Agriculture's vital role in sustaining our nations, ensuring food security, aiding disaster recovery and driving innovation in the agricultural sector.

This Adjustment budget reinforces those efforts of targeted funding and prudent measures. In the wake of floods, droughts and livestock disease outbreaks of 2024-25, supporting our farmers has never been more critical. The Adjustments Appropriation Bill allocates an additional R336 million to the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme, to rebuild agricultural infrastructure damaged during these disasters.

The recent foot-and-mouth disease outbreak was described as the worst livestock farming disaster in our history. Such crisis underscores the importance of robust disaster response and biosecurity measures. We applaud the department's swift intervention to help farming communities recover and to bolster resilience against future shocks.

Food security remains paramount. It is unacceptable that only one-third of South African households are food secure, while nearly 18% experience severe hunger. Through this adjusted

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budget, the department will intensify support for food production at all levels, by empowering smallholder farmers with inputs and planning and scaling up initiatives like food gardening and the National Food and Nutrition Security Plan. They should work to ensure that no South African goes to bed hungry.

Furthermore, the ANC-led government is championing innovation and inclusive growth in agriculture. We must harness technology, research and partnership to modernise this sector. Our vision is for agriculture to be youth-driven, science-based, climate-smart and inclusive, one where the emerging farmers and agripreneurs thrive alongside established producers. The adjustments before us support this vision and prioritise farmer support, market access and agri-innovation programmes.

In conclusion, as the ANC, we support this budget, and we believe that it will help most of our farmers. Thank you.

Agreed to.

Vote No 30 - Communications and Digital Technologies - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr O J MOKAE: Hon House Chairperson Ryder, the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, under the vibrant leadership of Minister Solly Malatsi, plays a crucial role in fostering broader economic and social participation by all citizens through digital transformation underpinned by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

This department, with an annual budget of just over R2,5 billion, focuses on creating a South Africa where citizens can enjoy greater economic and social prosperity because when people are part of the digital world, this, according to Minister Malatsi:

Ignites their economic potential, foster social inclusion and spur progress that can drive this nation forward together, leaving no one behind.

Over R700 million over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, will be spent to provide universal broadband access, aiming to reach 5,5 million households later this year. This will be rolled out through the SA Connect programme to accelerate broadband expansion, particularly in schools,

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clinics and rural communities where access remains limited; indeed, making sure that no one is left behind.

Hon House Chair, the department has amended regulations governing the State Information Technology Agency, Sita, to allow departments to procure information and communications technology, ICT, services outside of the agency. This will ensure that the delivery of essential public services such as access to the courts and home affairs continue unhindered. The days of system offline are soon becoming a thing of the past.

In addition, efforts are at an advanced stage to make smart devices affordable to ordinary South Africans.

Now, listen to this. The department successfully engaged National Treasury to remove 9% of luxury tax on smartphones under R2 500, a major breakthrough making entry-level smart devices more affordable for low-income households.

The DA believes all these efforts, amongst others, under the stewardship of Minister Malatsi, are crucial in narrowing the digital divide and ultimately contributing to growing our economy and creating much needed jobs for all South Africans.

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The DA supports the Adjustment Appropriation Bill for Vote No 30. I thank you. Ke a leboga. Baie dankie.

Mr S P MABILO: House Chair, and greetings to the Deputy President of the Republic and all members on the platform. As the ANC we stand in support of the Adjustment Appropriation Bill, recognizing its role in accelerating South Africa's digital revolution and ensuring the governance of our strategic communication and digital technological institutions.

Our support as the ANC is anchored in the foundational commitment to building a capable, ethical, developmental state that harnesses technology as a tool for inclusion, economic growth and improved service delivery for all citizens.

Our view of this Bill is that it provides the necessary fiscal agility to address critical gaps and opportunities within the digital landscape, directly supporting the transformative oversight work of the portfolio committee and the select committee and the overall improved governance of the department and its entities.

As the ANC we consider the specific allocations and mechanisms within the Bill as precisely targeting ... overcome the systematic challenges that the sector faces.

The rollover allocation for digital infrastructure projects such as those managed by Sentech, Broadband Infraco and State Information Technology Agency are essential investments to prevent debilitating delays in national connectivity projects.

The provision made for self-financing expenditure recognizes the innovative potential within the departments, allowing revenue generated from services to be reinvested into strengthening digital capabilities, a model that promotes efficiency and the sustainability of key institutions such as SA Post Office, SAPO, and the SA Broadcasting Corporation, SABC.

This legislative tool is directly aligned with our parliamentary engagements and contributions as the ANC. Our declaration and firm stance that the sector must be a key driver in enabling broader inclusion in the digital economic remain.

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We retain our view that the sector needs a broad revision of key governance legislative instruments, including the complete review of the Electronic Communication Act, Act 36 of 2005.

The ANC views the Bill as an enabler of our digital sovereignty. It allows us to fund the infrastructure that bridges the digital divide, resources, the regulations and ensure fair competition and correct the governance value that undermine trust.

As I conclude, Chair, as the ANC we, therefore, endorse the Adjustment Appropriation Bill, confident that it is an instrument for building a connected digitally empowered South Africa that leaves no one behind in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We support the Bill. Thank you, Chair.

Accordingly agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

Vote No 31 - Employment and Labour - put.

Declarations of Vote:

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Ms S M MOKOENA-ZONDI: Chair, season's greetings. Could I please ask your indulgence to not using the video because there's a lot of wind and I see it's affecting my access to the chamber!

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): A lot of wind, yes, no problem. Thank you, hon Mokoena.

Ms S M MOKOENA-ZONDI: I rise on behalf of the MK Party, the only party worth voting for in the 2026 local government elections.

Chairperson, let us be clear from the outset, this department is not only failing quietly, it's also failing loudly, expensively and with complete confidence.

South Africa's unemployment crisis is not a mystery, it's not complex, it's not even misunderstood. It is the predictable outcome of a Department of Employment and Labour that confuses motion with progress and paperwork with jobs.

This department is permanently busy, busy drafting frameworks, busy hosting summits, busy regulating an economy that is already on its knees. And yet, unemployment in this country remains stubborn, structural and brutal.

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One must almost admire the audacity, quarter after quarter of failure, followed by another request for funding, another plan, another adjustment, as though repetition would eventually become success.

The Government of National Unity, GNU, tells South Africans that the labour market is stabilizing after its establishment. That is a bold statement to make in a country where young people are unemployed before they have even been employed. Experienced workers are discarded as liabilities and small employers are treated like criminals for trying to survive.

This department, as it is, is really not a good factor at all for South Africans.

The adjustment budget does not confront reality, it repackages it. Instead of asking why existing programs have failed to absorb labour, we are offered more administration, more monitoring, more coordination, because when jobs do not exist, the GNU solution is always the same, create another layer of oversight.

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Unemployment, apparently, can be managed but not solved. The department is relentless with enforcement and gentle with itself.

Our position as the opposition party is clear and final. We say this without hesitation, the department does not need more money, it needs a reckoning South Africa ... it needs a reckoning. South Africa does not need more labour policies, it needs jobs. And until the GNU accepts that you cannot regulate an economy into employment, this department will remain well-funded, well-rehearsed and completely disconnected from the lived reality of the unemployed.

We as the MKP will not legitimize failure by approving cosmetic adjustments. South Africans are not unemployed because they lack skills, discipline or effort, they are unemployed because this government has run out of ideas and refuses to admit it. Thank you.

Mr N H PIENAAR: Hon Chairperson, there is a war being waged against unemployment in South Africa and we are losing. The Department of Employment and Labour must take responsibility for this failure.

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In 1994 the unemployment rate stood at around 20%, today it sits over 30%. Even more shocking is youth unemployment, which is approximately 60%. The Minister should be ashamed.

This may not be a question session, Chairperson, but it is a question that must be asked: What has this department been doing for the last 30 years?

Instead of focusing on job creation, the department has prioritized propping up unions and imposing rigid employment equity targets on the private sector. None of these interventions has resulted in more South Africans being employed. All they have achieved is longer SA Social Security Agency, SASSA, queues and a deeper dependency on the state.

As the DA we support the adjusted budget, but we do so hesitantly. We support the adjustment not because we have confidence in the department's performance, but because an unfunded department cannot even begin to address prices of this magnitude.

Chairperson, as the NCOP it is our duty to ensure that this department and its budgets are closely monitored and held accountable.

The department's Key Performance Indicator, KPIs, and management bonuses must be directly linked to one figure only, the unemployment rate. Not the number of meetings held, not reports written but job opportunities created.

Today, coincidentally, is the deadline for private companies, the very businesses that drive economic growth and employment, to submit their employment equity reports to the Department of Employment and Labour. Failure to comply could result in fines of up to R1,5 million or 2% of yearly turnover.

Chairperson, we should be taking hands with the private sector, not making enemies of them. This is precisely why the Democratic Alliance has taken this legislation to the Constitutional Court because someone must stand up for the unemployed and fight for job creation, because this department is clearly not. I thank you, Chair.

Declarations of Vote cont.

Mr M G MODISE: Chair, the same request is still made once more. I hope the Chair's response is still the same. Thank you so much, Chair. It must also be noted that when we support the Budget Vote, we support them because we understand that it's for the benefit of the people of South Africa and not who's

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the Minister and from which political party. Therefore, as the ANC, we welcome the proposed adjustment for Vote 31 as a demonstration of our government flexible and strategic commitment to decent work, social protection, and poverty elevation. These recalibrations are not arbitrary. They are meticulously designed to maximize the impact of every rand spent in realizing our mandate to build a more equitable society.

The core mandate of this department is to reduce unemployment, poverty, and inequality, and that requires continuous adaptations. The proposed transfer from transfers and subsidies to payments for capital assets within inspection and enforcement services is a critical move. This shift acknowledges that effective regulatory compliance is a pillar of fair labour practices and demands modern tools and infrastructure. This capital investment ensures that our inspectors are better equipped to enforce labour law, protecting workers' rights and enhancing compliance across all sectors.

Furthermore, while fines within our main division may be realigned, the underlying commitment to social dialogue and employment services remain robust. Crucially, the Bill

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confirms an appropriation of R132 million to the Nedlac under the Labour Policy and Industrial Relations. Nedlac is the paramount institution for strengthened social dialogue between government, labour and business.

This appropriation underscores the ANC's belief that collaborative governance, rather than unilateral action, is the most sustainable path to the national economic transformation and sustainability. These strategic adjustments ensure that the department can effectively uphold labour standards, improve the quality of regulatory functions, and solidify the platforms of national consensus building, all essential pillars in the fight against unemployment inequality.

We wholeheartedly, as the ANC, support this adjustment which strategically align with the budget within the practical delivery of dignified and protected working life for the people of South Africa. I thank you.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters, Freedom Front Plus and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 32 - Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment - put.

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Declarations of Vote:

Mr N H PIENAAR: House Chairperson, under the new leadership of Minister Willie Aucamp at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, we are confident that the department is in safe hands. As the DA, we are encouraged by his appointment and look forward to what can be achieved during his tenure. In that spirit, we wholeheartedly support the adjustment budget as presented by the Minister. We were also pleased to see the Minister actively involved in beach clean-ups over the December period; a practical signal of the direction he intends to take this department.

Pollution in our communities must be treated as a priority. Many rural communities depend on local river systems to irrigate crops and provide drinking water for livestock. Yet, far too often, we still see municipalities dumping raw sewage into the oceans and river systems with devastating consequences for the health and well-being of communities. We trust the department will act decisively against those municipalities found to be polluting our environment. However, the environment protection cannot rest on the shoulders of government alone. The well-being of our oceans, forests, and national environment requires a whole of society approach.

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Communities must hold one another accountable. When we see wrongdoing, we must call it out.

Sadly, the plastic bag is fast becoming our national flower. Illegal dumping and the environmental abuse should be reported and confronted wherever it occurs. These are basic principles that we should be teaching our children. By doing so, we safeguard a clean, biodiverse country for future generations. Our natural resources are sustainable, but only if we actively protect them.

Lastly, we must appreciate and recognise the role of the Minister and his department are playing in the protection of our agricultural sector during the current foot and mouth disease outbreak as wildlife falls under his jurisdiction and buffalo are known carriers of the disease that spreads to cattle. Co-operation between departments is critical during times like these. Chairperson, we are excited for a clean road ahead. I thank you.

Mrs M B NDLANGISA-NODADA (Eastern Cape): Hon House Chair, may I just open the ...

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): If we can see you briefly. Yes, that's perfect. Thank you very much.

Mrs M B NDLANGISA-NODADA (Eastern Cape): May I switch off now because of this wind? Thank you. Hon House Chair, hon Deputy President of the country, hon members, fellow South Africans, in line with the prescripts of section 21 as enshrined in the Constitution, the Climate Change Act establishes a legal framework for just and low-carbon transition with the intention to enhance resilience and reduce emission through various mechanisms. These include the prioritization of climate-friendly budget capable of mitigating environmental harm to our people and communities.

It is therefore our considered view as the ANC that the budget and budget adjustment do not sufficiently respond to the department's plan to action and aggressively implement the Climate Change Act towards reducing carbon emissions.

According to the Clean Air Fund, air pollution is the second biggest threat to health in South Africa and causes approximately 25 800 deaths a year.

It is against this backdrop that we implore the department to utilize the rollover funds for the tune of R1,33 million, not

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only to rent land for the storage of used tyres but also ensure the eco-friendly recycling mechanisms are funded and well maintained. Many depots remained overloaded and managed in a manner that leaves them susceptible to other risks such as fires, as was the case in Lichtenberg in the North West. This poses a great health risk to the surrounding communities.

As I conclude, I would also like to note and welcome the R6,311 million towards transfers and subsidies for the South African National Biodiversity Institute. We believe that it's going to assist with the significant infrastructure upgrade and maintenance project that the entity is undertaking across its national botanical and zoological gardens. I thank you.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Vote No 33 - Human Settlements - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe dissenting).

Vote No 34 - Mineral and Petroleum Resources - put.

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Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe dissenting).

Vote No 35 - Science, Technology and Innovation - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe dissenting).

Vote No 36 - Small Business Development - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe dissenting).

Vote No 37 - Sports, Arts and Culture - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr B J FARMER: Chairperson, as the PA, I want to wish everyone a successful 2026. The PA approaches the Adjustment Appropriation Bill with a clear and practical focus, ensuring that government resources translate into real benefits for communities on the ground. When we speak about sports, arts, and culture, we are speaking about more than events or administration. We are speaking about youth development, community safety, social cohesion, and livelihoods, especially

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for young people and community-based practitioners who depend on these sectors for opportunity and dignity.

Sport plays a critical role in keeping young people active, disciplined, and away from crime. Arts and culture give South Africans a voice, preserve our identity, and support many individuals who earn a living through creative work. Heritage institutions and programmes help communities understand where they come from and where they are going.

Chairperson, the PA welcome the adjustments under this Vote that are aimed to protect core programmes and ensure continuity, particularly those that support community sport, grassroots development, artists and cultural practitioners, heritage and cultural projects. At the same time, we emphasize the importance of effective implementation. Funding must reach community clubs, local organizations, and practitioners, including those who are often not part of exclusive networks. Adjustments must result in visible impact at local levels, especially in townships and rural areas. From the PA's perspective, the focus must remain on strengthening co-operation between national, provincial, and local government, ensuring fair and transparent access to funding, supporting practical programmes that deliver lasting value, not only

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once-off activities. We recognize the tight budget conditions in which this adjustment takes place. Within these limitations, it is encouraging that priority given to sustaining programmes that contribute to safer communities, active youth, and social unity.

In conclusion, Chairperson, the PA supports Vote 37 within the Adjustment Appropriation Bill. We do so with confidence in the leadership of the department and with the expectation that these adjustments will continue to strengthen delivery at community level. Salute. Thank you, Chair.

Mr M F MOKWELE: House Chair, hon members, the Deputy President of the country, special greetings to the chairperson of the Select Committee on Sports, Arts and Culture, hon Makhi Feni, fellow South Africans ... [Inaudible.] ... the stadium, the rhythm of our festival, and the story ... [Inaudible.] ... in our heritage site ... [Inaudible.] ... 2025-26 financial year is not just funding. It is a fuel for an active, winning, creative, and socially cohesive South Africa.

Hon members, given the current national and geopolitical context, the department's work is instrumental in advancing social cohesion and nation-building. Within this budget, the

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department's work must preserve, educate, and foster innovation in the field of sports, arts, and culture as critical pillars of social fabric of South African community and our shared nation identity.

We are encouraged by the investment being made in the cultural and creative industry and call for the greater oversight of critical infrastructure development, the transformation of our heritage sites, and the continued strengthening of language development and social cohesion programmes.

In conclusion, the ANC stand firmly behind Vote 37 as a commitment to the realization of the objectives of the Freedom Charter, which declared that:

All national groups shall have equal rights.

There shall be equal status in the bodies of states, in courts, and in the schools for national groups and races.

Chair, maybe allow me also to strengthen this, that the reason why we can now even see that in the Basic Education domain, we are able to obtain 88% plus it is because of the foundation

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that has been laid by the Freedom Charter and the ANC since we came in, in 1994. And:

All shall have equal rights to use their own languages and develop their own folk culture and custom;

All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride;

The preaching and practice of national race or colour discrimination and contempt shall be a punishable crime;

All apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside.

I thank you.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe dissenting).

Vote No 39 - Trade, Industry and Competition - put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr N H PIENAAR: Chairperson, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition is the tip of the spear when it comes to job creation and economic growth in South Africa. Holding that spear is Minister Parks Tau, alongside the newly elected and appointed DA Deputy Minister, Alexandra Abrahams. As the DA,

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we will always vote yes for job creation and economic growth. We support the Adjustment budget as presented by the department. However, Chairperson, this support is not unconditional. The Minister's foremost priority must be real job creation and sustainable economic growth, and not the expansion of bloated funds, such as the so-called Transformation Fund. The reality is, since the introduction of broad-based black economic empowerment, BBBEE, South Africa's unemployment rate has only increased, clearly demonstrating that these policies benefit a politically connected few rather than the millions of South Africans looking for work.

This is a new dawn. And as part of the Government of National Unity, GNU, the ANC must recognize that voters removed its outright majority precisely because its economic policies are not working. The mandate is clear. Grow the economy and create jobs. Policies of the past have only failed our citizens. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition is uniquely positioned to change the daily lived realities of South Africans, and its budget must reflect that responsibility. Millions remain unemployed, particularly in rural provinces and villages. What should be the focus of this department is jobs and economic growth, not ill-conceived pyramid schemes. The DA will hold you accountable, Minister Tau. Should you

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fail to uphold the GNU mandate of economic growth and job creation, changes can be made. Thank you.

Ms S L SITHOLE: House Chair, Vote 39 sits at the heart of our country's fight against unemployment, inequality, poverty, and low growth. It is through this Vote that the ANC-led government supports industrialization, local manufacturing, township and rural enterprises, and job creation. Decision-taking in this Vote are therefore not technical matters; they have real consequences for household and business struggling to make ends meet.

The Adjustment Appropriation Bill reflects virement within Vote 39, including reduction to Industrial Development Corporation sector programmes and redirections towards administrative and operational expenditure. While these reductions are meant to respond to genuine pressures, they raise serious concerns about whether resources are reaching the productive parts of the economy where jobs are created. For a young person in a township waiting for work or a small manufacturer in a rural area trying to survive, rising cost reduces support to IDC sector programmes. It is not an abstract issue. It means delayed projects, lost opportunity and jobs that never materialize.

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The ANC understands the need for sound administration. A capable state requires functioning systems, planning, and co-ordination. However, administration must support development, not replace it. When funds move away from industrial programmes towards goods and services, Parliament must ask whether this reflects implementation pillars, weak planning, or deeper capacity constraint within the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition. These virements also raise a political question: If resources intended to stimulate production and empowerment are repeatedly shifted, who pays the price? It is not a large corporation. It is workers, SMMEs, co-operatives, and informal businesses that depend on the state's support for growth and survival. ANC supports industrialization, localization, and inclusive growth, but support must be felt on the ground, not diluted through shifted priorities. Vote 39 must remain a job creation vote, not a bureaucratic one. The ANC therefore insists that future virement ... [Time expired.] ... Thank you very much, House Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you very much. Unfortunately, your time did expire, hon Sithole. Hon delegates, that concludes the discussion on the debate on the vote.

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Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe dissenting).

Vote No 40 - Transport - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe dissenting).

Vote No 41 - Water and Sanitation - put.

Declarations of vote:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon Nzimande, I see that you are connected. Are you able to unmute yourself and deliver your declaration on behalf of your party?

Mr E NZIMANDE: Thank you, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Yes, we move forward, thank you, sir.

Mr E NZIMANDE: My Chair, the MK Party objects the Bill. The recent Auditor-General SA, AGSA, report, titled, "Source to supply - a shared responsibility for a water-resilient

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future," affirmed or repeated deposit in this transact. The DA-led Government of National Unity, GNU, is continually scratching where it does not itch. On yearly basis, they transact plans for mere compliance with no change or impact, in the citizen's lives. We have repeatedly argued, and still do, that the improperly count plans, inadequate management of water, poor water conservation, lack of maintenance and failure with water treatment plants and lack of oversight to detect early warning signs, are the geniuses' lodging failures throughout the water value chain. I attested to these repeated warnings.

We submit that no amount of money can substitute the incompetencies of this GNU. The incapacity of this GNU shall never ensure the reliable water and sanitation services to the citizens. Wastewater systems shall continue to fail to be compliant with green drought regulatory requirements, and so as water supply systems shall persist nor brought to be compliant with drought requirements and no sustenance of water supply of water consistent with growing population. Health and well-being of the citizens is compromised. Failure to provide water demand by most sectors of economy, including agriculture and mining, has a negative impact on the economic growth.

Material inequalities continue to grow, and corruption go unabated under this government. The commitment of the National Development Plan, NDP, that all South Africans will have affordable access to enough safe water to live healthy and dignified lives by 3030, is a pipe dream. We refuse to support collapsing of our economy, compromise of the health and wellbeing of citizenry, putting money on nonresponsive plans which have no direct impact to the citizenry and the economy. Aluta continua, Chair, and Happy New Year.

Mr K CEZA: Hon Chair, the EFF rejects the Budget Vote for the Department of Water and Sanitation. We reject this Vote considering the lived realities of our people and their daily struggles with water and sanitation across the country. Moreover, the lived experiences of communities such as those found across eMakhazeni, which is itself a case study of systemic governance collapse, constitutional failure, and the bankruptcy of the District Development Model, DDM. In Siyathuthuka Township, particularly in Wards 1, 2, 3 and extension 11, residents suffer under incomplete and dysfunctional sewer plants, bulk water supply infrastructure and incomplete toilet facilities.

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Toilets there, either do not flush or were not completed by the appointed contractors. The Roman Catholic Church sewer plant in Ward 2, is characterised by defective workmanship delays and abandonment without consequence management, while sewer problems persist in nearby Belfast. Residents in Sakhelwe Township also suffer similar fate, and disturbingly, Chair, even the new development in Gugulethu Township. In Ward 7, in Waterval-Boven, is already plagued by inadequate sewer infrastructure and toilet facilities, proving that failure is being reproduced even in new projects. Chairperson, the same fate is experienced by residents in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, where there is a health crisis unfolding due to the wastewater treatment plants, WWTP, that are derelict causing untreated sewage to spill into the Buffalo River, putting residents' lives at risks.

Across all provinces, there is a lack of access to clean running water, and entire communities remain without water. What we need is a state-led delivery with insource technical capacity, a decisive break from tender failures, criminal accountability for corruption in basic services. This is not a request for luxury, Chairperson, but a basic constitutional right. In conclusion, these failures expose a crisis of accountability, competence, and lack of political will. The

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EFF declares that there can be no economic freedom without water and sanitation. We continue to fight until water flows, sewer plants work, and dignity restored. Thank you very much, Chairperson.

Dr I SCHEURKOGEL: Chairperson, Vote 41 on the adjustment budget shows a 3,296 billion reduction, not because South Africa's need for clean water and better sanitation have reduced, but because life-changing funds went unspent. This, significantly relates to the delays on the raw water component of the uMkhomazi River Project, which is now only expected to start construction in March 2026. This is not saving; it is the cost of weak execution, delayed delivery, and rising costs, while communities wait for water security. When sound planning is done and project management is disciplined, then every number on a budget becomes well-spent taxpayers' money, reliable service delivery, and dignity for South Africa.

The uncomfortable truth about the 3,3 billion of unspent funds by the Department of Water and Sanitation, means that communities like Tafelkop, west of Durban, which have lived with dry taps for over 15 years, must continue to fetch water from streams because the Upper uMkhomazi Scheme, once promised for 2018, will only be completed in 2032. Such delays are

failures of proper oversight and undisciplined deployed cadres, and not from a lack of need. The department's inability to spend shows that planning and procurement are broken. National Treasury section 71 reports attribute municipal underspending on grants to late business plans and persistent supply chain management problems.

The Water Service Infrastructure Grant, WSIG, remains severely under-performing, and without urgent corrective measures, server delivery backlogs will be worsened. In March 2025, Treasury suspended 900 million in Arabic and West Wight funds to 25 KwaZulu-Natal municipalities because of poor management and nonperformance. The report lists 115 worst-performing water service authorities, where projects that began in 2020 still won't finish in 2026 or later. This is not physical prudence; it is at the cost of weak governance. Chairperson, budgets on papers do not bring water to households, good, physical management means spending well, on time and for value.

When projects are delivered on schedule, each rand becomes completed infrastructure, services and dignity for our people. The 3,3 billion cut in Vote 41 should spur us to demand credible planning, transparent procurement and accountability

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for the department and municipalities. In conclusion, communities cannot wait for another decade for water. We must insist that essential projects like the uMkhomazi are executed without delay, that grants are used effectively, and that every elevating rate translates into taps that run. I thank you ... [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

Mrs M B NDLANGISA-NODADA: Hon Chairperson, I also would like to switch off because of this wind still blowing outside. Hon House Chairperson, Deputy President of our country, hon members of this august House, good afternoon. Water and sanitation are critical public services that directly affect the health, dignity, and livelihoods of our people. The ANC addresses this House to highlight the key challenges in the sector and to underscore the urgent need for accountability, efficient use of resources and timely delivery of infrastructure projects. Hon members, we note that the uMkhomazi Water Project experience delays in the raw water component, which has slowed service delivery and created challenges, limiting the needs of affected communities.

These delays highlight the need for improved planning, co-ordination and accountability in infrastructure projects. Furthermore, we observe that the water sanitation budget was

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reduced by R3,296 000, limiting the sector's ability to fully implement planned programmes. In 2024-25 financial year, the sector spent only 46,6% of its allocated funds, while in the subsequent period, spending improved to 52,9%. However, while this reflects some progress, it also underscores persistent inefficiencies in utilisation of resources. Hon members, these figures reveal systemic challenges that require urgent attention. Delays in projects and implementation coupled with partial budget utilisation threatened the delivery of water and sanitation services, particularly, to vulnerable communities.

Strengthened oversight, rigorous project monitoring and efficient use of allocated funds, are essential to ensure that infrastructure projects, such as the uMkhomazi Water Project, is completed on time and deliver their intended benefits. The ANC remains committed to ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation services, while promoting fiscal discipline, accountability, and timely delivery of critical infrastructure programmes. I thank you, Chairperson.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon delegates, that concludes the discussions and the declarations. Vote 41 is agreed to. I am informed that the EFF and the uMkhonto weSizwe

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Party have tendered their objections, and the objections once again are noted. Hon delegates, we move to Vote 42, which is now placed before the House. Vote 42 is Land Reform and Rural Development. I have been informed that the following parties would like to make declarations of vote in terms of Rule 78, with a maximum of three minutes per declaration. We will start with the UDM once again, and it is hon Peter.

Budget Vote No 42 - Land Reform and Rural Development put.

Declarations of Vote:

Mr M M PETER: Hon Chair, Hon Chair, during a recent UDM oversight visit to upper Mngqesha in Dimbaza, residents raised serious concerns about land claims lodged more than a decade ago that remain unresolved. While some committee members have received... [Interjections.]

Adv Inkosi M NONKONYANA: Hon Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Sorry, hon Peter, if you could just pause for a moment. Yes, hon Nonkonyana, on what are you rising?

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Adv Inkosi M NONKONYANA: Can you excuse the hon member's picture? It is skewed. We cannot see him, but we can hear his voice.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you, Adv Nonkonyana. I think it is an appropriate point. Hon Peter, you can either correct your camera or turn the video off while you speak, please. And then please proceed. Thank you.

Mr M M PETER: ... Thank you so much. During a recent UDM oversight visit to upper Mngqesha in Dimbaza, residents raised serious concerns about land claims lodged more than a decade ago that remain unresolved. While some committee members have received land or financial compensation, many continue to wait despite having followed lawful processes. This prolonged uncertainty reflects systematic failures in delivering justice and restoring historical land rights.

The oversight visits also revealed significant institutional weaknesses within the department. The outdated manual system continued to delay the processing of claims. Consequence management is weak, and co-ordination between the department, the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, the Communal Property Association, and the municipality remains poor. These

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failures are not merely administrative, they obstruct constitutional rights, slow restitution, and weaken public trust in the state.

Beyond issues of justice and legality, delayed land restitution carries severe economic consequences. Unresolved claims leave large areas of land underutilised, discourage investment, and limit the ability of claimant communities without secure tenure to use land as assets for finance. Beneficiaries cannot use land productively, attract development partners, or participate meaningfully in the local economy. These failures undermine rural development, entrench poverty, and perpetuate inequality. Particularly in provinces such as the Eastern Cape, where land reform should be a catalyst for growth and employment. Thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you very much, hon Peter. Hon members, the next declaration will come from MKP and hon Mokoena will deliver it. Hon Mokoena-Zondi, I see you are online. May I ask you to unmute and deliver your declaration on the final vote?

Ms S M MOKOENA-ZONDI: I don't what is going on here.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Indeed, we can hear you so please proceed, hon Mokoena. Hon Mokoena, please unmute. Hon members, I would like to give hon Mokoena an opportunity to resolve her technical glitch. Let us move on to the hon Kennedy from the Economic Freedom Fighters, and then we will come back to the hon Mokoena thereafter. Hon Kennedy?

Ms M KENNEDY: Hon Chair and hon members, good day. The Economic Freedom Fighters reject this Budget Vote, as the allocated funds and the underlying government policy are inadequate, ineffective, and not radical enough to address historical land dispossession in South Africa. The budget allocation for land reform is an extremely small fraction of national expenditure and does not reflect the urgency or scale of the problem. The low funding clearly indicates a lack of political will by the Government of National Unity, GNU, to resolve the land question.

The current approach fails to facilitate a rapid and meaningful transfer of land ownership to previously disadvantaged black individuals, thus perpetuating existing skewed land ownership patterns inherited from the apartheid era.

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The continued reliance on the market-led, willing buyer, willing seller approach or similar systems where compensation remains the default is a slow, cumbersome, and inappropriate for achieving meaningful land reform. And the budget does not adequately provide for essential post-settlement support, such as access to finance, infrastructure, and training for new land owners and emerging black farmers.

The EFF views this lack of support as one of the main issues leading to farm failures and does not uplift rural livelihoods. The Bill is far from supporting our relevant policy position as the EFF for all the land to be placed under the state custodianship without compensation, with usage rights leased back to the citizens.

We reject any Bill that makes zero compensation a rare, obscure exception rather than a fundamental principle. The EFF will not support this Budget Vote, which benefits the rich and does not consider the actual needs of the majority of South Africans. We view this budget as a sell-out position that maintains the status quo and fails to implement the radical, disruptive changes necessary to address the legacy of land disposition. Thank you, Chair.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you very much, hon Kennedy, and extremely well managed on the time. Let us give hon Mokwena from the MKP a final opportunity. Hon Mokwena, are you ready to go now?

Ms S M MOKOENA-ZONDI: Yes, thank you, Chair, for your consideration.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Perfect, let us go ahead. Thank you.

Ms S M MOKOENA-ZONDI: I rise on behalf of uMkhonto weSizwe Party, the only party for the people of South Africa. It is a constitutional, historical and moral necessity that we will not pay for stolen land. This country will not heal by paying fees for what was taken through dispossession, violence and lawfare. There is no justice in compensating injustice, and there is no reform in rewarding theft, and there is no transformation in budgets that protect privilege when the landless remain spectators.

Any land reform budget that assumes compensation as its starting point is not reform. It is a settlement with history's beneficiaries, and we reject it outright. The

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Department of Land Reform and Rural Development has perfected one skill, that is delay. Claims take decades, communities wait for generations, rural poverty deepens while files move between offices. This department calls this due process. The people experience it as betrayal.

Land reform has been reduced to paper transfers without production, pilot projects without scale, and endless planning without courage. Let us call it what it is: an adjustment budget that is a sellout of the landless majority. It adjusts figures while avoiding the central question: who owns the land, and why are the dispossessed still waiting? There is no bold redistribution. There is no decisive restitution. There is, in fact, no urgency. Villages remain disconnected. Infrastructure decays. Land reform without development is hollow. Rural development without land reform is dishonest.

The GNU offers both without delivering either. We state without hesitation. We support expropriation without compensation fully, explicitly and unapologetically. We will not support any budget that assumes compensation for historical theft. We reject the adjustment budget in its entirety. Thank you.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Thank you very much, Hon Mokwena. The last declaration on vote 42 will be presented on behalf of the African National Congress by the hon Modise.

Mr S P MABILO: No, it will be delivered by myself hon Mabilo.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): That is fair enough. Thank you. Hon Mabilo, please proceed.

Mr S P MABILO: I request to switch off my video.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Yes, that is in order.

Mr S P MABILO: Thank you, Chair. Once again, greetings to the Deputy President of the Republic and all members on the platform. As the African National Congress, we remain steadfast in our resolve to ensure equitable and sustainable rural development as well as fast-tracking land reform.

These priority areas are critically important for redress in terms of imbalances of the past, but also to create conditions to drive inclusive economic growth and poverty eradication.

Land reform and rural infrastructure remain key catalysts for

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the progressive realisation of the objective of defeating the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

We remain concerned about the overall budget allocation for these critical national imperatives, including changing the patterns of land ownership and improving rural infrastructure for enterprise development.

The historical land deprivation was elaborate and systematic to ensure economic subjugation of the indigenous majority, and therefore, this challenge requires extraordinary measures that move beyond market rationality. In the same vein, the neglect and underdevelopment of the countryside was calculated to entrench impoverishment and economic dependency.

For this historical reality to be radically transformed, our country requires systematic and co-ordinated resource allocation that not only aligns with but qualitatively advance the strategic imperative of land reform and the improvement of rural socio-economic infrastructure development.

In conclusion, the adjustment appropriation vote reflects R6,474,504 million from the main division, targeted at settling outstanding court orders regarding restitution claims

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in KwaZulu-Natal. It is imperative to underscore that the settlement of court orders should be referenced, as it is foreseeable and therefore must be included in the litigation budget.

We note that within the land reform programme, there is an adjustment allocation for grants, transfers, and subsidies for redistribution amounting to R39,061 million, and for restitution totalling R917,350 million. With respect to rural infrastructure development, we note the allocation of ... [Inaudible.] ... for capital assets.

Finally, as the African National Congress, we support this adjustment budget and urge the GNU to significantly increase the overall budget and performance tracking for land reform and rural economy infrastructure. Thank you.

Agreed to.

Schedule 1 put and agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

Schedule 2 put and agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters and uMkhonto weSizwe Party dissenting).

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): Hon delegates, that concludes my turn in the Presiding Officer chair. I would like to thank you for your discipline and co-operation. I would like to hand over to the hon Radebe, the House Chairperson, to continue with this sitting. Thank you very much, and good afternoon.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Ryder. Good afternoon, Chairperson of the Council, Deputy President of the Republic and all the stakeholders of the NCOP. Compliments of the new season.

ADJUSTMENTS APPROPRIATION BILL

(Consideration of Bill and of Report thereon)

Ms T I LEGWASE: House Chair, hon Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Deputy President, hon members, permanent and special delegates and fellow South Africans, good day once again.

It is my pleasure and privilege to table before this House a report on the Adjustment Appropriation Bill, B27-2025, on behalf of the Select Committee on Appropriations. Apart from

the MKP which did not support the Bill I wish to thank all members of the committee who unanimously adopted the Bill.

The Bill was tabled in Parliament on 12 November 2025 during the presentation of the 2025 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement in terms of section 12(1) and (2) of the Money Bills Act. Section 12(1) requires the Minister of Finance to table a national adjustments budget as envisaged in section 30 of the Public Finance Management Act, Act 1 of 1999. Section 12(2) requires that an Adjustment Appropriation Bill must be tabled with a national adjustment budget. The Bill was referred to the National Council of Provinces and the committee for concurrence on 13 January 2026.

To facilitate public participation, the committee published advertisements calling for comments on the Bill in 11 official languages between 24 November and 1 December 2025. Together, the advertisements and the Bill were sent to key stakeholders on 17 November, and again on 24 November 2025.

Upon receiving a briefing from National treasury on the contents of the Bill and consulting with the FFC and the PBO, the committee received a written submission from the following stakeholders: Amandla.Mobi, Congress of South African Trade

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Unions, COSATU, Rural Health Advocacy Project, Youth Capital, SECTION27, Eastern Cape Health Crisis Action Coalition ...
[Interjections.] ... House Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): You can continue ...
[Inaudible.]

Ms T I LEGWASE: ... and all the above stakeholders made oral presentations during public hearings on 3 December 2025.

Having considered the Bill, the committee observed and further made following specific and clear recommendations. We recommended that National Treasury should, within 90 days of the adoption of this report by the House, submit a targeted action plan addressing systemic causes of underspending, including procurement delays, inadequate project preparation, and weak contract management, and must report quarterly to Parliament on progress.

The Department of Social Development and the South African Social Security Agency should, within 90 days of the adoption of this report by the House, table a national strategy to reduce exclusion errors in the social grant system, including

measures to improve digital access, expand mobile outreach, and strengthen verification systems.

We further recommended that National Treasury and the Department of Social Development should, within 120 days of the adoption of this report by the House, jointly present to Parliament costed options for improving the adequacy of the Social Relief of Distress, SRD, grant, including inflation indexing scenarios and medium-term enhancements aligned with poverty thresholds, and consider alternative sustainable social assistance.

The Department of Health, together with National Treasury, should, within 120 days of the adoption of this report by the House, develop and submit a multi-year financing strategy addressing the health force work pressures, HIV, TB programme requirements, infrastructure backlogs and system strengthening priorities.

The Department of Higher Education and Training should, within 90 days of the adoption of this report by the House, table a stabilisation plan addressing the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, information and communication technology failures, governance weaknesses, payment delays and

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accommodation oversight with accompanying accountability mechanisms.

We further recommended that National Treasury should, within 120 days of the adoption of this report by the House, conduct readiness assessment for a large infrastructure project, including but not limited to the uMkhomazi Water Project, and submit a written report outlining bottlenecks, corrective measures, and revised delivery timelines.

National Treasury should, once again within 90 days of the adoption of this report by the House, institutionalise a poverty, gender and youth impact assessment framework for major fiscal adjustment and savings proposals, and must submit the first consolidated annual assessment to Parliament within the next budget cycle. National Treasury and the Presidency should, within 90 days of the adoption of this report by the House, submit proposals outlining how future adjustments budget will incorporate a youth lens aligned with national youth development and employment strategies, including strengthened support for transition programmes.

We further recommended that the departments which are administering infrastructure or service delivery programmes,

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such as Public Works and Infrastructure, Health, Education, Transport and Human Settlements should, within 90 days of the adoption of this report by the House, submit outcome forecast performance reports demonstrating service delivery impact relative to expenditure for review during in-year parliamentary oversight.

The National Treasury, together with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation should, within 120 days of the adoption of this report by the House, develop and submit to Parliament a comprehensive national planning and forecasting improvement framework. This framework should strengthen departmental cost projections, enhance programme readiness assessment, establish any warning mechanisms for emerging cost pressures, and introduce stricter internal oversight to ensure that future adjustment requests arise only from genuine, unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances.

Lastly, we recommended that the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Home Affairs, Correctional Services, Police, Defence and Communications and Digital Technologies should, within 120 days of the adoption of this report by the House, submit to Parliament a comprehensive plan outlining how baseline allocations will be realigned to

address the rising operational cost pressures in security, immigration systems, court administration, correctional services and digital modernisation. This plan should further indicate measures to reduce reliance in-year adjustments for core functions and ensure sustainable funding over the medium-term.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all members of the Select Committee on Appropriations, provincial finance and treasury committee members, committee stakeholders, the media, the public, as well as the support staff of the committee. We therefore recommend to the House that the Bill be adopted without amendments. Thank you, hon House Chair.

Declarations of vote:

Ms T BREEDT: Chairperson, the Adjustments Appropriation Bill before us must be understood within the broader fiscal and economic context set out in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, MTBPS. But, we must also remember that in the NCOP our responsibility is not only to assess the national Fiscal Framework, but to consider how these adjustments affect provinces and municipalities where service delivery ultimately takes place.

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There is no denying that the MTBPS offers a measure of hope. It points to a somewhat improved fiscal position and creates limited space for targeted interventions that can support economic growth. Higher than expected tax revenue collection in the previous financial year has contributed to this improvement, and for that, we acknowledge the efforts of compliant taxpayers and a more efficient revenue service.

However, we must be clear and honest. The crisis is not over. The demands of the state remains far greater than the resources available to meet them. South Africa continues to face deep structural challenges, unemployment, inequality, poverty, failing infrastructure and weak economic growth. Even with the improved revenue performance last year, there is no guarantee that such collections will be repeated or sustained in the years ahead, particularly in a low-growth environment.

The reality places a heavy responsibility on government. Every additional rand made available through this adjustment Budget must be spent with absolute discipline and purpose. Not a single cent can be wasted. Not a single cent can be lost to corruption, mismanagement or inefficiency. Taxpayers expect and deserve that the money entrusted to this government is used to build a better country for all.

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For provinces and municipalities, irresponsible spending does not mean a line item on a balance sheet. It means unfinished roads, dysfunctional clinics, collapsing water infrastructure and communities that lose trust in the state.

The additional allocations in this Bill, particularly those aimed at critical infrastructure, investment and priority service delivery, must translate into real economic impact, ... infrastructure spending is well managed, stimulate growth, crowd in private investment and create jobs. However, this will only happen if projects are implemented on time, within budget and ... free from political interference.

In conclusion, the Adjustments Appropriation Bill must be approached with realism, discipline and accountability. It must support growth, protect the vulnerable and restore trust in the state's ability to manage public resources responsibly. South Africans are watching and they expect delivery. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr D R Ryder): House Chairperson, the Adjustments Appropriation Bill lies before us for consideration. Each year after a Budget has been adopted by this House, adjustments are required as the financial year

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unfolds in order to respond to changing conditions, implementation reality and events that could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time that the main Budget was tabled.

The scale of those changes, the reasons for them and the manner in which they are addressed tells us a great deal about the state of our public finances and about the seriousness with which government treats its responsibility to spend public money wisely.

When we examine this year's adjustments, there's much that members can view positively. Under the government of national unity, this adjustment Budget reflects a growing willingness to confront inefficiency honestly. We see funds being returned through declared underspending. We see savings emerging from administrative budgets. We see projects delayed or scaled back where implementation capacity has not kept pace with ambition, particularly in large infrastructure programmes. These are not signs of weakness. These are signs of fiscal discipline.

Importantly, this process has not simply been about cutting budgets. Savings and underspending have been deliberately redirected towards areas that strengthen the state and support

future growth. Additional funding has been allocated to revenue collections capacity, most notably at the SA Revenue Service, Sars. Again, our thanks go to Mr Kieswetter and his very capable team for the hard work that they're doing there. Support has been strengthened for industrial and employment-linked interventions. Resources have been directed towards early childhood development, disaster recovery and the stabilisation of critical municipal trading services.

This reflects the growing impact of Treasury's spending review and baseline reprioritisation process, which is a more rigorous value-for-money approach to budgeting that ensures expenditure must justify itself rather than merely slapping on an extra few percent each year. It also demonstrates responsiveness.

Recommendations consistently raised by members of this House on revenue protection, infrastructure and delivery realism and fiscal credibility are beginning to find expression in the numbers before us. It's encouraging to note that several of these reallocations reflect issues that have been consistently raised through NCOP committee oversight where implementation realities on the ground are tested against what is promised in the Budget.

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There is, of course, still much work to be done. Structural reform doesn't happen in a single Budget cycle. Capacity constraints remain real, but this adjustment Budget shows a government that is prepared to make corrections, to learn and to govern within its means. That is something this House should acknowledge and encourage. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Ryder.

The next party to declare is the ANC. Hon Ndhlovu? Hon Ndhlovu?

Ms S NDHLOVU: Chairperson?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Yes, over to you. Hon Ndhlovu, are you experiencing any problem?

Ms S NDHLOVU: Chair?

Ms J S MANANISO: Thank you, hon Radebe. Hon Ndhlovu ...
[Interjections.] ... Alright.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Over to you ...

Ms S NDHLOVU: Chair?

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Yes, you can fire on, sisi.

Ms S NDHLOVU: Yes, I was expecting some challenges with my gadget here. Chair, can I just be given two minutes, please? Two seconds.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Alright. Hon Mananiso, your hand was up. What was the issue?

Ms J S MANANISO: I wanted to assist hon Ndhlovu if she has some glitches.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Chairperson, I propose that hon Mananiso be allowed to continue.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Mananiso, can you continue?

Ms J S MANANISO: Chairperson and hon members, Statistics SA has enabled government and society to have a deeper empirical understanding of reality. The statistical output of Statistics SA helps the country plan and develop programmes that respond to the lived reality of the people. Population statistics, as

an example, are important in determining budget allocations for various provinces, while economic data helps those who are in the business to understand the trends and patterns. The same economic statistics for the National Treasury support its development of the Budget.

Data has increasingly become a fuel that informs development and innovation, and Statistics SA has a global reputation for ensuring that South Africa produces credible data.

What has been concerning is the declining budgetary allocation to Statistics SA, resulting in a high vacancy rate, a loss of experts that requires significant resources to be trained. As Parliament, we have continuously raised the concern of the lack of adequate budgetary allocations for Statistics SA, as we believe it limits the entity from undertaking new areas of statistic focus as the world changes and the priority data to be collected also shifts.

Statistics SA has demonstrated its commitment to the digitalisation of its operation and methodology to improve its work, which has contributed to saving significantly in its past censuses.

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The entity is continuing with the digital transformation programme, which we believe will strengthen the entity in the long run and lower its cost demands.

We also welcome the focus of Statistics SA in implementing the recent amendment of the Statistics Act, which requires organs of state to have statistical units. This shift will have an overall impact on the government system in the long run, as quality information also means improved decision-making.

While enabling effective interventions where problems persist, the adjustment appropriation allocates R84 billion in total to enhance the capabilities of Statistics SA, and the ANC believes that we should significantly increase the budget allocation for the entity. The ANC supports the adjustment appropriation. I thank you.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Mananiso. Now that all the parties that wanted to declare have done so, we'll go straight to the voting. What ...

Ms M SIWISA: Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Who is that?

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Ms M SIWISA: It's hon Siwisa.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Siwisa, you didn't indicate before, sisi. What happens is that the political parties declare according to their support on an electoral level. So, you should've come immediately after ...

[Inaudible.] ... this thing, the FF Plus. That's how we do it, so that the largest party becomes the one that declares last. Did you raise your hand before?

Ms M SIWISA: Yes, Chair. I don't know. Maybe it's the gadget that I'm using, because I had to change gadgets. I'm not sure if it reflected on your side.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): No, it didn't. It didn't reflect. However, I think this is the last time. Moving forward, I'm not going to allow it. Okay, do your declaration.

Ms M SIWISA: Okay, thank you, Chairperson. I rise on behalf of the EFF ... that the EFF rejects the adjustment Budget as it has been presented by the Minister of Finance, taking into consideration all the contributions that were made by my fellow hon members of the EFF, further indicating that we reject this Budget because it does not speak to the issue of

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service delivery. It does not speak to infrastructure as it pertains to schools, as we now see that schools are reopening yet we still find learners who have not been placed in schools because there are not enough schools in our country. There are not enough schools to accommodate all the learners. Those cases can be seen in Gauteng and in the Northern Cape, where learners are still stranded, without having been placed in schools.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the EFF is not going to support this adjustment Bill because it does not speak to making more tertiary institutions available. Despite the higher number of learners or students who have passed matric, many of them are going to be left stranded because of the lack of tertiary institutions in South Africa, and many of them are going to be left frustrated, without finding any institution where they are going to learn.

We can never speak without further emphasising the issue of housing, where, 30 years into democracy, our people are still waiting for housing. Our people are still being fed dirty water that has not been cleaned.

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So, as the EFF, we cannot support the adjustment Budget as it has been presented because it does not speak to the issue of service delivery or ensure that our people move from living below the poverty line. It does not speak to the issue of ensuring that there's economic growth and that there is employment that's going to happen, especially when it comes to the youth of South Africa who are still left stranded. Graduates are not getting any jobs. Others are still sitting at home. They cannot find any tertiary institutions. On that note, we are rejecting the adjustment Bill. Thank you very much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Siwisa. As parties have just finalised their declarations, we'll go to the next step now, which is voting. I'm going to allow 30 seconds for any delegates who are outside the virtual platform to join the House. So, in the next 30 seconds, voting will commence.

Question put: That the Bill be agreed to.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon delegates. We will now proceed to vote on the question. The question is that the Bill be agreed to. Delegates who vote in

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favour should raise their hands now and keep them raised. I'll request the Table staff to start counting. Those who are in favour of the adjustment Budget being adopted, please raise your hands so that the Table staff can count you accordingly. My gadget does not show ... Let me see. Can the Table staff start counting?

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Chair? Chair?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Yes?

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: I can't find my name. I'm voting in favour.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Who is that?

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: ... [Inaudible.] ... Chairperson of the Council.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Alright, it's fine.

Table staff, please count the vote of the hon Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane as in favour of the Bill.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: [Inaudible.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): ... [Inaudible.] ...

Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: But I've already voted. Thanks, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Table staff, are you done? I see Molokomme's hand is up, Peters' hand is up, Breedt's is up, Du Plessis is ... Pienaar, ... [Inaudible.] ... hon Ryder's hand is down ... up, the Chief Whip's hand is up, Legwase's hand is up. Are you done, Table staff? I think there are many eyes. The Table staff are struggling with the counting.

Ms J S MANANISO: Chairperson?

[Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): You are done? Alright, let's go now ... You'll keep the number and you will tally it at the end. Thank you. Counting is now complete for those who are in favour.

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We will now go to the delegates who vote against. Can you raise your hands and keep them raised, please? I see Siwisa. Kaunda, are you against the vote?

Mr T M KAUNDA: No, Chair. I've lowered my hand.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Alright. I see Siwisa, Ceza, Majola, Montwedi, Kennedy, Zulu, Mampuru, Mahoai. Are you against, MEC Mahoai?

Ms M MAKESINI: Chair, I'm not sure if my hand ... [Inaudible.]

Mr K MAHOAI (Limpopo): I have raised my hand. Mahoai here. I raised my hand. Should I keep it up? [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Yes, if you are voting against the Bill, please. Those who are voting against the Bill ... [Inaudible.]

An HON MEMBER: No ... [Interjections.]

Mr M F MOKWELE: Keep it up. [Interjections.]

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Mr M K MONTWEDI: Order, Chairperson. We can't have that in the middle of voting, people are coming in. If her hand is up, her hand is up. Stop intimidating people to lower their hands.

Ms M MAKESINI: Where are we now? Are we ... [Inaudible.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Alright. We are in the process where those who vote against the Bill must have their hands up. Table staff, are you done with the counting?

Ms M MAKESINI: Hon Chair, can you note my hand please. I'm not sure ... [Inaudible.] ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Who is that?

Ms M MAKESINI: It's Makesini. I'm not sure if it appears or not.

Mr K MAHOAI (Limpopo): ... [Inaudible.] ... Mokwele.

Mr M F MOKWELE: ... [Inaudible.] ... you must lower your hands. You've voted ... [Interjections.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Alright, alright. Are you done, Table staff?

Mr K E MAHOAI (Limpopo): My hand was lowered after I voted yes, and when you went to the next one my hand was down already. So, you kind of confused my hand again when saying, is your hand down. [Interjections.]

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): ... [Inaudible.] ... was up but it is down now. Rest assured, I can count you. Alright. Table staff, can you count please? [Interjections.]

Ms A MATSHOBENI: Note my hand also. It's hon Matshobeni. Note my hand, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Alright. Hon Matshobeni's hand is up. I can see it. Let me call out the hands that are up now. It's hon Kennedy, hon Matshobeni, hon Makesini, hon Zulu, hon Mokwele, hon Mhlongo, hon Montwedi, hon Majola, hon Mampuru, hon Ceza and hon Siwisa. Those are the hands which are up. Did you take the number, Table staff?

[Interjections.]

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you. The count is completed in terms of the delegates who voted against.

Now I'm coming to another batch of delegates. It's those who abstain. Who neither agree or disagree with the Bill. Are there any hands which are up? No hand is up.

Can you tally the votes, Table staff? Alright, let me check. Those who abstain are zero, those who are against are 11 and those who are in favour are 40.

Bill agreed to in accordance with section 75 of the Constitution.

CONSIDERATION OF VOTES AND SCHEDULES- SPECIAL APPROPRIATION

BILL [B22-2025]

Vote No 18 - Health put.

Declarations of vote:

Ms M SIWISA: Hon House Chairperson, as the EFF, we once again stand here to reject the continuous reliance on foreign aid to ensure that all South Africans have access to quality and dignified medical services. That health and lives of our

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people must never be dependent on the political whims, ideological shifts or imperial interest of foreign governments. Chairperson, the ruling party, has for years neglected public health infrastructure and failed to finance it adequately. As a result, the withdrawal of the United States funding is now presented as a sudden crisis when in reality, it is a self-inflicted wound created by decades of poor planning and austerity budgeting.

Today we are debating on a special appropriation to allocate R754,5 million framed as an emergency intervention when this crisis could have been avoided through proper domestic investment in healthcare. Allowing another country to bankroll the health and well-being of our people is a clear form of neocolonialism. While we support this Bill, we must be clear about the politics. We should never again place the health of our people in the hands of imperialists and war mongering lunatics. Sovereignty means taking responsibility for our people's lives without dependency or compromise.

We acknowledge that the withdrawal of the funding will negatively affect the global efforts to combat HIV and Aids, particularly in countries like South Africa with high infection rates and millions living with HIV. However, this

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moment forces us to confront our failures and reclaim responsibilities for public health. We must continue to distribute life-saving antiretroviral treatment and revive mass public education campaigns on safe sex, HIV testing, and treatment adherence. This is a war we once won, and it is a war we can win again through political will.

Community-based organizations providing HIV and TB prevention, testing and treatment must continue to receive the funding. Research and development must also remain funded to protect the future. We must never again allow thousands of lives to be lost because of a government that is reckless and dependent on foreign money. On that note, Chair, the EFF supports the Special Appropriation Bill on Health. Thank you very much.

Mr M P SIBANDE: Hon House Chairperson, hon members of this august House, the Special Appropriation on Health is an expression of the ANC-led government strategy to build on the democratic gains of the world's most extensive HIV antiretroviral therapy programme, which has served many lives and continues to ensure that those who have contracted the virus continue to live long and meaningful lives as mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, aunts, cousins, and active members of our community. Despite recent attempts to undermine our

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nation's sovereignty through the withdrawal of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, funding, we are pleased that the foundation and commitment of the ANC-led government have demonstrated their resilience of our health system amid this challenging period, with the government contributing the largest share of our country's HIV response programme.

We welcome additional allocation in this Bill as a critical intervention to mitigate against the negative impact of the withdrawal of PEPFAR and defend our hard-earned democratic gains of ensuring that HIV is eliminated as a public health threat. Hon Chairperson, the reality is that, for as long as the structure that underpins the two-tier health system exists, the health budget will never make the type of strides that will all seek in this House.

As resolved in the Freedom Charter, "the state shall run a preventive health scheme." and to give meaning to the constitutional declaration that, "everyone has the right to access health care services." We must support the allocation of the National Health Insurance, NHI. The only pathway to guarantee health and fundamental human right is only through the NHI. Can I regress that structural and systemic

inadequacies continue to shape differentiated health outcomes in South Africa. Therefore, as the ANC, we support the Special Appropriation Bill for Health as commitment to universal health coverage and to ensuring that our health system leaves no one behind. I thank you.

Accordingly agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

SPECIAL APPROPRIATION BILL

(Consideration of Bill and of Report thereon)

Ms T I LEGWASE: House Chairperson, apart from the MKP that did not support the Bill, I would like to extend my appreciation to all committee members who unanimously adopted the Bill.

House Chairperson, section 213(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides that money may be withdrawn from the National Revenue Fund only in terms of an appropriation by an Act of Parliament. The Special Appropriation Bill, B-2022 of 2025, was tabled by the Minister of Finance on Friday, 26 September 2025, and was immediately referred to the committee for information. The Bill was then

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formally referred to the National Council of Provinces and the committee for concurrence on 13 January 2026, after it was passed by the National Assembly.

To facilitate public participation and involvement and in compliance with section 72 of the Constitution, advertisements in 11 official languages calling for public comments on the Bill were placed on Parliament's website and social media accounts from 9 October 2025. In addition, emails were sent directly to all stakeholders on the committee's database, inviting them to comment on the Bill. Written submissions were received from Breadline Africa, the Rural Health Advocacy Project, SECTION27, the Treatment Action Campaign, the TB Accountability Consortium, the Institute for Race Relations, Legal NPC, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, and the Buffaloes Basketball Club. Apart from the Buffaloes Basketball Club, all the stakeholders made oral submissions during a public hearing on 5 November 2025 before the committee.

The committee received a briefing from National Treasury on the contents of the Bill of 2025 and consulted with the Parliamentary Budget Office on 8 October 2025 and with the Financial and Fiscal Commission on 5 November 2025. Having

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considered the Bill, the committee observed and further made the following specific and clear recommendations.

The committee recommended that the Minister of Health, in collaboration with the Minister of Finance, should, by the 2026 Budget, table before Parliament a clear policy statement outlining measures to reduce donor dependency and to safeguard the continuity of HIV and tuberculosis services.

The committee further recommended that the National Treasury should, by the tabling of the 2026 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, indicate how emergency health allocations will be transitioned into sustainable baseline funding over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. The National Treasury should, in the 2026 revision of the Revenue Bill, strengthen support to provincial health departments through realistic funding assumptions and enhanced oversight to mitigate accruals and service delivery risks.

The committee further recommended that the Department of Health, together with provinces, should incorporate equality and rural-proofing measures into health planning and budgeting processes, with progress reports to Parliament by the 2026 budget cycle. The National Treasury should, with effect from

the 2026–2027 financial year, strengthen conditional reporting requirements and safeguards on health-related provincial equitable share allocations to prevent diversion of funds and ensure accountability. Starting in the 2025–2026 financial year, the Department of Health should submit quarterly reports to Parliament that clearly disaggregate expenditure and performance outcomes attributable to the allocations in this Bill.

The National Treasury and the Department of Health should, by 31 March 2026, report to Parliament on progress in strengthening governance, including the roll-out of the e-procurement system and enforcement of consequence management. The Department of Health, in collaboration with provincial health departments, should, by 31 March 2026, submit to Parliament a consolidated plan to manage the transition and retention of critical donor-funded health workers. The Minister of Health and the Minister of Finance should jointly table a costed multi-year HIV and tuberculosis financing strategy to Parliament by the end of the tabling of the 2026 Budget. The National Treasury should, over the 2026 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, progressively shift the health financing framework away from ad hoc emergency

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interventions towards predictable, equitable, and sustainable funding.

In conclusion, Chair, once again, let me thank members of the committee, the provincial finance and treasury committee members in our different provinces, committee stakeholders, the media, and the public, as well as the committee staff for the excellent work they continue doing in the committee. The committee therefore recommends to the House that the Bill be adopted without amendments. Thank you, House Chair.

Debate concluded.

Declarations of vote:

Ms M SIWISA: Chair, the EFF supports the Special Appropriation Bill and calls on the Minister of Health to ensure that the money that has been allocated is subjected to due diligence in the interest of all our HIV-positive patients across South Africa and that it allows us to further move away from reliance on foreign financing in order to ensure that our health system is working in South Africa. Thank you very much. We support the Bill.

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Ms S NDHLOVU: Chairperson, may I please be allowed to switch off my video?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Yes, ma'am.

Ms S NDHLOVU: Thank you, Chair. Greetings to your good self, House Chair, and hon members on the platform. As the ANC, we support the Special Appropriation Bill before the House because it speaks directly to the lived realities of key populations and to our constitutional duty to protect life, dignity, and access to quality health care.

Chairperson, this Bill responds decisively to an external shock caused by the abrupt withdrawal of the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, funding for HIV/Aids and tuberculosis programmes, which threatens to reverse hard-won gains made over decades through the democratic state led by the ANC. In townships, villages, and rural communities, this shock was not theoretical. It meant closed clinics, disrupted treatment, overburdened nurses, and community health workers facing retrenchment. The ANC-led government could not stand by whilst key populations from poor and working-class backgrounds carried the cost of global geopolitical decisions.

Chairperson, the Select Committee on Appropriations correctly observed that the R754,5 million allocation is an emergency short-term intervention. It is not presented as a silver bullet but as a necessary shield to protect the continuity of care, especially in provinces and districts that are historically underresourced.

Through a ring-fenced conditional grant, this Bill prioritises frontline services, medicine distribution, research capacity, and provincial health systems that serve key populations. At the same time, the committee raised serious concerns the ANC takes seriously. Persistent donor dependency, provincial fiscal stress, governance weaknesses, and the absence of a multi-year domestic HIV/Aids and tuberculosis financing strategy cannot be ignored. This is why the committee's recommendations are critical.

They call for stronger oversight, improved reporting to Parliament, rural-proof budgeting, protection of funds from diversion, and a clear plan to retain and absorb skilled health workers that are the backbone of community-based care. Most importantly, the recommendations place responsibility on the Minister of Health and the Minister of Finance to table a costed multi-year strategy that moves South Africa away from

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crisis-driven interventions towards a predictable, equitable, and sustainable health financing model. This is fully aligned with the ANC's vision of a developmental state that builds resilient public institutions and reduces vulnerability to external shocks.

Hon Chairperson and hon members, this Bill is about protecting lives today whilst building a stronger ... [Interjections.] The ANC supports this Bill because we choose people over indifference ... [Interjections.] We call on the House to concur with the Bill in the interest of our people.

Adv Inkosi M NONKONYANA: Chair, order! Order, Chair! Order, Chair! Chair? The hon Makesini is interrupting the speaker.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Nonkonyana, who?

Adv Inkosi M NONKONYANA: The hon Makesini.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Hon Makesini, you know very well that you cannot do that. Will you please continue, hon Ndhlovu? Thank you, hon Nonkonyana.

Ms S NDHLOVU: I am done, Chairperson. Makesini doesn't stress me. I am used to her. Thank you.

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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you, hon Ndhlovu. Now that we have dealt with the particular considerations, we proceed to voting. I will give 30 seconds to all members who are not on the platform to join. Thank you.

Question put: That the Bill be agreed to.

Bill agreed to in accordance with section 75 of the Constitution.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
ON PROPOSED DIVISION OF REVENUE AND CONDITIONAL GRANT
ALLOCATIONS TO PROVINCES AND MUNICIPALITIES AS CONTAINED IN
THE 2025 MEDIUM-TERM BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT, DATED 14 JANUARY
2026**

Ms T I LEGWASE: Hon House Chairperson, appreciation to all the members of the committee that moved for the adoption of this report apart from the MK party. The Minister of Finance tabled the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, MTBPS, on 12 November 2025, outlining the budget priorities of the government for the medium-term estimates. According to section 6(10) of the Money Bills Act:

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The committees on appropriations must within 30 days after tabling of the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, MTBPS, or as soon as reasonably possible, thereafter report on the proposed division of revenue and conditional grant allocation to provincial and local government as contained in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

Upon tabling of the 2025 MTBPS, the committee considered the proposed Division of Revenue and Conditional grant allocations to provinces and municipalities contained therein and will conduct further consultations after the tabling of the 2026 Division of Revenue Bill by the Minister of Finance.

The committee further made observations and recommended the following: That the National Treasury should within 60 days of the adoption of this report by the House, outline how additional provincial allocations for Health and Education in the 2026 Divisional Revenue Bill will be accompanied by clear performance expectations and strengthened oversight mechanisms to improve frontline service delivery and address governance weaknesses and underperforming provinces; the National Treasury, together with the national Department of Health, should, within 120 days of the adoption of this report by the House, require Provincial Health Departments to submit

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credible costed transition plans for absorbing the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, related services into provincial baselines over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. This plan should be incorporated into future health grant and equitable share allocations of safeguarding continuity of HIV, TB, and other critical services; the Minister of Finance should, within 90 days of the adoption of this report by the House, provide a framework indicating how the 2026 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework compensation allocations for Provincial Education Departments will be aligned with realistic workforce planning, including strategies to address educator shortages, manage class sizes, and expand quality early childhood development, ECD, in provinces with the greatest needs; the National Treasury should, within 60 days of the adoption of this report by the House, initiate a formal review of the provincial equitable share formula in consultation with Provincial Treasuries and relevant stakeholders to ensure that updated demographic, migration, urbanization and poverty data are adequately reflected in the formula ahead of the 2027 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF; that the Minister of Finance should, within 90 days of the adoption of this report by the House, issue clear guidelines and transitional arrangements to support the measure of Comprehensive Agricultural Support

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Programme grant and Ilima/Letsema Conditional grant from 2026-27 financial year, including capacity-building support to provinces and measures to strengthen extension services, post-settlement support and market access for smallholder and subsistence farmers; the National Treasury and the Department of Basic Education, should within 90 days of the adoption of this report by the House, develop and publish a framework to guide the measure of the School Infrastructure Backlog grant into the Education Infrastructure grant, ensuring that the eradication of unsafe school structures and sanitation backlogs remains prioritized, particularly in provinces with the largest infrastructure deficits; the Minister of Finance should, within 60 days after the adoption of this report by the House, submit a plan on how increases in the local government share over the 2026 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework will be aligned with the targeted support for revenue management, asset maintenance and funded budget, ensuring that operating transfer leads to measurable improvements in municipal financial health and service delivery; that National Treasury, working with the Department of Corporate Governance and relevant sector departments, should within 90 days of the adoption of this report by the House, publish integrated planning requirements to guide the shifting of funds from Urban Settlement Development grant to

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the Urban Development Financing grant, ensuring alignment between trading services, spatial transformation, and human settlement objectives in metropolitan municipalities; the Minister of Finance should, within 60 days of the adoption of this report by the House, provide a designed framework for the merged Integrated National Electrification Programme, INEP, in municipalities grant and the Energy Efficiency Demand Side Management, EEDSM, grant, including differentiated support, technical assistance, and project preparation measures aimed at helping undercapacitated municipalities improve electrification access, Demand Side Management, and maintenance of distribution networks; and lastly, the National Treasury and the Department of Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs should, within 60 days of the adoption of this report by the House, finalize and publish clear implementation timelines for the review of the local government fiscal framework and the 1998 White Paper, including proposals for functional assignments and funding instruments to guide progressive incorporation into the 2026-27 financial year Division of Revenue Bill and future Medium-Term Expenditure Framework cycles.

I therefore want to thank members of the committee, the stakeholders of the committee, Provincial Finance and Treasury

committee members, the support staff of the committee for the work they have done in processing all these reports. House Chairperson, I recommend that the House accept and adopt the Bill without amendments. Thank you very much.

Debate concluded.

Declaration of vote:

Ms S NDHLOVU: Chairperson, the ANC supports the proposed Division of Revenue framework contained in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement because it advances the core objective of our democratic state, that is to ensure that the resources reach poor and working-class citizens where they live, work, and struggle. This proposed Division of Revenue recognizes the central role of provinces and municipalities in delivering basic services. Through targeted conditional grant allocation, the ANC-led government is prioritizing frontline services such as health, education, water, sanitation, housing, roads, and public transport. These are services that matter most to poor and working-class communities. These grants are not abstract figures. They translate into medicine in clinics, classrooms that are safe for learning, taps that run, and roads that connect rural villages to economic opportunities.

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The select committee correctly observed that the reform to Provincial Conditional grant are necessary to improve efficiency, co-ordination, and impact. The reforms of grant framework are intended to reduce fragmentation, strengthen planning, and ensure that funds are spent for their intended purpose.

The ANC supports these reforms if they are accompanied by strong oversight, clear conditions, and meaningful support that provinces continue to face with current stresses and historical backlogs. At the local government level, the proposed framework reinforced the need to stabilize municipalities. The committee's report highlights the agency of improving governance, addressing underspending and strengthening capacity, particularly in rural and small municipalities.

The ongoing review of the local government's fiscal framework and the White Paper on Local Government is therefore critical. This process must result in a system that is developmental, responsive, and capable of delivering services sustainably while restoring public trust in municipalities.

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The committee's recommendation emphasizes improved reporting, stronger monitoring of conditional grant, and early intervention where municipalities and provinces struggle to spend effectively. The ANC agrees that accountability must go hand in hand with support and that consequence management must be applied where funds are misused. The proposed Division of Revenue reflects the ANC's commitment to co-operative governance, spatial justice, and inclusive developmental ... It directs limited resources to where the needs are greatest, while laying the foundation for reforms, stability and improved service delivery. The ANC supports the report because it puts people first and strengthens the developmental stage we continue to build. Amandla! Thank you.

Question put: That the Report be adopted.

[TAKE IN FROM MINUTES]

Report accordingly adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr B A Radebe): Thank you. Hon Chairperson, hon Deputy President, hon Ryder, hon Chief Whip, permanent special delegates, and the people of South Africa,

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as we mark the adjournment of this first plenary sitting of the NCOP in 2026, allow me on behalf of the presiding officers to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your diligence, discipline, and unwavering commitment to the constitutional mandate entrusted upon us to this august House. This sitting commenced at 10am this morning and continued over four hours of robust thoughtful debate, deliberation, and stands as a testament to the maturity and professionalism of this House. I wish to sincerely thank all permanent and special delegates, for conducting yourselves to the highest decorum and for the spirited yet respectful engagement on matters of critical national importance. Today, this House has fulfilled a critical mandate; firstly, by passing the Adjustment Appropriation Bill; secondly, the Special Appropriation Bill; and lastly, the support for the Division of Revenue and Conditional grants allocation to the provinces and municipalities is a testament to our commitment to the equitable service delivery, even as we navigate a period of sustained fiscal pressure. By laying this firm foundation for the 2026 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, the NCOP has enabled provinces and municipalities to plan and deliver vital services with certainty and competence. As we bring this historic city to a close, let us carry forward the spirit of resolve, patriotism, and unity that has defined

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today's deliberations. Let us never forget that our work in echoes in the lives of all the people who call this land home, the decisions we take, the budget we pass, are more than numbers and figures. They are instruments of transformation, building ... [Inaudible.] ... for a just, prosperous, and inclusive society. I thank you all once again for your exemplary service. Together, we reform the power of Parliament to shape our nation's destiny. Let us continue to serve with integrity and purpose. Hon delegates, that concludes the business of the day. I wish to thank you all permanent delegates, MECs, special delegates, and Salga representatives ... [Interjections.] ... for this plenary.

The business of the day concluded.

The House adjourned at 14:38.